



KATE STAFFORD BIO

Kate Stafford has been working with the TAI Group since 2007. In addition to her work with TAI, she is also the Artistic Director of Bilimankhwe Arts, a theatre company she founded (www.bilimankhwearts.org) with funding from various sources (including Arts Council England, the Commonwealth Foundation and the National Lottery). Amongst her endeavors is an inter-cultural performance project which involved bringing actors from Malawi (Central Southern Africa) to work for a month in London. She has also led several other youth theatre projects, including work with the Royal National Theatre.

Prior to 2006, Kate also ran an NGO which she set up in Malawi, specializing in theatre and communications (www.nanzikambe.org). As part of that organization she provided training in communications and active learning techniques in Malawi and Kenya, as well as producing and directing shows that toured in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Kate's training work included working with the Paralegal Advisory Service set up by Penal Reform International, training paralegals working within the prisons of both Malawi and Kenya in participatory and active learning techniques, transforming their practice and improving their facilitation skills. She also trained MPs and prospective Parliamentary Candidates through Women's Campaign International, the IRI (International Republican Institute) and the NDI (National Democratic Institute).

Kate also created and led training workshops with a disability group, funded by the Malawi government working with them to help develop income-generating projects, including providing educational and awareness-raising dramas. And, in the middle of this, Kate also trained actors and facilitators to work alongside her, and ultimately to take over running the company, upon her return to the UK.

In the 1980's, Kate originally connected with The Actors Institute, (the precursor of the TAI Group), where she co-led workshops, but parted ways with the Institute when her acting career led her to tour abroad and then to a post-graduate acting course at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. After theatre school (and before Malawi) she worked as an actor and acting coach and also spent 4 years as a local politician in North London.