Tower Hamlets Council Presents

A SEASON OF BANGLA DRAMA

PERFORMANCES • EXHIBITIONS • TALKS

1-24 NOV 2019

For more information visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts #bangladrama19
I am glad that we are continuing to support A Season of Bangla Drama across Tower Hamlets for another month-long festival of British-Bengali theatre. It is now in its 17th year and firmly established in our cultural calendar.

Ever topical, this festival takes a unique approach to current affairs, tackling issues such as immigration, homelessness and the environment within the context of British Bengali identity in the UK today.

Human rights, women’s rights and migration are all key themes along with gender equality and the commodification of women.

Those from all backgrounds will understand the universal message conveyed through a myriad of tales of human frailty, vulnerability and moral weakness. There are light-hearted stories too and unique personal tales.

A Season of Bangla Drama not only champions new and established playwrights, but also showcases a fantastic fringe programme of talks, walks and exhibitions to complement the theatre on offer and provide even more food for thought.

I hope you enjoy this year’s drama festival, along with friends, family and the wider community.

John Biggs
Mayor of Tower Hamlets

For further details, please go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts
‘A’ TEAM ARTS PRESENTS
NEMESIS 2

Friday 1 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
English | 75 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
Nemesis 2 – The Game Changer!, a dynamic theatre performance that looks at how, through a hypothetical game called Nemesis, the actions of powerful nations can have far reaching repercussions for the world, and in this case – the UK, particularly affecting young people in many ways.

The production will explore and challenge mainstream and social media perceptions of young people (particularly Muslims) and how the terrorism issue has evolved to become more localised, impacting on young people’s safety and sense of identity.

Focusing on online grooming, marginalisation and religious extremism in east London and the UK, Nemesis 2 uses rap and spoken word, movement, drama and technology to raise questions around the dialogue between various nations, the media coverage of events and incidents that specifically affected the UK in 2017, and the impact of terrorism on Britain’s youth.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
‘A’ Team Arts is Tower Hamlets Council’s youth arts division. It co-ordinates youth arts programmes across the borough aimed at young people aged 13-19 years, and up to 25yrs with SEN, who live or study in Tower Hamlets. Using theatre, textiles, design, and music, artists and young people learn, discover and experiment. Ideas are transformed and translated into performances, exhibitions and personal works of art to share with friends, families, the community or sometimes a much wider public.

CREDITS
WRITER: Dr Canan Salih and Tasmia Tahia
DIRECTOR: Dr Canan Salih
CAST: Reyhad Ali, Mahi Ali, Samir Kemal, Lily Mya, Anika Protiva, Tasnia Tahsin, Tasmia Tahia, Anthony Bren, Giovanna Dias, Takir Hossain and Jeba Shikdar
FILMED PERFORMERS: Rokshana Khan, Justin Pesce, Shara Ismail, Frances Cherry, Boris Rupnik and Lutfiye Demir
BSK LONDON PRESENTS
DYSTOPIA

Saturday 2 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Bangla | 75 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
Fahmida is a Rohingya refugee, fleeing the brutality of the Myanmar military and waiting in the moonlight to be picked up by boat. Dealing with grief and the harsh reality of war, she faces an uncertain future and reflects on her right to a home, a life, a state and an education. Heartbroken by violence and bereft by the loss of her house and her books, she queries whether, despite all odds, she can maintain her dreams of becoming a lawyer, and inspiring other Rohingya girls deprived of education. Her psychological journey is played out through conversations with different mystic characters and elements of magic realism.

There will be flashing lights that some audience members may find difficult.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Bishwo Shahitto Kendro is a non-profit organisation which invites its audiences to explore the breadth of Bengali and worldwide cultures through literature, music and visual art forms. It aims to share our common creative heritage and nurture an appreciation of literature amongst the next generation.

CREDITS
WRITER: Bulbul Hasan
DIRECTOR: Syeda Saima Ahmed
CASTING: Syeda Saima Ahmed and Zakir M Hussain
STAGE DESIGN: Khadija Rahman
COSTUME DESIGN AND MAKEUP: Farhana Alam, Reshma Sultana and Shuchona Chowdhury
PROPS: Tapti, Firoze Ahmed Bipul, Adiba Anjum Hossain, Farah Rahman and Wafeeq Zaman
POSTER AND PUBLICITY: Imran Khan
ART AND PROP DESIGN: Farah Naz
VIDEO EDITOR: Ibrahim Aditya
PHOTOGRAPHY: Shoyeb Chamak
ADVISOR: Shamim Azad
MUSIC: Taslima Parvin, Kowssar-E-Zannat, Shanta Chowdhury, Wahid Zaman Upal and Josh
BANGLADESH UDICHI SHILPI GOSHTI UK SANGSAD PRESENTS
EKTI OBASTOB GOLPO – AN ABSURD STORY

Sunday
3 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
POPLAR UNION
Bangla | 75 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
Desperate times have unintended but tragic consequences when a condemned man cheats death. The protagonist, who was hanged for the murder of his wife, finds himself alive after the execution and this exceptional turn of events highlights the moral debate around capital punishment where law becomes a complex mixture of ethics and societal beliefs. Despite his conviction, is he innocent or guilty? In a pluralistic society there is often no single right way, but many versions of a single truth. Both truth and justice are at stake.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi UK Sangsad believes in using arts and culture to celebrate diversity. It also believes in the implementation of equal opportunities for all artists and actively supports policies which aim to eliminate discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, gender, age, religion or disability.

CREDITS
WRITER: Bimal Bondopaddhay
DIRECTOR: Dr Rafiqul Hassan Khan Jinnah
LIGHT, SOUND AND MUSIC: Gopal Das
COSTUME DESIGN: Nurul Islam and Kazi Nazrul Islam
SET DESIGN: Shamsuddin, Salim Malik and Motiur Taj
MAKE UP: Helen Islam and Eva Ahmed
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Amina Ali
MONCHOSHOILEE PRESENTS
MESH O RAKKHOSH

Sunday 3 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Bangla | 90 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
This musical drama tells a story about corruption and impurity in society, and the ruthless ambitions of those in power. It pits this against the importance of love, peace, and humanity that have been ruined by Rakkhosh, the demons, and the evils of our society. Hermits, sheep and sorcery feature in this captivating fairytale told with colour, dance, music and a huge, intergenerational cast to convey a moral message about greed and dishonesty which resonates today.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Monchoshoilee is a British Bangladeshi theatre group, working across the fields of creative art, drama, dance, movement, music, literature and education whose programmes promote harmonious cross community relationships.

CREDITS
WRITER: Monoj Mitra
DIRECTOR: Ziaur Rahman Saqlain
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Rajib Das Raju
LIGHT DESIGN: Humayuen Kabir Mahin
PROPS: Elahi Shahi
COSTUME: Jahanara Akter Shimla
STAGE: Fatema Siddika
CHOREOGRAPHY: Soniya/Saqlain
MUSIC: Shorolipi
CAST: Mahin, Raju, Saqlain, Shadhin Khasru, Rumen, Salahuddin Babu, Rabbi, Soniya, Ayesha, Najim, Tanjeer, Shahin, Murtoja, Arif, Shorolipi, Joyeeta, Ahona, Arav, Zara, Jamima, Mahathir, Sami and Ruhul
SOHAYA VISIONS PRESENTS
TERROR

Thursday 7 and Friday 8 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
PINTER STUDIO, QMUL
English | 90 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
What would you do if militants stormed a café while you were enjoying time out with friends and family? Young Faraaz Hossain faced this terrifying scenario at the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 1 July in 2016. Out of nowhere, five young men ran riot, brandishing bombs, knives and assault rifles, and held everyone inside the café to ransom. The patrons suddenly became hostages, divided by religion, preached to and terrorised. Based on real-life stories from customers and staff alike, Terror recalls an incident that shocked the nation and beyond and includes dialogue between the survivors and the departed. Throwing you into the carnage, this imaginative new drama asks: would you stand up against the militants?

Suitable for ages 10+

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Sohaya Visions celebrates internationalism and cutting-edge cultural diversity through the arts. They are particularly interested in promoting South-Asian and British-Asian stories that tackle injustice and discrimination.

CREDITS
WRITER: Raminder Kaur
DIRECTOR: Mukul Ahmed
DESIGNER: Erica Greenshields
STAGE MANAGER: Thom Neta
CAST: Rez Kabir, Dave Kukadia, Subhaluxmi Mukherji, Diljohn Sidhu and Shivani Sethia
AMRA THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

Friday 8 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
English/Bangla | 60 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
What does a 40-year old father, a fiercely independent 20-something girl trying to escape the patriarchy, a hapless schemer searching the gold-paved streets and a pampered prince tasting adulthood have in common? They are all foreign students at London Emerald College.

In 2010, London is reeling from the global recession and the political climate is changing. Whitechapel, first home to London’s ever-changing immigrant population, has transformed into an educational hub with the rise of colleges serving predominantly international students. Mr. Jamal runs Copy & Coffee, an all-in-one haven for these students, offering empathy along with printing and pastries.

Based on intensive research on socio-political impacts of vilifying immigrants, the play touches the heart of the current crisis faced by society in the deep-seated divides that devalue the migrant experience. Hostile Environment was first devised through the Golper Shuru project.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
"Amra” means “we” in Bengali. Amra Theatre is a collaborative cultural group, promoting contemporary arts and literary activities. We pay tribute to the experiences and struggles that often find no platform or voice. We are actors and we are activists, using the stage to voice everyday issues which are otherwise ignored.

CREDITS
WRITER AND DIRECTOR:
Syeda Tasmia Tahia
MENTOR: Rokshana Khan

Suitable for those aged 7+
EASTERN THESPIANS PRESENTS
A WAKE

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm +
Sunday matinee 3pm
PINTER STUDIO, QMUL
English | 90 minutes
£12/£10 concessions

SYNOPSIS
Set in a remote house near Lolegaon, a quiet hamlet in the hilly north eastern region of West Bengal, India, on one stormy night when a few old friends have gathered for the wake of their deceased friend, Roger Vaz. Although initially the characters interact in a manner fairly congruous with the sombre situation of an old friend’s demise, as the play develops the interactions gradually become awkward and hint at a dark past which forebodes a still darker aftermath. As the night progresses, the old friends are forced to play a bizarre game through which the play hurtles to its inevitable and brutal climax as a long buried truth of intrigue and deceit surfaces.

Suitable for those aged 12+

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Established in 2012, Eastern Thespians is a contemporary theatre group based in London. Drawing on the rich resources of both eastern and western life, thought, philosophy and art forms, both traditional and contemporary, they are committed to presenting live theatre that is vital, thought-provoking and engaging. Their aim is to produce theatre in all its genres which appeals to London’s multilingual and multicultural community.

CREDITS
WRITER AND DIRECTOR: Debasish Banerjee
TECHNICAL & AV: Arjun Sen
MUSIC: Deyashini Mukherjee
SOUND: Shubhojit Karmakar and Sarit Bose
STAGE MANAGEMENT: Shiblu Chowdhury and Raja Dutta
PRODUCTION AND PUBLICITY: Subhash Ghosh and Urmiky Singh Roy
PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO: Shobhon Ahmed and Adrika
CAST: Moumita Moitra, Chandrayee Sengupta, Ayan Bhattacharya, Koushik Chatterjee and Debasish Banerjee
CHARON PRESENTS
KOKILARA

Saturday 9 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Bangla | 60 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
‘Kokilara’ tells the harrowing stories of three different women in a patriarchal society, who are all vulnerable to mistreatment and suppression by dint of their gender alone. The first ‘Kokila’ was a village girl who came to the big city as a maidservant, was abused by her so-called lover, and eventually committed suicide. The second story recounts the tale of a middle-class housewife and mother who trusted her husband, was betrayed, became homeless, got paralysed and unfortunately died. The third ‘Kokila’ was a solicitor seeking justice through the punishment of the abusers of these two victims, but thwarted by the unequal judicial system and subsequently driven to depression and mental breakdown herself. The unhappy outcome of the play is that class and education have little bearing on women’s attainment of justice or equality.

CREDITS
WRITER: Adbullah Al Mamun
DIRECTOR: Rubaiat Sharmin Jhara
PRODUCTION: Sadeq Ahmad Chowdhury, Arfuman Choudhury, Fahmid J Sayem, Aanon Siddiqua, Snehashon Chowdhury, Mesbah Shaheed, Ayham, Shaheed Raad, Mr. Kutub, Masud Rana and Rubaiat Sharmin Jhara
CAST: Rubaiat Sharmin Jhara, Sunita Chowdhury, Mehbuba Sultana Lithi, Sadeq Ahmad Chowdhury, Arfuman Choudhury, Fahmid J Sayem and Ehan Roudro

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Charon is a London based community organisation engaged in promoting Bengali language, literature and culture in the UK. One of its aims is to help Bengali diaspora integrate with and contribute to the British multicultural society while celebrating their distinct cultural identity and rich heritage.
MESSAGE CULTURAL GROUP PRESENTS
#OURWORLD

Sunday 10 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
English/ Bangla | 60 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
The planet is full of mystery and human nature is the most peculiar. This play explores the big questions of kindness versus cruelty in terms of both collective and individual behaviours, using the vehicle of one family’s story, following the loss of their mother and the impact on their lives. Though the effects of violence and conflict in the modern world cannot be ignored, and the normalisation of bombing attacks and conflict can lead to desensitisation, this production also looks at the microcosmic level. Small acts of kindness are equally telling. A child realises through an encounter with a homeless man, how cruel and unjust the world is, but her innocence and generosity are a testament to the better side of human nature.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Message Cultural Group started in 1999 and has grown ever since with talented members who are keen to spread its messages throughout the community using the medium of culture. They are based in Tower Hamlets and uphold British-Bengali values, in order to raise awareness of a variety of issues.

CREDITS
WRITER AND DIRECTOR: Muhib Chowdhury
PRODUCER: Gulzar Ahmed
SET AND COSTUME: Shahidul Islam
MUSIC: Nowshad Mahfuz, Zahidul Islam and Mazharul A Chowdhury
MARKETING: Monwar Ahmed and Jahangir Alam
LIGHT: Sojlul Haque
PROJECTOR AND SOUND: Didat Ahmed Arafat
MAKE UP: Abdul Hannan
BENGAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION PRESENTS
PRERONA – INSPIRATION

Friday 15 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Bangla/English | 75 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
Bhanu Sinha is the reincarnated literary giant Rabindranath Tagore, who has a present day encounter in London with the supportive and inspirational women in his life. Sinha is a successful writer and has visitations one winter afternoon while relaxing in his study. Hecate was his early inspiration and reminisces on their days together and her interest in literature, the attention she enjoyed, and the neglect from Tagore. Bijoya was born to a wealthy, high society family in Buenos Aires and they talk about how they inspired each other in their writings. Chuti reminds Sinha of his regard for educated, progressive women but his neglect for her. This play uses a little bit of magic and realism to impart the messages and memories from these daydreams and highlight the influence of these women on Tagore.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Bengal Heritage Foundation (BHF) was established in order to preserve and promote Bengali heritage in the UK through cultural, educational, sporting and tourism avenues. BHF promotes social cohesion through events that champion artistic and cultural experiences gaining advantage from shared history and values.

CREDITS
WRITERS: Koushik Chatterjee and Ranjan Bandopadhyay
DIRECTOR: Koushik Chatterjee
PRODUCTION: Vishnu Sarawati, Sarit Bose, Ripon Dey, Sudipto Mondal, Sambrita Das and Arijit Sarkar
CAST: Koushik Chatterjee, Tanusree Guha, Nirmal Nag, Gargi Ganguly Sarkar, Debarati Goswami, Mousumi Mukherjee, Ranjana Roychoudhury Banerjee, Sharmi Ganguly, Anamika Sarkar, Suranjan Som, Amit Guha,avi Sengupta and Amith Dey
ESSEX INDIANS PRESENTS
HEAL THE WORLD

Saturday 16 November
Doors 4.30pm | Show 5pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Bangla/English | 90 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
Tista and Vaibhavi are two teenagers who explore the extent of pollution of rivers during a family summer holiday in India. They face a number of challenges in their campaign for cleaner water through the mindsets of those they encounter, and finally manage to convince people to change some of their lifestyle habits for the improvement of the environment and the health of the planet. This youth production highlights the ecological issues which are at crisis point today and the actions of young people in an ideological climate of passion versus indifference and denial.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Essex Indians is a community based organisation which focuses on children-centred drama and involves families as part of inter-generational productions. It continues to connect British Asian children with their culture and with their heritage.

CREDITS
WRITER AND DIRECTOR: Dr Arpita Ray
PRODUCTION: Arpita, Dipankar, Arya, Chitra and Malini
CAST: Arya, Teerna, Tista, Shreoshi, Gargi, Chaynsh, Vaibhavi, Shrey, Malini, Chitra, Dipankar, Zia, Anirban, Sayantini, Molly, Amith, Chinu, Gita, Priya, Chandrima, Antara, Arpita and Krishtika
IMD + BOLLY FLEX PRESENTS
EAST SIDE STORY

Saturday 16 November
Doors 6.30pm | Show 7.30pm
GREAT HALL, QMUL
English | 100 minutes
£22/£20 concessions

SYNOPSIS
East meets west in this high octane dance-off with two titans from the dance world, IMD and Bolly Flex. This show fuses hip hop and Bollywood in four acts, The Greatest Bollywood Showman, The Real Avengers of the UK, The History of Hip Hop and Romeo and Juliet Remixed! Check out glittering examples of cinema's great dance moves with breath-taking agility and dynamism. These tributes and stories use acrobatics and physical theatre and provide the perfect homecoming for both IMD's Omar Ansah-Awuah and Bolly Flex's Naz Choudhury to return to their east London roots. Special guest appearances will help ignite this energetic dance spectacular as a reminder that commonalities and differences between cultures can be celebrated in the most exhilarating ways!

ABOUT THE COMPANIES
IMD Legion Is an Urban Dance crew from London. They boast over 60 members from all across the UK and are known for being a team who consistently take risks and perform at high professional level. High profile appearances include Britain's Got Talent and World Hip Hop Championships.

Bolly Flex is Europe's leading Bollywood dance production company bringing together some of the finest talent, events and entertainment. High profile appearances include Strictly Come Dancing, Nobel Peace Prize Performance and Bollywood Showstoppers.

Both companies have been finalists with standing ovations and rave reviews on Sky One’s Got To Dance.

https://www.imdofficial.com/
https://bollyflex.uk/

CREDITS
CHOREOGRAPHERS:
Omar Ansah-Awuah and Naz Choudhury
BANGLADESH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, ENGLAND WOMEN’S BRANCH PRESENTS
LONDONI KANAI (KANAI IN LONDON)

Sunday 17 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
Bangla | 120 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
The story of Londoni Kanai is based on a love story between Kanai Shah and Saifa Rani who both are renowned folk singers of Bangladesh. Unscrupulous Alta Miah is an established businessman, community leader and music promoter who invites them both to headline in his next concert. However, under the auspices of being a cultural champion lurk darker motives involving sexual abuse and human trafficking.

Saifa, the unfortunate target of his attentions, fights and seeks justice, finding an unlikely ally in Miah’s wife, a human rights worker and eventually he gets his just deserts.

This play celebrates artistic prowess, cross-cultural engagement and genuine love while touching on the dark underbelly of the Me Too movement with corruption and sexual abuse in the entertainment industry.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Bangladesh Human Rights Commission has been working on human rights issues in Bangladesh and around the world since 1987.

The main objectives of BHRC are to identify the issues on human rights in different sectors of a country and to represent the victims of discriminations. BHRC, England Women’s Branch was formed four years ago.

CREDITS
WRITER AND DIRECTOR: Mozibul Hoque Moni
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Ruby Hoque
PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR: Kazi Rose
PUBLIC RELATIONS: Roche Anche
STAGE SETTINGS: Babu Chowdhury
LIGHT SETTING: Mitu Azad
CAST: Arif Islam, Sajia Chowdhury, Hafiz Alam Bokth, Golam Kabir, Ahad Chowdhury, Shamsuddin, Helen Islam and Roche Anche
JUMBLE ABODE THEATRE PRESENTS
LIKE A RAMBLING STONE

Thursday 21 and Friday 22 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
SPACE THEATRE
English | 60 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
Like a Rambling Stone follows the journey of a daughter finding a way to tell her Baba’s stories, from his time in East Pakistan’s first ever rock n roll band, to his epic journey from Dhaka to Denmark by road…but what happens when the storyteller is gone? This biographical show features puppetry, film, spoken word, Q&A with the audience and a playlist Baba would be dancing his socks off to! An exploration into grief and how we might begin to heal through the stories we tell.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Jumble Abode Theatre ventures across art forms weaving together imaginative stories unlike any other. Specialising in playful puppetry and audience interaction- no two stories are ever the same!

CREDITS
WRITER: Jum Faruq
DIRECTORS: Jum Faruq and Shabz Razvand
PUPPETRY DEVISORS: Almudena Adalia Calvo, Amber Rose Perry and Zahrah Sheikh
PUPPET MAKER: Amber Donovan
DRAMATURY: Omari Swanston-Jeffers
PHOTOGRAPHY: Saima Khalid
CAST: Jum Faruq

Suitable for those aged 12+
SOAS INDIAN DANCE SOCIETY PRESENTS
ADAJHYO - THE UNBURNABLE

Saturday
23 November
Doors 7pm | 
Show 7.30pm
Matinee 2.00pm
SPACE THEATRE
English/Bangla | 
75 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
The play is an adaptation of Parnab Mukherjee’s “These Trafficked Texts.” It is constructed as a montage of oral narratives, first person accounts and testimonies of trafficked women, interviews, monologues, poetry, songs and dance. The Unburnable negotiates issues of human rights and of everyday gender objectification and discrimination. A hard-hitting and soulful audio-visual experience which rethinks issues of human rights, gender-based violence and everyday objectification.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
School of Oriental And African Studies – Indian Dance Society (SOAS IDS) is a student-led dance community that was established in 2013. IDS welcomes, introduces and acquaints those who are keen on the classical, folk and martial dance forms of India. The IDS continues to create performances with non-dancers, present students and alumni under careful mentoring of professional performers in order to understand various styles and aesthetics that inform the field of Indian dance.

CREDITS
WRITER: Parnab Mukherjee
DIRECTORS: Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty
PRODUCTION: Mohanish Jaju and Suha P. Chakravorty
CAST: Apoorva Sohoni and Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty
# Calendar of Events 2019

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<td>Saree Day</td>
<td>Talk: Journalism</td>
<td>Terror</td>
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<td>BAC FREE</td>
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<td>Talk: Rafi Hossain's Musings</td>
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<td>Bengali History Walk</td>
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<td>Talk: Memory &amp; Belonging</td>
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<td>BAC FREE</td>
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<td>Talk: Bengali... Ish?</td>
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<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td>Bengali History Walk</td>
<td>Talk: Memory &amp; Belonging</td>
<td>Like a Rambling Stone</td>
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Doors open 7pm, shows start at 7:30pm sharp (unless otherwise stated)
Tickets cost £10/£8 concessions (unless otherwise stated)

More info:
- **020 7364 7900**
- festivalsandevents@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

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A Season of Bangla Drama
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<tr>
<td>EXHIBITION: TRIBENI BAC 1-24 NOV</td>
<td>TALK: ASADUZZAMAN NOOR BAC FREE 4PM DYSTOPIA BAC</td>
<td>AN ABSURD STORY PU MESH O RAKKHOSH BAC</td>
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<td>EXHIBITION: BENGALI BRITAIN KNC 1-24 NOV</td>
<td>A WAKE QMUL £12/£10 KOKILARA BAC</td>
<td>A WAKE QMUL £12/£10 + MATINEE 3PM #OURWORLD BAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEMESIS 2 BAC</td>
<td>TALK: INTERGALACTIC SUPER-HEROISM QMUL FREE 4PM TERROR QMUL HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT BAC</td>
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<td>TALK: PRERONA BAC</td>
<td>HEAL THE WORLD BAC 5PM TALK: GENOCIDE IN TEA ESTATES KNC FREE AN EAST SIDE STORY QMUL £22/£20 KNC</td>
<td>WORKSHOP: PERFORMING BANGLADESH THEATRE BAC FREE 12.30PM MUSIC: TRIBENI FREE 5PM LONDONI KANAI BAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIKE A RAMBLING STONE ST SCRATCH NIGHT BAC FREE HOPE N MIC KNC £5</td>
<td>ADAJHYO ST + MATINEE 2PM RAAGA IS A HUMAN RIGHT KNC £5 MOHUAR PALA RM GUHAR JAAN BAC</td>
<td>MASTERCLASS THEATRE-MAKING BAC FREE 11AM MOHUAR PALA RM + MATINEE 3PM GUHAR JAAN BAC + MATINEE 2.30PM</td>
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To book tickets please go to http://aseasonofbangladrama2019.eventbrite.com
Booking fees apply
1-24 NOVEMBER 2019
RADHARAMAN SOCIETY PRESENTS

MOHUAR PALA: THE BALLAD OF A RIVERINE LAND

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November
Doors 7.30pm
Matinee on 24 Nov at 3pm
RICH MIX
English/Bangla | 90 minutes
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS

With English narration, powerful dialogue, dazzling dance, mesmerising melody and the rhythms of Bengali folk music, this story of a popular Bengali opera depicts a philosophical journey of self-exploration, spiritual love and victimisation in a stunning theatrical setting. The story revolves around a beautiful princess who is kidnapped as an infant and raised as a snake dancer under a snake charmer’s family. As she grows up and falls in love with the son of a local feudal lord, social norms and customs of casts and classes are put to the test. Based on pre-medieval Bengal, the play follows her search for spiritual love and mirrors the plight of women in modern times, and their commodification in patriarchal society.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

RadhaRaman Society is a prominent platform that brings Bengali folk music to the world-stage through meaningful fusion other relevant art forms around the globe. It organises the annual Baul and Vaishnav Music Festival in east London as well as the RadhaRaman Festival in Leeds, one of the largest festivals outside the Indian subcontinent. RadhaRaman Society is a community art organisation that promotes Bengali folk music and dance to the young global diaspora.

CREDITS

WRITER AND DIRECTOR:
T M Ahmed Kaysher

CAST: Amith Dey, Sonia Sultana, Sohel Ahmed, Jessy Barua, Amal Podder, Rahel Chowdhury, Jasmin Chowdhury, Urmee Mazhar, Sheheen Mituli, Shamim Shahan, Saeed Fahim, Abu Bakar, Ganga, Anu, Mouli, Amar Baidya and Sujith Chowdhury
MUKUL & GHETTO TIGERS PRESENTS
GUHAR JAAN / THE DATIA INCIDENT

Saturday 23 and
Sunday
24 November
Doors 7pm | 
Show 7.30pm 
Matinee on 
24 Nov 2pm
BRADY ARTS 
CENTRE
English/ Bangla | 
60 minutes 
£10/£8 concessions

SYNOPSIS
Maharaja Bhawani Singh of Datia is holding a coronation ceremony for his son. He has invited the finest musicians from all over India to perform and among the line-up is Gauhar Jaan, the gifted and eccentric young courtesan from Kolkata, known for her musical prowess and arrogance. Insulted by the excessive demands of the young courtesan as a condition of her attendance, the Maharaja decides to delay Gauhar’s performance until every artist and guest has left and the coronation is over. Gauhar is insulted by the tactic and refuses the invitation to perform. Meanwhile, Fred Gaisberg travels across India on a mission to capture the exotic sounds of the East using a groundbreaking technology - the gramophone. Their next destination is Kolkata, to record the beautiful voice of Gauhar Jaan. As the story progresses, both king and courtesan discover a common thread running through their otherwise radically different lives. Aimed at those aged 12+.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Mukul and Ghetto Tigers is an east London-based theatre company that features new writing as well as taking a fresh look at the classics, both western and sub continental. Their aim is to mentor and nurture fresh talents through re-imagination, innovation and collaboration between artists and art forms in a diverse cultural context.

CREDITS
WRITER: Tarun Jasani 
DIRECTOR: Mukul Ahmed
PRODUCTION: Sophie Jump and Cecilia Calf, Paul Micah, Tarun Jasani, Subhaluxmi Mukherjee and Rez Kabir
CAST: Shivani Sethia, Rez Kabir, Dave Patel, Dave Kukadia and Arunima Kumar
EXHIBITION: TRIBENI – RHYTHM OF WATER BY MUKTO ARTS CIC

Friday 1 – Sunday 24 November
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
FREE

‘Tribeni: The Rhythm of Water’ is an exhibition of 40 paintings by a talented young Bangladeshi born artist name Mukta Chakravarty based in the UK.

The word Tribeni comes from an ancient South Asian language Sanskrit, and means junction of three rivers.

Three is the magic number with this project. Artist Mukta Chakravarty’s series of 40 paintings were painted by three different paint mediums; watercolour; acrylic and oil painted on three different surfaces ranging from hand-made paper, to wood, to canvas. Tribeni is used to refer to the confluence between rivers as a metaphor for human interaction through fine art.

Water is an elemental force which knows no boundaries and traverses the natural world in rivers, seas and oceans as well as through cloud and weather formations. It can be soft and tranquil or raging and brutal. It is vital for commerce, irrigation, and life itself.

Fine art has endless possibilities for visual interpretations of ideas across many media and subject matters and can forge multiple points of connection.

ABOUT THE COMPANY
Mukto Arts CIC is a community interest company that develops and supports creative arts, artists and art organisation from under-represented groups in the London and other cities in the UK.

https://twitter.com/MouniMukta
https://www.facebook.com/mounimukta/
EXHIBITION: BENGALI BRITAIN BY MIGRANT MEMORIES & POST-COLONIAL IMAGINATION, LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY

Friday 1 – Sunday 24 November
Exhibition launch
Friday 1 November at 4pm
KOBI NAZRUL CENTRE
FREE

What does it mean to be British Bengali? How do memories of life in Bangladesh and of migration to Britain influence our present? Showcasing a series of photographs that trace the history of “Bengali Britain”, from the days of the Empire until present day life in Britain, this exhibition, designed collaboratively by the MMPI team and BritBangla members, will address these questions.

These photographs/images have been selected by second and third generation British Bengalis who have been involved in the project. They capture their family histories and the memories of migration which have been passed on from generation to generation, offering a portrait of the cultural history of the Bengali presence in Britain.

Join us for the exhibition launch on Friday 1 November when there will be a short film screening, panel discussion and light refreshments.

Migrant Memory and the Postcolonial Imagination is a research project which explores the legacies of the 1947 Partition of British India for South Asian communities in the UK and their memories and post-memories of migration.
TALK: ASADUZZAMAN NOOR IN CONVERSATION WITH LEESA GAZI

Saturday 2 November
Doors 3.30pm, Starts 4pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
FREE

Asaduzzaman Noor is a Bangladeshi actor, politician and activist. He has been a member of parliament since 2001 and was Minister of Cultural Affairs (2014-2019).

Leesa Gazi is a writer, theatre practitioner, filmmaker and Joint Artistic Director of Komola Collective.

The conversation will focus on his journey through the performing arts in the Post-Independence Bangladesh. It aims to portray the struggle his generation faced within the performing arts arena. The conversation is an audience led discussion.

MOHILA ONGON PRESENTS
SAREE DAY

Tuesday 5 November
11am – 5pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
FREE | Women only event

This is a female only event to celebrate womanhood through both sarees and the Bangladeshi delicacy, pittha. There will be a variety of entertainment, stalls and activities including a saree workshop and a fashion show as well as a drama performed in Sylheti, traditional Bengali music, dance, and spoken Bengali poetry. Delicious food will also be available.

Mohila Ongon is a grass roots organisation which represents ethnic minority women, predominantly of Bangladeshi background. It was established in 2010 in order to organise and promote women and women’s causes. Mohila Ongon organises a wide range of activities, events and educational workshops/sessions.

A SEASON OF BANGLA DRAMA
LONDON BANGLA PRESS CLUB PRESENTS

TALK: JOURNALISM - ETHICS AND STANDARDS

Tuesday 5 November
Doors 7pm | Start 7.30pm
PINTER STUDIO, QMUL
90 minutes | FREE

Join us for a panel discussion on ‘Journalism: Ethics & Standards’. This is a timely topic for the world of media. There are always principles of good practice as espoused by professional journalism associations, individual news organisations, and journalists themselves who often have their own “code of ethics”. Most share the basic principles of

truthfulness, accuracy, objectivity, impartiality, fairness, and public accountability.

TALK: RAIFI HOSSAIN’S MUSINGS

Wednesday 6 November
Doors 7pm | Start 7.30pm
PINTER STUDIO, QMUL
60 minutes | FREE

Full time journalist and editor for The Daily Star’s Anandadhara and Star Showbiz Rafi Hossain joins us to share his journey as a theatre activist in Bangladesh. He has worked with the late Safdar Hashmi’s group Jana Natya Manch, and was an active member of Dhaka theatre exploring different avenues including acting, assisting with plays and designing costumes. This experience has informed his current role as a theatre critic, and in this talk, he focuses on the changes in Bangladeshi theatre and its evolution from its roots to current digitalization.
SOHAYA VISIONS PRESENTS
TALK: INTERGALACTIC SUPER-HEROISM ACROSS THE GLOBE

Friday 8 November
Doors 4pm | Start 4.30pm
PINTER STUDIO, QMUL
90 minutes | FREE

Superheroes bring to mind caped crusaders such as Superman, Batman, Captain America or the more gender attuned Wonder Woman, among other avatars. Those looking eastwards might highlight Japanese characters from Manga. What about other cultural repertoires of intergalactic superhero/ines? How do other young people engage with illustrations, storytelling and imaginaries of superheroism?

At this event, we consider these questions with a film on South Asian superhero comics, and young people’s social and imaginative worlds to do with special powers, phenomenal technologies, justice, vengeance, geopolitics, and gender. We will be joined by an interdisciplinary panel with experts on superheroism followed by a Q&A with the audience.

The event is followed by a linked drama, Terror, by Sohaya Visions on Faraz Hossain’s heroic stand against violent militants in a Bangladeshi café in July 2016.

SURTAAL PRESENTS
MUSIC: MON KA SANGEET

Saturday 9 November
Doors 7pm | Start 7.30pm
KOBI NAZRUL CENTRE
£10/£8 concessions

Mon Ka Sangeet (Music From The Heart) will be a night featuring Indian music which consists of two key classical instruments, the sitar and tabla. The inimitable sounds of this beautiful percussion and strings harmony are performed by Yousuf Ali Khan on the tabla and Mehboob Nadeem on the sitar. They will be performing Indian raaga.

A SEASON OF BANGLA DRAMA
SWADHINATA TRUST PRESENTS
BENGALI HISTORY WALK

Thursday 14 November
11am
ALTAB ALI PARK
60 minutes | £5

The Banglatown walk and talk is aimed at anybody interested in Bengali migration and settlement in the East End of London. It is an opportunity to learn about the Bengali community’s history and heritage, and the lives of people with diverse backgrounds and experiences, values and customs. The experiences of Bengalis in the East End explore both the value of multiculturalism and the tensions it creates. The walk/talk will look at the legacy of the British Empire as migration from the colonies continued throughout the twentieth century.

Meeting point: Shahid Minar (Martyrs Monument), Altab Ali Park, Adler Street/Whitechapel High Street

MMPI, LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY PRESENTS
TALK: MEMORY & BELONGING IN THE DIASPORA

Thursday 14 November
Doors 1.30pm | Start 2pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
120 minutes | FREE

Come along to this panel discussion debating different ways to explore memories, belonging and identity in the South Asian diaspora in Britain. This will cover media analysis, online ethnography, and creative and performance based methods.

Doctoral researchers of the Migrant Memory and the Postcolonial Imagination Project (MMPI), explores the legacies of the 1947 partition of British India for South Asian communities in the UK and their memories and post-memories of migration. The research concentrates on the two sites of Loughborough and London and is in partnership with, respectively, Charnwood Arts and Tower Hamlets Council. This session will provide an overview of the research progress of the different sites of doctoral research.
BRIT BANGLA PRESENTS

TALK: BENGALI...ISH? WHAT'S YOUR STORY?!

Thursday 14 November
Doors 7pm | Starts 7.30pm
KOBI NAZRUL CENTRE
FREE

Emerging British Bengali comedic talent Tahseen Khan will open the event with a warm-up sketch to provide a few laughs on all things Bengali!

A panel discussion, hosted by Taryn Khanam, BritBangla, will explore what Bengali identity and culture means to a group of individuals with a Bengali heritage. Panel members will share their passions on expressing their identity and their fusion of British and Bengali dual-culture. This promises to be a lively and informative talk with Q&As covering views and cultural traditions, fashion, food, arts and music.

CHANDOSIK PRESENTS

TALK: RECITALS AND TALK - GENOCIDE IN TEA ESTATES IN 1971

Saturday 16 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
KOBI NAZRUL CENTRE
FREE

After the tea estates were established in 1854, it was necessary to recruit a large number of labourers to meet demand. Those from distant areas, particularly of South India descent had a reputation as hard workers and were more sought after.

This talk highlights the tea labourers’ little known contribution to the war of liberation in 1971. Writer, researcher and journalist Apurba Sharma has documented the sacrifices of the tea estate labourers within the context of this struggle for Bangladesh’s independence. Through research he has collected extensive material from the families of those involved to help document this important tract of history.

Learn more about these untold stories from 1971 through recitation and discussion from Apurba Sharma and Chandosik.
WORKSHOP: PERFORMING BANGLADESH THEATRE BY SUDIP CHAKROBORTHY

Sunday 17 November
Doors 12.30pm | Starts 1pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
FREE

Doctoral researcher at Goldsmiths University Sudip Chakroborthy will conduct this workshop which explores identity and society as it is seen by different generations of the British Bangladeshi community. How do your understandings of where we came from and where we are now, who we are and who others say we are, inform dialogue and mutual understanding?

This is for anyone interested in exploring understandings of Bangladeshi identity in the UK, and sharing their stories.
@theatredip

MUKTO ARTS CIC PRESENTS
MUSIC: TRIBENI - THE RHYTHM OF WATER, LIVE BLEND OF MUSIC & ART

Sunday 17 November
Doors 4.30pm | Starts 5pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
FREE

This will be a melodic afternoon in which to get immersed in the rhythmic connection between eastern and western folk music and to showcase the ‘live blend of Music & Art’. Accompanying the work displayed on the walls of the Brady Arts Centre’s gallery space, this connects poetry, film and music through an acoustic performance which fuses east and west. Join Ashim Chakraborty, Shagufta Sharmeen Tania, Mukta Chakravarty, Trisha Bhattacharjee and Gary Coughlan for a delightful sojourn in to the realms of interdisciplinary harmony.

https://muktache.wordpress.com/
https://twitter.com/MouniMukta
https://www.facebook.com/mounimukta

1-24 NOVEMBER 2019
TALK: A PERSONAL TESTIMONY IN CONFRONTATION: FROM NATIONALIST NARRATIVES TO HETEROGENEOUS PERFORMATIVES

Wednesday 20 November
Doors 7pm | Start 7.30pm
KOBI NAZRUL CENTRE
FREE

After Jerzy Grotowski’s assertion that the core of theatre is an extreme confrontation, this talk posits that confrontation between two ‘ensembles’ formed by the speaker and the audience. Hopefully, this will be a unique opportunity for the speaker to be sincere, disciplined, precise and total, as he attempts to unpeel his journey as a professional theatre-maker. A freedom fighter in 1971, Professor Syed Jamil Ahmed began his journey as a staunch cultural-nationalist who defined his theatre-making as means of ‘narrating the nation.’ Today he realizes that nationalism is a rigid ideological construct that mobilizes the politics of identity by erasing difference, and generating sameness and singularity. In the case of Bangladesh, the politics of identity today draws irrevocably from intolerant Islamic codes. Consequently, his theatre-making now seeks new moorings, in productions which dismantle the strictures of nationalism and celebrate heterogeneity, multiplicity and plurality.

Professor Syed Jamil Ahmed, PhD, is the founding chair of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka, and the author of six books and numerous academic articles on theatre, applied theatre and cultural studies.

HOPE N MIC PRESENTS
HOPE N MIC

Friday 22 November
Doors 7pm | Show 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
£5

Join Hope n Mic for their last event in 2019. This will be an evening of live acts from singers, poets, wordsmiths and musicians. Hope n Mic is the best open mic scene in East London, providing a platform for spoken word artists, both established and those who are new to the scene and giving the public an entertaining night out for only a £5 donation that goes to the charity of the month.
SCRATCH NIGHT: FROM PAGE TO STAGE

Friday 22 November
Doors 7pm | Start 7.30pm
BRADY ARTS CENTRE
English | 90 minutes | FREE

This is the second year that that A Season of Bangla Drama has offered an opportunity for new writers to showcase some of their ideas. Under the mentorship of Rokshana Khan, this event is a mix of scenes that are a work in progress. The young, new writers will be sharing their work for the first time. We will also have a Q&A with a panel of experienced writers, helping to critique the work that is presented in the evenings performance.

Rokshana Khan is an experienced writer, actor and director. For over 20 years, she has been an active theatre practitioner and a skilled mentor, enabling new theatrical voices to come to the fore.

SUR BANDHAN PRESENTS
RAAGA IS A HUMAN RIGHT: IN MEMORY OF USTAAD BARKAT ALI KHAN

Saturday 23 November
Doors 7pm | Start 7.30pm
KOBI NAZRUL CENTRE
£7/£5 | 120 minutes

Ustad Fida Hussain will pay tribute to his teacher Ustad Barkat Ali Khan (1908 – 19 June 1963), a classical singer who belonged to the Patiala gharana of music. He will be joined by other UK singers in this celebration of his life and music including Hanif Khan, Soaful Uddin, Shahadat Hussain Masoom, Piya Mayenin, Rowshonara Moni, Sadia Afroz, Nazmoon Nahar Tanni, Pronoy Sinha Rinku and Rashida Khan Banu. There will be a presentation in English, with songs in Bangla, Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi.
The masterclass is underpinned by the notion of abhinaya (acting) articulated in the Nāṭyaśāstra thus: “the root ni- with the preposition abhi which means towards, gives the word abinaya because it carries (ni-) the performance towards (the audience).” It will elaborate this by drawing on Stanislavski, Barba and Suzuki, and focussing on four key techniques; Scenic Presence, Action, Communion and Tempo-Rhythm. In the masterclass, the notions behind these techniques will be explored by means of theatre games and improvisations.

Syed Jamil Ahmed is a director-designer based in Bangladesh, with extensive international experience.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


A Season of Bangla Drama is organised by London Borough of Tower Hamlets Arts, Parks & Events Team in partnership with Queen Mary University of London and Migrant Memory and the Postcolonial Imagination Project (MMPI), Loughborough University.

SELECTION PANEL:
Kazi Ruksana Begum, Ali Campbell, Rokshana Khan, Karen Hubbard, Suna Miah and Dr Canan Salih

Brochure information correct at time of going to print.
For up to date information go to www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/arts

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved in making A Season of Bangla Drama possible.
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