

**Tell us a little about yourself and your work. Please include a website link if applicable.**

I am a Chinese Woman and a self-employed producer with a strong track record of producing events and curated experiences specifically for Chinese and East-Asian Audiences as well as producing new writing theatre by early career artists who have a distinctive new voice at 'small scale' venues. I have outlined specific examples:

**Producing work for Chinese / East Asian Audiences:**

**Produced 'A Star Award Singing Contest' in Second City Suite, Birmingham.**

**I secured partnerships with 4 chinese and international corporate businesses (Ming Moon Chinese Restaurant, Student.com accommodation agency and others) who provided financial and in-kind support, worked with 3 Universities' Chinese Students Society (University of Birmingham, Birmingham City University and Aston University), engaged 60 East Asian**

**individual artists across West Midlands to join the competition, 300+ East Asian audiences attending the final round live in person and 3000+ individuals engaged with our online activity, with the vast majority identified as East-Asian/Chinese.**

**Producing new writing theatre:**

**- I trained as Resident Assistant Producer at Theatre503, where I assisted on bringing three plays by debut writers with an original voice to life. Wolfie by Ross Willis; The Amber Trap by Tabitha Mortiboy and J'Ouvert by Yasmin Joseph.**

**- This enabled me to produce independently, Dumbledore Is So Gay by Robert Holtom at VAULT Festival 2020 was my first professional theatrical production as producer.**

**Why would you like a Creative Retreat at The Forge?**

1) Connect with Nature and be reminded about the need to be aware of environmental and climate impact in all aspects of my work through being in the woods.

Throughout my career so far, I have been guilty of not taking into consideration the impact to the environment and climate when working with writers to develop ideas and bringing stories from page to life. The Creative Retreat at The Forge will allow me the right time and space to reimagine this and make a lasting change. (Further expanded in the below question)

2) I want to Re-assess my work, my mission, the communities I'm trying to serve in order to look forward to the future.

Originally from Hong Kong, I lived through a similar pandemic (SARS) as a very young child, I was very young, so my memory isn't entirely clear, but I do absolutely remember wearing masks for a very long time, and as a city, community, we eventually defeated the crisis. When COVID-19 happened, whilst in shock, I reacted immediately in March by wearing a face mask in all my essential journeys to the shop, protecting myself and others. The way the UK government and public reacted towards face-mask, in my own opinion, felt slow and not trusting success in history stories from Asia and Hong Kong. Asian and Chinese communities, which I feel very proud to be a part of, have also seen a recent spike in hate crimes associated with racism due to COVID-19. This experience made me reflect my identity and work as an artist, and this Creative Re-Treat opportunity will give me some qualitative time and space to dig deeper, conduct some in-depth independent research and think about it.

### **How would you use a Creative Retreat? What would it enable you to do?**

1) With my three projects (Moon Sweats, At The Feet Of Jesus and The Cromer Special) in development, I want to use the time during the residency, to re-read the scripts (one per half day) in detail whilst surrounded by the woods and add in suggestions of suitable moments to add in an environmental awareness narrative, without jeopardising the overall message and story of the script, for example, thinking if certain characters can be vegan, adding in appropriate 'side narrative' about plastic bags, recycling or similar. Through my training with Albert (authority on environmental sustainability for film + TV.), it is evident that subtle, sideline dramas within the main story structure have proven to be extremely powerful and memorable for audiences, in particular with environmental awareness. This Creative Retreat will enable me with the right time and space to imagine how this could work through a theatrical production (digital, stage, outdoor, or another form), playing my part in making a positive contribution to the industry and society. I also hope that through this exercise during the Creative Retreat, considering the climate impact as part of an ideas' narrative will become a much more natural process when developing and structuring an idea.

2) Initially, when doing some primary thinking as I write this application to you, I thought about my existing journey so far:

I struggled to connect the two strands of my work; engaging East Asian audiences with new writing theatre. I produced the sold-out show, Dumbledore Is So Gay, that won the Origins Award at VAULT Festival, but I was fearful that my networks of East-Asian individuals 'would not understand' and hesitated to invite them. This was evident by and as a result of my personal experience, at school, the majority of my peers were white with very few fellow East Asian individuals, therefore, we formed a 'support bubble'. I got involved in the school musical 'Cabaret' and invited my East Asian peers to it, due to not understanding the dialogue, they had a very boring 2 hours and we didn't speak for months afterwards.

This creative retreat will provide me with:

- Time and space to reflect, think more deeply and evaluate about my personal roots and the subject matter

- Brainstorm and explore a unique selling point as an artist/producer by successfully and meaningfully bridging my two strands of work.