

# Casting call for *Becoming Mohammed*

[And Many Others](#) are seeking two male performers to take part in the production of the new play *Becoming Mohammed*, written by Claudia Marinaro and conceived and directed by [Annemiek van Elst](#). The show will play from the 2<sup>nd</sup> till the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2017, rehearsals will take place in April.

## **About *Becoming Mohammed***

Inspired by director Annemiek Van Elst's experiences of her brother converting to Islam, the world premiere of *Becoming Mohammed* comes to Pleasance Theatre. The play explores what it takes for a Western man to become a Muslim, and for his family to come to terms with his choice.

*When Sara knocks on her brother's door after two years, she hardly recognises the man in front of her. Thomas has grown a beard, gets up at the crack of dawn, and dates a girl in a Hijab. They attempt to rekindle their childhood friendship, but Thomas hasn't told his sister everything yet...*

Annemiek van Elst comments: "when my little brother converted to Islam, it came as a shock; he started to reject our family traditions and follow the Sharia law. What could have been a breaking point became a difficult but beautiful journey of acceptance, which inspired the making of *Becoming Mohammed*. We believe that, now more than ever, there is a need to represent narratives around Islam in a positive light, and that conversion should be seen not as a threat but as an opportunity to build connections. Through our show, we aim to offer support to converts and their families, and to contribute to creating a more tolerant society".

This work has been made possible with support from Lyric Hammersmith, The Pleasance, Essalam Mosque Rotterdam, Elizabeth Munro of SOAS University London and Melissa Dune of Papercut Theatre.

## **About And Many Others**

And Many Others was founded in 2014 from Annemiek van Elst's desire to connect with a wide range of artists to collaboratively make contemporary theatre. Claudia Marinaro joined the company from their first production *No Fixed Abode*, where the company explored homelessness and belonging by joining the people who sleep rough on the streets of London. The company create untold stories that explore the beauty and malfunction of today's society. Research forms an important component of their work; this often evolves into the use of verbatim and documentary material.

Previous work has been performed at Lyric Hammersmith, Battersea Arts Centre, Camden Peoples Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, The Space Theatre, and Theaterfestival Boulevard (NL). *Becoming Mohammed* will be the companies first full-length production. Together with our core team we are now looking to expand our cast for this show in 2017.

## **Dates**

Auditions: 16 March, Pleasance Theatre, Caledonian Road

Rehearsed reading: 19 March, Cockpit Theatre, Marleybone

Rehearsals: 10-28 April, The Nursery Theatre, London Bridge

Shows: 2-21 May, The Pleasance Theatre, Caledonian Road

## **Fee**

This is a freelance engagement that will pay a flat fee (according to National Minimum Wage) and will involve 3 weeks of rehearsal (10-28 April, Monday to Friday, day time according to rehearsal schedule) and 3 weeks of performances (2-21 May, Tuesday to Sunday, evenings only).

## **Roles:**

**Thomas Smit:** 20, male, Sarah's brother and Aminah's husband

*Key features; stubborn, uncompromising, hard working/dedicated/passionate, competitive ↔ loyal, protective, sensitive, idealist.*

*Thomas felt unsatisfied and disconnected with his life and society, when a friend introduced him to Sharia law. He started reading the Quran and eventually decided to convert to Islam. Shortly after, he was introduced to Aminah and they are planning to get married.*

*All of this happened without his family knowing. But now that his sister Sara has suddenly showed up at his door, Thomas can no longer hide the life he embraced. He is determined for his sister and society to accept his new identity, and to assert himself as a good Muslim.*

Physical description: male, early twenties, white, must be able to grow a beard

**Musa Zaman:** late twenties/early thirties, male, Aminah's older brother

*Musa is a second generation Muslim.*

*He works in PR and also volunteers as a representative for the local Mosque. He is more westernized and less strict in his beliefs compared to Aminah and Thomas. But he is very protective of his sister, and wants her to have a traditionally arranged marriage.*

*He looks at Thomas as a younger brother who he introduced to religion, and they've become close friends over the last two years throughout his reversion. At the same time he is jealous of Thomas' success. He likes to know he's in control and above others. He doesn't give in to angry outbursts, but would act behind the scenes to make sure he has his way.*

Physical description: male, early thirties, middle-eastern looking, able to speak Arabic (or willing to learn the lines of the script to perfection), knowledge of Islam is a plus.

## **Apply**

**Please send your headshot and CV (or a link to it online) to producer Hannah Tookey at [hannaheugenie@gmail.com](mailto:hannaheugenie@gmail.com) with the subject line CHARACTER – FULL NAME by 12pm March 14 to be considered for the audition at Pleasance Theatre London on March 16.**