

Mentoring scheme launches for British East and South-East Asian artists

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Jeremy Ang Jones, Leo Wan and Mei Mac

A pilot scheme has been launched to provide mentoring to British East and South-East Asian theatremakers.

The Tidal Rising Mentoring Scheme has been established by a new collective of BESEA artists called Tidal Rising.

It will run 15 mentorship partnerships across a six-month period, from March to

September, between mentors and artists of BESEA heritage.

Participants will all receive training, and the scheme is open to artists, creatives and those in technical roles.

The Tidal Rising collective has been set up with the aim of tackling the obstacles faced by creative practitioners of BESEA heritage in the performing arts.

Founding members include actors Jeremy Ang Jones, Jules Chan and Leo Wan, [theatremaker Mei Mac](#), director Ng Choon Ping and designer Gillian Tan.

Benedict Wong, actor and patron of Tidal Rising, said: "Throughout my early career, opportunities for guidance were limited.

"It's an honour to be a patron of the Tidal Rising Mentoring Scheme where ESEA artists can share their collective experience, and together as a community we can grow, nurture and elevate."

The Tidal Rising Mentoring Scheme is supported by organisations including Arts Council England, New Earth Theatre, the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, East 15 Acting School and the London School of Musical Theatre.

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, the Musical Theatre Academy, the Oxford School of Drama, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and Royal Central School of Speech and Drama are also backing the scheme.

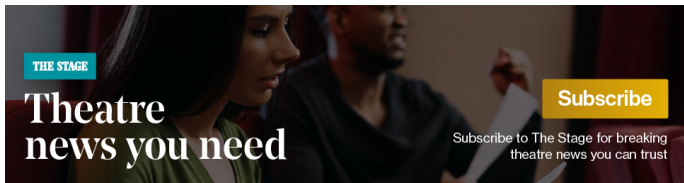
Kumiko Mendl, artistic director of New Earth Theatre, said: "I'm delighted that New Earth has been able to support this vital and timely mentorship programme.

"While performance-related activity remains severely restricted under lockdown, we have to ensure our community not only survives the current crisis but thrives on the other side of it."

Gillian Tan, member of Tidal Rising and head of video at RADA, added: "Diversity in backstage and technical roles is especially unrepresented. I'm hopeful that our scheme will make steps towards improving representation among the off-stage workforce."

Applications for the scheme close on

February 15.



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