

Waleed Akhtar

Waleed is a writer and actor who was an MGC Futures bursary winner 2021. He is working on various current commissions, and most recently created SHOLAY ON THE BIG SCREEN supported by The Bush as well as I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO at the Vault Festival 2020 (Evening Standard Pick of the Fest) about race and climate change.

His short film LOST PARADISE was produced by UK Film Council and he has contributed material for BBC Radio 4's Sketchtopia and Newsjack.

As an actor his credits include CRUELLA, SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN and THE GREAT.

Kabul Goes Pop

Brixton House, Mercury Theatre and HighTide, 2022

Inspired by a true story of Afghanistan's first youth music TV programme. It's 'Disco Pigs' meets 'Wayne's World' with a dash of 'The Kite Runner', as post the war two young friends take on the force of a repressive society in the hope of building a new Afghanistan, with devastating personal and political consequences, all to a soundtrack of the best early 00s pop!

The P Word

Bush Theatre, 2022

Two Gay Pakistani's one born here and one born there. Zafar is fighting the hostile environment and Billy (don't call him Bilal) is fighting his own demons, bred in the hostility of 'safe spaces'. What does it mean to be Pakistani, gay, and British in 2021.

Sholay on the Big Screen (Writer/Performer): Off Stage Theatre, Bush & Nubian Life 2021

Commission to write and perform a piece for the elderly in isolation for a lockdown project supported by the Bush about recollection. The piece was an inspired look at a classic Bollywood film through the eye of a lonely millennial.

I Don't Know What To Do: (Performer, Co-Director/Writer): Stage, Vault Festival 2020

Working with director and activist on Zoe Lafferty on this piece about climate change, privilege and race for the Vault Festival. Evening Standard pick of the fest 2020.

FAMALAM Season 4 Pilot (BBC3) - Writer, 2021

Two sketches selected for the season 4 pilot of Famalam, 'A Spoken Word Poem to Sell you Stuff' and the Nigerian Aunties asking 'Why haven't you had a Baby yet'.

Thirst Trap (Writer): TV - Informal development, BBC Studios, 2021

Comedy pilot about self certified MILF Nisha, who is not about growing old gracefully, or being ignored on the day of her ex getting remarried. Working with a producer at BBC Studios on this 30 min pilot.

Flirting With Faith: Stage (Director/ Devisor/ Writer) – MUJU Tricycle Theatre, 2012

A community project taking non performers from a Muslim and Jewish heritage, and devising and directing a show for them. It was a fun and insightful look at interfaith dating, performed on the main stage at the Tricycle Theatre for a week. 'Well paced and interesting, with a lightness of touch which makes it easy for the audience to laugh along' One Stop Arts.

Moderate Muslims: Feature Film (Writer/Director), B3 Media (Development), 2011

When a group of adult siblings are all forced to return home for the weekend and live under the same roof, will they be able to put their differences aside or tear each other apart? Selected as part of the B3 Feature Lab and went on to win a semi commission from Film 4.

Lost Paradise: Short film (Writer/Director), B3 Media/ UK Film Council, 2010

Ismat once saw a future and now only sees a past. But can she recapture something that is perhaps lost forever? A 12-minute dramatic fiction short. OFFICIAL SELECTION: Encounters Film Festival 2010, East End Film Festival 2010, London Asian Film Festival 2010, 49th Golden Knight Malta International Film Festival 2010, London Short Film Festival 2011 AWARDS / NOMINATIONS: Satyajit Ray Award - Nominated, Golden Knight Malta International Film Jury- Special mention. The film can be watched at <http://vimeo.com/28230970>

Generation Haram: Rehearsed reading (Writer), Tristan Bates theatre, 2010

A tragic-comic play about a young Muslim brother and sister from a single parent family who are juggling their multiple identities and how the reality of their decisions can have fatal consequences.

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