

Tahir Shah

Creative CV - Bradford, West Yorkshire | tahir_shah@hotmail.co.uk

Stage and Screen Acting

Work sample: <https://app.spotlight.com/6052-6729-3357>

Creative projects and performance work

The Hour Of - 2026 | Independent short film | Writer and Director

- Wrote and directed a short film funded by the Genera Film Fund and shot in Bradford.
- The film follows three friends meeting at night to watch the final episode of their favourite show. A supernatural encounter tests their friendship and survival, with much of the action taking place in a car.

Majid and Ma Sheen - 2025 | Theatre in the Mill | Playwright and commissioned artist

- Wrote a one-person short play as part of Theatre in the Mill's Untitled 4 Artist Development Scheme. The work received two performances in the theatre's studio space.
- Explored reliance on technology and the dangers of artificial intelligence through a character-led theatre piece.
- Collaborated with AI researchers, specialists and technology enthusiasts to inform the story and its treatment of technology.
- Work sample: <https://youtu.be/lltrAQ3j6bE>

Making Haslden a Home - 2025 | Brent Council | Commissioned filmmaker

- Researched and created a short documentary celebrating the diversity of the local community of Haslden.
- Explored immigration, heritage and identity through the lived experiences of residents, combining filmmaking with community engagement.
- Foregrounded underrepresented voices and residents' experiences of home and belonging.
- Work sample: <https://youtu.be/cML4EfcoZl4>

Brambleton Community Fridge - 2025 | Local charity commission | Commissioned filmmaker

- Wrote and produced a short film documenting the community fridge and the support it provides to local families.
- Explored who uses the service, the effects of the cost-of-living crisis and what the initiative means to residents.
- Used community voices to communicate the value of accessible grassroots support and the experiences of people relying on it.
- Work sample: <https://youtu.be/uIxfTaZuAw>

StarPlex - 2025 | BOLD! Scratch Night | Playwright and Theatre Maker

- Wrote and staged an excerpt from an original two-hander, a dark comedy exploring friendship, ambition and cultural identity.
- Tested tone, pacing and character relationships with a live audience in a scratch performance.
- Used the sharing to develop writing for performance, work with actors and incorporate audience feedback.
- Work sample: https://youtu.be/_FFntZpoZ88

With Love from Bradford to Bethlehem - 2024 | Independent documentary | Filmmaker

- Created a short documentary following a pro-Palestine demonstration in Bradford on Christmas Eve.
- Explored the relationship between activism in Bradford and oppression in Palestine.
- Work sample: https://youtu.be/IA8kM_TdBp4?si=QpKuB-rIOcS-xyhO

Listen to Our Story - 2023 | Community film | Creative contributor

- Listen to Our Story is the result of a partnership between acta Community Theatre and Bristol Refugee Rights. This play, devised and performed by Asylum Seekers tells their story of flight from violence and war to seek safety in Bristol. Directed by Tahir Shah.
- Work sample: <https://youtu.be/kgJyWNblEzs>

Training creative development and mentorships

2025 | Paines Plough | Tour the Writer | Selected playwright

- Selected for a national playwright development programme involving mentorship and work with professional theatre-makers.
- Developed original writing (Blood & Balance) and explored opportunities for small-scale touring and engagement with community audiences.
- Completed a 12-month writer development programme in 2025.

2025 | Channel 4 and National Film and Television School | Participant

- Completed training in writing self-contained 30-minute television scripts using professional narrative structure.
- Developed understanding of television drama and comedy through practical industry guidance.

2025 | Dibby Theatre | Participant

- Took part in a writer development programme supporting new voices in the North.
- Developed a short play under professional mentorship, exploring South Asian family dynamics and identity.

2024 | Screen Yorkshire | Mayor's Script Diversity Programme | Participant

- Chosen as one of ten writers for a year-long film and television development programme supporting underrepresented voices.
- Developed an original script with professional mentorship and a focus on authentic, inclusive stories for screen.

2024 | British Council | Fellow and cultural researcher

- Selected as a British Council Fellow at the Venice Biennale, spending a month in residence supporting the UK Pavilion.
- Participated in international cultural exchange and engaged with artists and contemporary artistic practice.
- Undertook research to inform storytelling and writing practice, with an interest in identity and global cultural contexts.

2023 | Freedom Studios | Mentored playwright

- Developed original theatrical work through workshops and one-to-one guidance from established writers.
- Focused on narrative structure, character and an authentic writing voice.

2022 | ITV Media City Flex Development Programme | Participant

- Developed original television ideas and gained insight into the screen industry.
- Participated in short term writer's room development scheme for original ITV drama.
- Gained insight into professional screen production and development.

2022 | BBC | Grant recipient and comedy writer

- Received funding to develop original comedy material for stage or screen.
- Funding helped develop writing skills for short form TV comedy original series.

2021 | 509 Arts | Competition winner and playwright

- Won a writing competition celebrating emerging Northern voices and shared work at a Bradford showcase.
- The winning piece recieved a rehearsed reading of Smart Whips Dumb People, the play that won the 509 Arts new writing competition.
- Work sample: <https://youtu.be/L-NQxAN1-gE>

2020 | McLaren Artist Bursary | Bursary recipient

- Received support for creative practice, including a laptop and professional screenwriting software to continue script development.