

## Hassan Mahamdallie Biography



Hassan was trained in theatre and is an experienced actor, director and playwright. He is a campaigning journalist for race equality and a writer on Black history and Muslim culture and thought. Hassan is an internationally recognised specialist in equality in the arts and the author of Arts Council England's unique approach: *The Creative Case for Diversity & Equality*.

Hassan was born in London into a large working-class Indo-Trinidadian/English family. After completing an MA in Theatre Studies at Leeds University in 1984 he worked as an actor, deviser and director in Theatre in Education and Community Theatre, mainly in the north of England, with radical socialist companies including M6 Theatre Co (Rochdale) and Pit Prop Theatre (Wigan). He has recently returned to playwriting and directing with the critically acclaimed one woman show *The Crows Plucked Your Sinews* that toured in 2016 and 2017, including at the National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa, under his production company Dervish.

He was writer on Common Wealth theatre's 2019 show *I Have Seen the Enemy (and the enemy is us)*. He collaborated with writer/director Julie McNamara and Vital Xposure theatre company on a new dystopian play *Quiet Rebels* centring the white working class women who crossed the colour line to marry Black and Asian men. This toured nationally in 2022.

He has two plays in development in 2023-4: *Voices of the Black Meridian*, a site specific play in the Greenwich heritage site, in collaboration with Culture&. *Punk Days* is a one man show with music, written and performed by Hassan, about growing up in London in the 1960s, and his unique and sometimes scary experiences as a Punk Rocker of colour at the fag end of the 70s.

He is presently Director of the Muslim Institute, a free-thinking Muslim organisation, and trustee, and a senior editor of the institute's quarterly publication *Critical Muslim*.

Hassan has worked as a campaigning journalist, covering major events including the Stephen Lawrence murder and inquiry, state injustices and black and working-class deaths in custody. He writes and speaks regularly on issues of race and racism, Black radical history, Islamophobia and Muslims in British society. He worked as an arts-in-education worker for Bexley Council for Racial Equality and manager of CARE Partnership – an anti-racist initiative launched by Charlton Athletic Football Club and Greenwich Council in the aftermath of the murder of Stephen Lawrence. Hassan is a founding member of Unite against Fascism.

Hassan was a senior strategist at Arts Council England where he was charged with drawing up and implementing ACE's national Race Equality Schemes. He advised on and launched many equality projects before going on to develop and launch ACE's unique and internationally recognised approach to art, society and equality – *The Creative Case* (2011). He regularly mentors individuals across all artforms.

Hassan has contributed to many books and journals including *Tell It Like It Is: How Our Schools Fail Black Children* and *Say It Loud: Marxism and the Fight Against the Racism*. He wrote a popular biography of radical Victorian artist William Morris *Crossing the River of Fire*, a series of educational monographs *Black British Rebels: Figures from Working Class History* and edited the book *Defending Multiculturalism*. He writes and commentates on whatever he fucking wants to.