

**FULL PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED**

**FOR THE ACHATES PHILANTHROPY FOUNDATION’S FIRST VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM**

**CURATED BY JAVAAD ALIPOOR**

***All that’s been revealed…* line-up features: Nii Ayikwei Parkes, Syima Aslam, Fehinti Balogun, Andrew Barnett OBE, Andrew Glassford, Dr Dave O’Brien, Shoshana Polanco, Darren Pritchard, Dr Mariam Rezaei, Abdul Shayek, Kully Thiarai & Róise Goan**

**Monday 11 October 2021:** The Achates Philanthropy Foundation is delighted to announce the full programme for its first virtual Symposium, ‘*All that’s been revealed…’.* Every evening at 7pm from 15 to 19 November, a line-up of outstanding creatives and thought leaders will challenge the cultural sector to think differently, in a wide-ranging, artist-led programme curated by writer and theatre director, Javaad Alipoor (*The Believers Are But Brothers*, *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran*).

The Symposium takes a multidisciplinary approach to some of today’s most urgent issues - from the cultural implications of addressing climate change, to the myth of social mobility in the creative industries - through a series of forward-looking conversations with UK and international guest speakers.

**Achates Philanthropy Foundation Chair, Caroline McCormick**, said: *“The Achates Philanthropy Foundation is committed to change in the cultural sector and believes that in order to bring that about we need spaces for real dialogue and debate. We are delighted that as one of the most exciting and distinctive voices in the sector, Javaad Alipoor, is leading this conversation for us. The programme he has curated is packed with thought leaders and big ideas. We all expect to have our ideas challenged through these conversations and believe this will help us to move forward together, stronger, as a result”.*

**Guest Curator, Javaad Alipoor**, said: “*In the arts sector we often think about the problems we face in isolation. But the last two years have shown that the challenges we face are a microcosm of society more broadly. Whether that’s the challenges of catastrophic climate change, the economic brutality visited upon by a work force made largely of freelancers with poor pay and conditions, the rise of the new authoritarianism, or unfit-for-purpose structures of leadership and power - the way we make, curate and support art can’t be changed until we ask fundamental questions about how society works. I’m really excited to welcome such an amazingly diverse and talented range of panellists thinking through these timely and pressing questions.”*

**Monday 15 November, 7pm - Climate Economics**As the Global North finally wakes up to the reality of climate change it is now seeking to change the way in which art is curated and consumed worldwide, through initiatives such as reducing international travel and promoting digital engagement. But this sets a challenge for artists in the Global South many of whom seek opportunities in the Global North to raise the perceived and economic value of their work. Where do climate and social justice meet in the arts?

**Panellists to include:**

* **Fehinti Balogun** is anactor and writer. He conceived, wrote and performed in Can I Live?, a brand new digital performance about the climate catastrophe from Complicité. TV and film credits include *I May Destroy You* and *Dune*.
* **Shoshana Polanco** is a creative producer. Based in Buenos Aires, her area of expertise is international collaboration with a focus in Latin America.
* **Róise Goan** is the Artistic Director of Artsadmin.

**Tuesday 16 November, 7pm - The Social Mobility Myth**The arts have been one of the vehicles by which the myth of social mobility has been promoted, yet the cultural ecosystem remains a mirror of society with roles largely dictated by socio-economic background. Can the arts become a beacon of change?

**Chair: Syima Aslam** is the founder and Director of the Bradford Literature Festival.

**Panellists:**

* **Dr Dave O’Brien** is Chancellor’s Fellow in Cultural and Creative Industries based in The University of Edinburgh’s School of History of Art, and co-author of the book, *Culture is bad for you: inequality in the cultural and creative industries.*
* **Dr Mariam Rezaei** is Lecturer in Music Technology and Composition at Newcastle University.
* **Abdul Shayek** is Artistic Director and joint CEO of Tara Theatre.

**Wednesday 17 November, 7pm – Keynote Lecture: *All that's been revealed…***

The pandemic represents a period in which our world views have undergone seismic shifts with social and environmental justice movements finding renewed momentum. However, as the old methodologies of liberalism have failed to achieve these goals, both left and right have moved to more strident and authoritarian positions which form the basis of the so-called ' culture wars'.

As curator and guest artist for the inaugural Achates Philanthropy Foundation Symposium, Javaad Alipoor will give the Keynote Lecture, *All that’s been revealed…,* exploring the role of art in achieving justice with understanding.

**Thursday 18 November, 7pm - The Hidden Artist**

Whilst the arts have improved their ability to articulate the case for the economic and social value of art, as well as its benefits for wellbeing, the space for talking about art itself and its intrinsic value seems to have shrunk. How can we move beyond a zero-sum approach to these ideas?

**Chair: Javaad Alipoor** is a British-Iranian, Manchester-based and Bradford-built artist, writer and founding Artistic Director of The Javaad Alipoor Company.

**Panellists to include:**

* **Andrew Barnett OBE** is Director of the UK Branch of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.
* **Nii Ayikwei Parkes** is a writer, editor, socio-cultural commentator, broadcaster and recipient of Ghana’s national ACRAG award for poetry and literary advocacy.

**Friday 19 November, 7pm - The Lives of Artists**The pandemic has brutally revealed how we undervalue freelancers and, in particular, those working in front of house and technical roles. How do we create an arts infrastructure in which artists aren’t valued at the expense of their co-creators at a time when it has become clear that the mixed economy we have relied on for so many years is now failing?

**Chair: Javaad Alipoor** is a British-Iranian, Manchester-based and Bradford-built artist, writer and founding Artistic Director of The Javaad Alipoor Company.

**Panellists:**

* **Andrew Glassford** is a Manchester-based freelance theatre technician and production manager who set up a project to make homes more eco-friendly after losing his job in the arts industry during the pandemic.
* **Darren Pritchard** is a performer, choreographer, teacher, producer and director. He’s a celebrated Vogue performer and the Mother of the House of Ghetto in Manchester.
* **Kully Thiarai** is Creative Director and CEO of Leeds 2023, and the former Artistic Director and Chief Executive of National Theatre Wales.

All events in the Achates Philanthropy Foundation Symposium are available free of charge online both live and on-demand post-Symposium. Book your tickets at: [www.achates.org.uk/about/philanthropy](http://www.achates.org.uk/about/philanthropy)

The AchatesPhilanthropy Prize will return in 2022. For more information about this year’s Symposium and the history of the Prize, please visit achatesprize.co.uk and subscribe to our mailing list.

**NOTES TO EDITORS’**

**Press contact:** Jenn Reynolds / jenn@jenniferreynoldspr.co.uk / +44 (0)7736 84 22 37

**The Achates Philanthropy Foundation** was established in 2016 to act as an incubator for innovation in the cultural sector, encouraging new philanthropy and improving organisational resilience. We both develop programmes and respond to project proposals that meet our aims. Trustees of the Achates Philanthropy Foundation: Caroline McCormick (Chair), Alex Cheales, Josh Cockcroft, Sarah Purisa Maguire, Paul Owens, and Bill Swainson.

**Javaad Alipoor** is a British-Iranian, Manchester-based and Bradford-built artist, writer and founding Artistic Director of The Javaad Alipoor Company. The Javaad Alipoor Company takes stories beyond the stage through powerful multi-platform creations that explore the intersection of politics and technology in the contemporary world. Javaad was Resident Associate Director at Sheffield Theatres (2017-18), Associate Director at Bradford’s Theatre in the Mill (2015-2017) and is an alumni of Arts Council England’s Change Makers programme. Javaad’s plays include *The Believers Are But Brothers*, *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran* (both published by Oberon) and *Made of Mannheim*, and his writing on international politics, cultural policy and art has been featured in The Guardian, The Independent and The Stage.

[javaadalipoor.co.uk](http://javaadalipoor.co.uk/)

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**The 2021 Achates Philanthropy Foundation Symposium**

**is sponsored by Achates.**



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