

Sarah 'Rain' Kóláwọlé

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Personal profile:

I am a playwright, spoken word artist, poet and facilitator.

I am currently a 'Beyond' Artist with Graeae Theatre and Derby theatre developing a sensory piece of children's theatre 'AYO' aimed at children with complex needs and multiple disabilities and their neurotypical peers.

I was awarded my Arts Council England DYCP (Develop Your Creative Practice) grant in 2023, and I am currently developing my writing and a mainstream script 'Above Water'.

My writing style tends to be quite poetic and I'm excited about themes around relationships, siblings, 'race' and identity. My background as an adopted adult, youth worker, qualified Children's Social Worker and research degree often trickles into my writing and facilitation approach.

Highlights:

- 2025- R&D of 'AYO' ACE funded.
- 2025 – Spark Arts for Children Ideas fund artist.
- 2025 – Fifth Word Playwright
- Rebel Sparks Associate Artist 2024-25
- Beyond Artist at Graeae and Derby Theatre 2023-25
- New Associate Artist at New Perspectives Theatre 23-24
- Vital Sparks Spark Artist for Children Artist 2023-24
- Associate Artist at Nottingham Playhouse 2019-2021
- Arts Council funded – DYCP 2023-24
- Soho Theatre writers Alumni Group 2018-22
- Arts Council funded project grant for my play 'Rootless Island Baby' 2019-20, at Nottingham Playhouse.
- Founding the 'care' experienced young people's theatre group 'Rootz' at Nottingham Playhouse 2019.

Published writer:

- 2024 – Seeds of Resistance anthology.
- 2023 – Ten Poems about Black History anthology.
- 2021 – Hear Me Now monologue Vol2

Writing Commissions, shows and sharings:

- **AYO** – ACE funded R&D of children’s multisensory piece, at Derby Theatre. 2025.
- **The Places Between** – directed by Callum Berridge 2021
- **Derby Theatre** – ‘Home Girl’ (Alex Wheatle) book adaptation for the main stage. 2020-22
- **Nottingham Playhouse** – My script ‘Rootless Island Baby’ had a rehearsed reading 2020 and 2021.
- **Derby Book Festival** – poetry performance and writing commission – 2018.

Facilitation:

I have written and facilitated creative writing and performance poetry workshops over zoom, in Schools, theatres and community settings 2011- present. Including founding my own young people’s theatre group ‘Rootz’ at Nottingham Playhouse.

- **Nottingham Playhouse** – Rootz theatre group for ‘care’ experienced young people, which I founded in 2019.
- **Earthpods** – R&D creative writing workshop facilitator for young people – 2021
- **The Gramophones** – ‘Shewolves’ creative writing workshop facilitator for young people – 2020.

Performance summary:

I have performed across the country at arts centres, theatres, festivals and events from 2003- present.

- **New Arts Exchange** – Seeds of Resistance book launch performance poet – 2024.
- **The Bunker Theatre** – Take Over Festival performance poet – 2020.
- **Derby Theatre** – Culture Cares conference – performance poet 2018.
- **Windrush 70 poetic Tribute** – Performance poet – 2018
- **Derby Theatre** – Check in Festival – pitch and performance – 2018.
- **The Primary Gallery** – Writer and Performer for the exhibition “If a Pair is two then what is three” at the Harley Gallery on the Welbeck Estate- 2016.
- **New Arts Exchange** – Art for Social Change Renaissance One – performance poet – 2015.
- **Font Festival** – Performance of One woman show ‘Broken in Transit’.
- **The Curve** – Serendipity Black History Month Live – Development and performance of my one Woman show ‘Broken In Transit’ – 2013-14.
- **Blackdrop Open Mic**– Writer, performer, co-organiser and facilitator.

Artist development summary:

I have taken part in a number of artist development programmes, attachments, associateships and courses at Talawa, Tamasha, Theatre 503, Nottingham Playhouse, Soho Theatre, New Perspectives and Derby Theatre since 2004.

- 2024-25 – Fifth Word Playwright.
- 2023-25 – Beyond Artist at Graeae and Derby Theatre.
- 2023-24 – New Associate at New Perspectives Theatre.
- 2023-24 – Vital Sparks artist at Spark Arts for Children.
- 2020-21 – Theatre 503 Writing Workshops.
- 2021 – University of East Anglia – Introduction to screenwriting.
- 2021- Nottingham Playhouse Playwriters playground course.
- 2020 – In Good Company Artist support fund commission.
- 2018-22 – Soho Theatre Writers alumni group.
- 2017-18 Tamasha Writing course.
- 2018 – Talawa – Escalate Artist development programme and courses.
- 2017-18 – Soho Theatre Writers lab.
- 2017 – Inscribe Writers Poetry Course.
- 2016-17 – New Perspectives Theatre Associate Artist.
- 2013-14 – New Perspectives Theatre – Emerging Playwright, writing a short play: ‘Notts Sweet Home’. for a regional tour.

Referees:

Available upon request.

Social Work Experience:

Freelance Social Worker: 2021

Compass Fostering Agency: Advanced Practitioner Panel and Assessment (2018-21)

Barnardos, Derbyshire Leaving Care Team: Team Manager (2015-18)

NSPCC Leicester: Level 3 Social Worker (2014- 15)

Nottingham City Council

Children In Care Team: Social Worker (2012-14)

Child Protection Team: Social Worker (2010-12)

Education Summary:

Nottingham Trent University 2015-16

MA in Advanced Social Work Practice

Nottingham Trent University 2013-15

PgDip Professional Child Care Practice

University of Leicester 2008-10

MA in Social Work

Sheffield Hallam University 2004-7

BA Hons (2:1) Media studies with Journalism

Bronze and Silver Hallam Award