

ELENA YIANNI

THEATRE + FILM DIRECTOR | FOUNDER OF AMDA (ARTISTS' MOVEMENT FOR DEVELOPING ARTISTRY)

Elena Yianni is a London-based Greek Cypriot Theatre and Film Director working with bold new writing and overlooked stories by and about underrepresented voices, particularly those connected to communities like her own. She is drawn to stories about people - their identity, culture, politics and the realities of life today - often seeking out narratives that carry a thread of hope. Her practice is grounded in care, curiosity and collaboration.

She is also the Founder of AMDA (Artists' Movement for Developing Artistry), a multidisciplinary company dedicated to nurturing artists aged 13–30.

EDUCATION

APPLIED THEATRE BA(HONS) - 1ST CLASS

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire | 2018 - 2021

EXPERIENCE

THEATRE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR — UPCOMING NEW PLAY (DETAILS TBA)

London Theatre | Nov 2025 – Feb 2026

DIRECTOR — SWEDISH MEATBALLS (PLAY) BY ALICE ONWARDI

Theatre503 | (Rapid Write Response to *by their fruits* by DK Fashola) | 2024

DIRECTOR — GHOST LIGHT (MUSICAL) BY MOLLY O'GORMAN

The Hope Theatre - Jul 2023 (3 weeks) | Also developed at The Golden Goose - Feb 2023 (1 week) | OFFCOMM Commendation - OFFIES 2023

DIRECTOR — REVELATIONS (PLAY) BY SAOIRSE D BYRNE

Brighton Fringe / Rose Theatre Kingston (sold out) | Dec 2021 - Jul 2022

FILM

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR — UNTITLED (FILM SERIES) BY MARION GITHEGI AND TOBY CLARKE

dir. Toby Clarke | Post-Production, 2025

DIRECTOR — WAITING (SHORT FILM) BY MOLLY O'GORMAN

Theatre Deli / Delivision | August 23 - October 2024

LEADERSHIP & INITIATIVES

FOUNDER — AMDA (ARTISTS' MOVEMENT FOR DEVELOPING ARTISTRY)

A multidisciplinary CIC nurturing artists aged 13–30. | Jan 2022 - Ongoing


FOUNDER / LEAD FACILITATOR — THE DIRECTORS CLUB (MONTHLY CLUB)

A development space for early-career directors. | Jan 2025 - Ongoing

CREATOR + MENTOR — DIRECTING UNFILTERED (MENTORING INITIATIVE)

Mentoring initiative supporting young + emerging directors. | Oct 2025 Ongoing



 elena.yianni@yahoo.co.uk

 www.elenayianni.com

 @elena_yianni

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TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Devising Intensive - Theatre 503 with Billy Bartlett | Nov 2025

Young Creatives Programme - Harrow Arts Centre | Sep 2024 – Jun 2025

Young Associate Programme - Lyric Hammersmith | Oct 2023 – Oct 2024

Fresh Direction & Creators Programme - Young Vic | Nov 2022 – Jun 2023

ALT B Intensive Directors Course - With Toby Clarke | Jul 2024

'DirectYourFirstPlay' Course - With Kalungi Ssebandeke | Jul 2024 + Ongoing mentoring | Jan – Mar 2025

Short Courses in Directing & Writing - National Youth Theatre | 2021

SHADOWING & MASTERCLASSES

Shadowing

- Rachel Chavkin — HADESTOWN (Lyric Theatre)
- Lynette Linton — SHIFTERS (Bush Theatre)
- Daniel Bailey — YV UNWRAPPED (Young Vic)
- Max Webster & Jo Tyabji — ANTIGONE (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre)
- Rachel O'Riordan — FAITH HEALER (Lyric Hammersmith)

Masterclasses

- Rebecca Frecknall, Bruce Goodison, Phillip J. Morris, Matthew Xia, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Ned Bennett.