

CASE STUDY: BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem joined Bubble in 2023, as a member of our 19th cohort of Young Theatre Makers.

Alongside eight other cast members, she devised an original show, **INFLUENCED**, exploring themes of social media, trolling, family responsibilities and expectations, bullying, friendship and resilience.

In her end of project feedback, she said that Young Theatre Makers allowed her to: ‘meet people from so many different backgrounds & experiences, make life long friends, tour and feel confident performing.’

In 2024, Bethlehem successfully applied to be part of our **MAKE SPACE!** festival for 18-30-year-old artists from under-represented communities. She wanted to develop a one woman show, dedicated to her mum, about growing up in Eritrea and Ethiopia, and moving to London. She called the show ‘Adey’ which translates into “mum/my mum”.

“ As someone of Eritrean descent, I feel there is no theatre that represents me. East Africans are not very involved in the arts, and there aren’t many or any plays about being East African. I would like to be one of the first to bring that to life. ”

A highlight of the festival was seeing people connect with others from similar backgrounds and express how rare it was for those connections to be made through theatre. Many members of the Eritrean community attended ‘Adey’, commenting that it was unusual to see their culture portrayed in a positive light.

