

## A Brief History of Pan Intercultural Arts -

key moments and highlights, the members and entry points of those still working with Pan ( continually being updated )

**1986** Pan (initially known as Pan Project) is formed as a research unit by a group of like-minded performers out of workshops held at the Commonwealth Institute to look into the possibilities of drawing from multiple cultural traditions to create performance for a multi-racial society. The company begins a residency at Goldsmiths' College, London, funded by The Leverhulme Foundation and the University of London.

**1987** First Intercultural Summer School in the Performing Arts (ISSPA) for young professional performers entitled "Music, Rhythm and the Performer". Workshop leaders from India, Nigeria & China. Production "Dreams of Innana" tours U.K.

[Workshop and performance programmes delivered in India and Germany at Internationale Theaterwerkstatt Scheersberg.](#)

**1988** Production of "Under the Moon", based on the works of W.B. Yeats, at the ICA and on UK tour. ISSPA workshop in world mask forms with teachers from Indonesia, Japan, China and Zambia.

**1989** Production and UK tour of "Ebo lye - Ritual for Survival" based on West African rituals and movement, choreographed by Peter Badejo. Production and UK tour of "Shakti - The Power of Woman" with Mallika Sarabhai .  
[Pan organises the first Commonwealth Theatre Laboratory in Bhopal, India.](#)

**1990** "Shakti-The Power of Woman" tours to India for British Council, "Sita's Daughters" created in collaboration with Darpana Academy, India, tours India and the UK.

**1991** A new production "Itan Kahani - the Story of Stories" with

### **Founder Crew**

[John Martin](#)  
[Sandra Reeves](#)  
[Tim Jones](#)  
[Ranjabati Sircar](#)  
[Mala Sikka](#)  
[Frances Shepherd](#)  
[Nicholas Yanni](#)  
[Gordon Case](#)  
[Jacqui Chan](#)  
[Da Wu Tang](#)

### **Early Members**

[Adrian Lee](#)  
[Darryl Chan](#)  
[Louisa Dell Nelson](#)  
[Ian Halcrow](#)  
[Kate Mackenzie](#)  
[Wanjiru Gichigi](#)  
[Peter Badejo](#)  
[Mallika Sarabhai](#)  
[Tiken Singh](#)  
[Appu Vaz](#)  
[Andy Channing](#)  
[Wale Ojo](#)  
[Ola Adeniran](#)  
[Jamie McCarthy](#)  
[Wendy Baxter](#)  
[Josette Bushell-Mingo](#)  
[Francine Luce](#)  
[Joji Hirota](#)  
[Louise Dunn](#)  
[Jan Bee Brown](#)  
[Patrick Selden](#)  
[Toshi Tsuchitori](#)  
[Gabriella Csanyi-Wills](#)

Nigerian, Indian and British performers is toured in the UK.

A second tour of “Ebo lye” is also organised.

“Shakti” tours Europe.

The Second Commonwealth Theatre Laboratory is held in Kingston, Jamaica.

1992 “Itan Kahani” tours to India, Portugal and West Africa

Barbadian dub poet Winston Farrell leads workshop in dub as a dramatic text.

Pan Project moves to the Holborn Centre for Performing Arts.

1993 New production commissioned from the feminist writer Suniti Namjoshi, “Kali Yug - The Circles of Paradise” tours the U.K. A second new production, “Changing Planes”, exploring developments in contemporary Indian dance, is toured in England and Europe.

Adwoa Dickson joins Pan: Story Trail, performer, facilitator: Fortune, Amies, Amies Choir, international projects

1994 The first Pan Band begins work with a community and world music workshop at the Holborn Centre.

A promenade production “Story Trail” is devised for the Commonwealth Institute, London.

1995 A new production, “ I have seen her through the Bamboo Screen” with Jacqui Chan tours U.K. and Germany.

A Festival is produced at the Bloomsbury Theatre, London “Chakra - Cycle of Indian Dance Theatre”, then tours the UK.

Pan Project’s Community and Education Department is founded in order to develop the Pan Band, schools work and outreach programmes.

1996 “Bamboo Screen” is performed at the Oval House and Young Vic and continues on another UK tour.

New production, “V for”, previewed in India. “V for” and “Sita’s Daughters” tour in South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya

### Story Trailers

Adwoa Dickson  
Ajay Chabra  
Andrew Peters  
Kathryn Chan  
Catherine Barlow  
Bisi Adigun  
Madeleine Bowyer

### Management & Administration In this period

Tim Tubbs  
Terri Sayers  
Shobna Gulati  
Claire McRandal  
Susie Gorgeous  
Serena Robins  
Peter Vlachos

Mojisola Adebayo joins Pan; workshop facilitator, Arts Against Race Violence, international projects

Mita Banerjee/Pujara joins Pan: choreographer, facilitator, performer; Fortune, founder of Future, international projects, Evaluation

and Zambia, with accompanying workshops and residencies.

**1997** British Council engages Pan to produce new intercultural piece in Kenya "Pulling Down Babel". Collaboration with Chinese Arts Link to produce "Mirror Lore" for the Dusseldorf Theatre and UK tour.

New youth project in intercultural music forms the group Sound Routes.

New initiatives against race violence on housing estates with 80 young participants "Keep The Peace", the forerunner of Weapon of Choice

"From Morning Time to Moonshine Darling", a story line around Jamaican folk songs created with Adwoa Dickson

Global Moves Dance Project begins with Youth Dance Director Mita Banerjee

**1998** Pan curates INTERFACE, the UK's first Festival of Intercultural Arts celebrating new work emerging from multi-racial cities and communities around the world, with companies from South Africa, Holland, Canada, Belgium, Israel-Palestine and the USA and new talent from Britain and a major conference on the possibilities for such work in the next decade.

Over 300 young people from across London take part in a three-month mass cross-cultural movement and dance project - GLOBAL MOVES.

Phase 2 of "Keep The Peace" commences on Camden housing estates.

**1999** Community music workshops and gamelan courses; a new Intercultural Summer School in dance and physical theatre – STAMPEDE.

Exploratory visits to Israel/Palestine for the British Council to set up workshops for Jewish and Palestinian performers.

Preparation for Millipede, a mass youth performance in late 2000.

**2000** MILLIPEDE; five hundred young people prepare performance pieces on migration for promenade production in collaboration with the Museum of London.

### Early Modern Era Artists facilitating or performing

Mojisola Adebayo  
Mita Banerjee-Pujara  
Amanda Webb  
Oludare Madasiru,  
Neil Craig  
Katja Prudinsky,  
Faten Khoury  
Jon Petter  
Sam Zaman  
Akram Khan  
JC001  
Larissa Litchfield  
Paul Sadot  
Rebecca Seymour  
Pato Fuentes  
Ansuman Biswas  
Maria Ghoumrassi  
Joel Bennett  
Finbar Cahill  
Kayleigh Doughty  
Prathepan  
Poopalasingham  
Gursen Hossein  
Shabnam Shabazi  
George Moustakas

RACE 4 PEACE youth project, devising satirical and comedy sketches, songs and raps for a project that culminates in a video available to schools.

VIDYA is established with the beginning of a three-year programme to use performing arts in slum areas of Ahmedabad, India to raise the status of girl children in society.

“IK2 The Myth of Myths”, dance, storytelling and music, tours the UK

- 2001 PANDEMONIUM – Pan’s performer-tutors and young participants develop their creative skills in residence culminating in a performance at Somerset House.  
SIXTEEN WINDOWS; dancers from different dance traditions working together with artists from other disciplines  
ARTS AGAINST RACE VIOLENCE now in its fifth year, produces ‘Black & White’ and ‘Burning’.  
VIDYA develops, as trainees become an independent and confident group to tackle the problems surrounding girl children in India,  
ISRAEL-PALESTINE project holds a mask & movement workshop.

- 2002 MYTHS AND MONSTERS performs to over 1100 children in London  
John Martin directs GUARDIANS OF THE DEEP for the Earth Summit in Cape Town and Johannesburg.  
Stampede 02 continues as part of Pan’s Easter Interdisciplinary Arts School;  
Work begins with the Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture, resulting in a short performance “The Wall”.  
FORTUNE and FORTUNE drama groups formed from these young refugees  
Professional Development Grants are awarded to two of Pan’s artist-tutors to make performances  
VIDYA achieves slum audiences of over 39,000:

- 2003 SILKWALK: a promenade performance in London’s Spitalfields about the many cultural threads involved in the areas silk trade inspired by Alessandro Baricco’s novella, Silk. It also intertwined this story with local

### Early Modern Era (cont)

Taku Mukiwa  
Nalinda Premaratne  
Ellie Rudd  
Ian Solomon-Kawall  
Angus Scott-Miller  
Zephyryn Taitte  
Laura Cowan/McPartlin  
Louise Mochia  
David Fenton / Aks  
Gurdeep Ubhie  
Freddie Opoku-Addaie  
Debi Banerjee  
Olu Taiwo  
Sin Man Yue

history of the Spitalfields area and incorporated school performance into the final show.

Fortune and Future perform at the Union Chapel in Refugee Week.

THREADS OF SILK: young East Londoners perform their writing about local history.

VIDYA: is set up as independent Trust. Audiences reach 120,000. Pilot projects researched in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

F.U.R.I.O.U.S. music video filmed as part of the Arts Against Violence stream

PANACEA BIG WORKSHOP DAY at the Royal Festival Hall attended by over 5,000 for a free day of intercultural workshops.

## 2004 [Pan's Youth Dance Group, 'Pandemonium', hold an intensive dance residency in France.](#)

Storytelling workshops at the Hayward Gallery.

Rose Bruford college hosts an Intercultural Symposium at which Pan presents a large exhibition and are keynote speakers.

Pan publishes 'THREADS OF SILK', poetry written by children from Tower Hamlets with an exhibition which is toured around local schools.

Arts Against Race Violence project 'Publish The Peace' commences workshops in dance and creative writing in The West Euston area.

Pan runs gamelan workshops for local children at The Horniman Museum

Mita Banerjee performs extracts from 'Silkwalk' at The British Library's show 'The Silk Road'

Children from our Refugee group Future have an intensive week of workshops in ribbon dance, artworks and street dance at the Brady Centre.

Pan provides the music for the launch of an initiative by The Stone Ashdown Foundation to unite British Jews and Arabs against racism at the Foreign Office 'Aliph Aleph'.

Research and Development workshops on Pan's next production 'Fugitive Pieces' with performers from Nigeria, Jamaica and Palestine.

### **Management in this period by:**

Sabra Khan  
Korina Miller  
Ellie Stout (2006-10)  
Ama Atteen

## 2005. [A Pan team is invited to train social workers in relief camps in Sri Lanka after the Indian Ocean tsunami.](#)

Three forum theatre plays are piloted for the Electoral Commission under the banner "Your Choice, Your Voice"

in Secondary Schools, dealing with issues such as student fees, voting, local government and gun crime.

John Martin and Mita Banerjee continue the Future and Fortune Groups, with new members engaged from the Medical Foundation.

London-wide Anti-Racism project F.U.R.I.O.U.S., resulting in a performance and book publication of young people's work, later distributed, with accompanying workshops, to ca. 5000 young people.

Pan rebranded as Pan Intercultural Arts with design by Akiko Shishido

John Martin trains psychologists in refugee drama work in Geneva and Lausanne. This develops into the company Metis'Arte after follow up training

The Future group exhibits work at The October Gallery.

## 2006 SINGING IS IT!

Pan collaborates with - Folias Cooperativa Sociale in Rome, Italy and Dorozkarnia in Warsaw, Poland - on an International Youth Exchange project taking singing and the voice as its starting point.

Mixed Routes 1 at Rose Bruford College, short plays exploring the creative stimuli of performers who are of mixed heritage, Mojisola Adebayo, Adwoa Dickson and Nimmi Harisgama amongst others.

Fortune performs "Fragments of Fortune" at Rose Bruford and then at Goldsmiths' College. Mita Pujara performs Robi & Me

Further training in Sri Lanka with Save the Children. This methodology goes on to reach 150,000 people

Annabel Rook joins Pan; artist facilitator, Fortune, Future, founder of Amies

## 2nd Generation

Annabel Rook  
Emmanuel Jal  
Tess Butler  
Debora Minà  
Catherine Milne  
George Moustakas

2007 Young adult Refugee group, Fortune, performed a play about the history of asylum and refuge in London. 'Asylum Road' was set in a shipping container and led the audience deeper into its steel shell for scenes of the Huguenots, the Sons of Africa, the Kindertransport and political exile. The audience ended up alone, locked in the container, experiencing for themselves the uncertainty of an unknown future.

Zephryn Taitte joins Pan; facilitator, filmmaker, founder of Weapon of Choice

Mixed Routes 2 at Camden Peoples Theatre, continuing the research into people of mixed race and how they express their creativity  
STREET SONGS The second phase of the project, Street Songs, saw the London group use creative writing and voice work to juxtapose the reality of their lives in London with that of the glossy tourist image of London. The resulting songs were performed at Tate Britain.

2008

'There Ain't No Black In the Union Jack' Exploring Britishness, presented groups from across London exploring how youth feel about their multi-faceted identities. A year long process culminated in a week at Hackney Empire. One legacy of this project was the leadership and mentoring programme which developed nine young leaders, providing them with professional development and leadership skills. 2 of these founded the next phase - Weapon of Choice  
KICAR (KIDS IN CAMDEN AT RISK)  
Pan piloted our first project specifically aimed at integrating different groups of young people in Camden, working to tackle rising feelings of territorialism in the area in three youth centres for 6 months with young people in temporary housing, from junior youth exclusion units, refugee backgrounds and in foster care. The project not only integrated young people but also their siblings and families. This model was used to develop the Synergy Project.

Sheyda O'Rang joins Pan; participant, facilitator, filmmaker, Fortune

'The Colour of Love'  
Fortune created a performance for the vaults of St Andrew's church in Holborn and then in a marquee in Coram's Fields, Is LOVE a positive or negative force? Does it lead to happiness or madness? A court case was enacted to bring Love to trial.

**Management in this period by:**

Lisa Solomine  
Mel Anouf (2009)  
Sue Murray(2011)

2009

ECO THUNDER KID  
2 young refugee groups, Future (9-14yrs) and Feet First (5-8yrs), came together for an environmental creative

project which produced Eco-Thunder Kid, a Superhero for the Camden area, inspired by participants' own desires to explore the world of Superheros and their concerns about waste and recycling. The resulting sculpture was displayed in London's Russell Square Gardens and a cartoon strip based on the Superhero was created and published.

'Panopticism' a play that used the theatrical convention of Forum Theatre to engage the audience, opened up the debate around gun and knife crime by young people, for young people. The piece toured schools, Pupil Referral Units, community centres and with sold-out audiences at the Unicorn Theatre and Hackney Empire. During the performance the audience is invited to watch a familiar scenario escalate to a negative end and then offer an alternative ending. Using 'Choice' as a 'Weapon', became the name of this new group, weapon of choice ; WoC

The Synergy project starts bringing participants from many different disadvantaged groups together to explore their creativity

[Sri Lanka The Shakthi group formed in the east of the country as the war there ends](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\) Training of youth Workers following Cyclone Nargis. Leads to huge Theatre for Development project in the Delta region in 180 villages.](#)

Ehireme Omoake joins Pan as participant, then as facilitator, Weapon of Choice

Bruno Correia joins Pan as participant, then as facilitator, Weapon of Choice

Melanie Anouf joins Pan; project manager, facilitator, Fortune, Weapon of Choice

2010 AMIES project is born

Pan started a pilot project for 20 women who were all survivors of trafficking into domestic servitude or the sex trade with the Poppy Project, led by Annabel Rook and Adwoa Dickson.

Pan publishes The Theatre for Development Handbook (Adebayo, Mehta, Martin)

[Further Training of the Shakthi Group in Sri Lanka. Sri lankan trained facilitators start to develop new Shakthi](#)

Sue Murray joins Pan; volunteer, Office Manager, Development Officer

companies

Act 2 in Geneva and London The Shakthi group from Sri Lanka takes part in a training programme for facilitators from conflict zones. This is followed by a conference in the International Red Cross HQ in Geneva and a tour of the group to London

Synergy performs "It Ain't Working" at the Roundhouse in Camden

2011

SYNERGY is formed - a new project which enabled us to demonstrate the importance of addressing human needs such as confidence, communication, aspiration and understanding, alongside those of housing, employment and health, for our young people to have the best possible start on a positive life path.

Debora Minà joins Pan; artist facilitator, Fortune, Future, Amies, international projects

TASTE OF MEMORY - FORTUNE GROUP explored the stories, customs and the preparation of the food eaten by the many new groups of people who now live in our community. Young refugees of the Fortune group interviewed members of their communities, gathering information about foods which have come with them, investigating how those foods are re-created in the UK. This was worked into a performance where audience tasted the foods, an exhibition, a book and a website.

2012

As part of the Young Rights Bloomsbury Festival, Pan's own Fortune group in conjunction with Coram and Coram's Fields Youth Centre creatively explored the rich heritage of Bloomsbury and in particular, its legacy and dedication to Human Rights and the Rights of the Child. The work created was showcased at the Bloomsbury Festival 2012.

Emmanuel (E) Alisigwe joins Pan as participant, then as facilitator, Weapon of Choice, Fortune, Future

The Shakthi group in Sri Lanka expands to 6 groups across the country including one of former LTTE combatants

**2013** Following the London Riots Pan receives Home Office funds to work in a local “hot spot”. Tess Oyediran leads workshops and residencies which lead to young people’s “Synergy Radio” broadcasts

[Trainings in Pakistan & Sri Lanka to pass skills in working in conflict affected areas. Under the same “Finding A Voice” programme a consultancy visit takes place in Sudan and an exploratory visit to South Sudan to assess possible needs for training in post conflict theatre for development](#)

[Training in Myanmar of youth workers and NGO workers, leading to the foundation of the Human Drama company using Forum Theatre to work on issues of HIV/AIDS awareness and anti trafficking.](#)

Shamuna Rahman joins Pan; Office Manager, facilitator Expansion and Amies

**2014** The Amies Choir is formed as a separate entity from Amies London, which continues its sessions.

Weapon of Choice begins its programmes of school residencies in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), exclusion units and the like, with a short sharing at the end of each 10-12 week residency

The Future group is redesigned to work solely with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and moves activities to Croydon.

[Further training with Human Drama group in Yangon to use Forum Theatre to tackle issues of access to Justice](#)

Dean Douglas Wood joins Pan as participant, then as facilitator, Weapon of Choice

**2015** A new film outlining the law of Joint Enterprise through a typical young person’s story was written and directed by Zephryn Taitte. Launched at City Hall it led to thousands of young people seeing it and becoming aware of the consequences of the law.

Pan’s Expansion programme begins; Amies Bristol is started and soon becomes Amies Broadstairs!

[Theatre for Development training for South Sudan Theatre Organisation in Juba , South Sudan.](#)

First Old Bailey performance for the Amies Choir.

“Panoramic”, an evening in which participants from all Pan’s ongoing projects came together for the first time and performed for each other and an invited audience.

Elisa Braglia joins Pan; volunteer, assistant manager, admin and communications manager.

(More)

recent arrivals

[Sheyda O’Rang](#)

[E Alisigwe](#)

[Jovon Lennon](#)

[Bruno Correia](#)

[Ehireme Omoake](#)

[Joab Evans Campbell](#)

[Ruby Wild](#)

[Nichole Raif](#)

[Dean Douglas](#)

[Triziel Guthrie](#)

[Sami Berekat](#)

[Anna Tolputt](#)

[Homayra Bibi](#)

[Anna Samant](#)

[Francesca Ojefua](#)

[Shanti Sarcar](#)

[Asma Huque](#)

2016 Expansion: Weapon of Choice Birmingham begins in Oaklands Community Centre in Handsworth in collaboration with Birmingham City Council Youth Services  
Expansion:  
Fortune Oxford begins in collaboration with Pegasus Theatre  
Fortune develops 'You Are What You Play' - a project, performance and website based on the similarities and differences of children's games around the world, especially from the experiences of our young refugees  
[Workshops with refugees in the "Jungle" refugee camp in Calais, France, at the invitation of Good Chance Theatre](#)

Management  
in this period by:

[Shamuna Rahman \(2014\)](#)  
[Elisa Braglia \(2015\)](#)

2017 [Pan organises a library of theatre books, donated by generous donors and publishers in the UK and ships it to the South Sudan Theatre Organisation in Juba as a public resource.](#)  
Expansion work continues in Oxford, Broadstairs and Birmingham and Training for Expansion facilitators takes place in London during the Rose Bruford International Symposium  
Work with Horniman Museum on new World Gallery

2018 Amies Freedom Choir develops an alumnae group. It sings at BNP Paribas' World Environment Day, Euromoney banking awards and the Tate Britain for the Turner Prize, as well as earlier performances at The Old Bailey and Kings Place.  
WoC trials an out-of-schools group to provide continuity and further training for those who have completed a residency, followed by new funding for a permanent provision.  
A new expansion project begins in Broadstairs for the Amies Choir to work with female survivors of trafficking  
Pan represented at a Refugee Theatre Festival in Bristol.  
The core work of Future, Fortune, Weapon of Choice and Amies continues throughout the year.