**Sohaya Visions** and **Mukul & Ghetto Tigers** present

**SILENT SISTERS - BROTHERS UNHINGED**

*Powerful dramas on the bloody birth of nations*

15th August 1947, 0.00 Midnight: two nations were born.

Up to 15 million people crossed the newly created borders to what they hoped was safety. In the process, hundreds of thousands were abused, abducted and killed.

In this 70th year commemorating the event, **Silent Sisters** is back with an extended performance together with **Brothers Unhinged**. Including extraordinary stories from ordinary people, the plays evoke memories of partition in Punjab and Bengali whose legacies are uncannily brought together in 1980s Britain.

**Silent Sisters** was part of research and development last year in preparation for the 70th year commemorating independence and partition in 1947. As with **Brothers Unhinged**, the drama’s main story was created out of fragments of people’s memories, written and oral histories, and the force of imagination. Now in their 70s, 80s and 90s, those who had lived through partition related what they went through in interviews and workshops in London, Brighton and Crawley. Discussions extended to displacement as refugees in general, violence against women, and migration. Younger generations talked about what their parents and relatives had told them. And others related to the subject through their own experiences of displacement and violence. From these fraught threads, these linked dramas were born.

After the line of partition was drawn by Cyril Radcliffe, Jawaharlal Nehru became Prime Minister of India, and Muhammad Ali Jinnah ruled over West and East Pakistan. The latter went on to get independence as Bangladesh in 1971.

Millions of people were displaced on both sides of the subcontinent in Punjab and Bengal in 1947. Communalist stirrings led to slaughter and mayhem with Hindus and Sikhs against Muslims. In the turmoil that was unleashed, many lost their homes, families and lives, and countless women were raped and abducted. Some were even forced to kill female relatives themselves to save them from even worse torture, and to save their honour (*izzat*). Silence remains around what people uprooted by partition saw around them that was too troubling to articulate. With rare exception, Silence is also evident in the pages of history through neglect, oversight, and a wilful amnesia.

**Silent Sisters-Brothers Unhinged** is in tribute to the many people who were affected by partition and to those who continue to face violence and forced displacement that, according to the UNHCR, is estimated to be more than 65 million across the world today. The production encourages discussion on the legacy of South Asia’s partition, and refugee movements in general, prompting comparison with today’s humanitarian crises across the world.

This is the third collaboration between Sohaya Visions and Mukul & Ghetto Tigers, both of whom are committed to tell stories from South and British Asian heritage, engaging communities and getting the wider public to understand the trauma suffered by those who lived through the period and its impact on subsequent generations.

**The 100 minute long performance includes poetry, songs, music and movement, with Q&A discussion after the performance with cast and crew.**

The play is supported by Arts Council England, Tower Hamlets Council, Crawley Borough Council, University of Sussex Asia Centre, A Season of Bangla Drama and Canary Wharf Group Plc. Special thanks to Rich Mix, Brady Arts Centre, and Crawley Hawth.

**CAST & CREW**

**Komal Amin (Amrit, Basheera)**

Komal Amin trained at East 15. Her credits include theatre plays - *No Dogs, No Indians* (National Tour), *Aviatrix* (Theatre Du Menilmontant), *Sweets & Chocolates* (RADA Festival), *Strongback Tales* (Richmix), *Henry V* (Edinburgh Fringe 2015), *Merchant of Venice* (Drayton Arms) – as well as Film and TV productions - *Khoj* (BUA Films), *Holby City* (BBC), *Pardaa* (BUA Films), *Blackout* (Raw TV/Channel 4).

**Amirul Hussain (Amin, Amar, Jamal, Dilip)**

Trained at Birmingham School of Acting and through further coaching with Tracey Street and Alexander Zeldin. Amirul Hussain was recently directed by Filiz Ozcan on a mini stage tour titled *Salty Water & Us*. He had roles in several commercials (among which *By Any Means* with Menhaj Huda), short films and indie feature films, and has recently acted as a surgeon in *Armchair Detective*, a BBC production by Tiger Aspect to be aired on BBC1 late winter 2017.

**Sheetal Kapoor (Noor, Sukhwant, Sangeeta)**

Sheetal Kapoor trained at Drama Studio London. She recently played in Dubrovnik as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a Honey Tonghed Theatre Production, the last among several other Shakespeare’s plays she was involved in – *The Tempest* (Get Over it Productions), *Romeo and Juliet* (FRED Theatre). Besides other theatre productions, Sheetal has also acted in feature films - *Rukhsati* (Karakoori Productions), *Guilty Pleasures* (Smooth Demon Productions) and *A Suitable Husband* (Grand Independent) and voiced a few characters in BBC Radio's *Midnight's Children* and *The Jungle Book*.

**Saida Tani (Roza, Boatman, Singer)**

Saida Tani is an internationally accomplished singer/songwriter and theatre performer. Her theatre credits include *The Altab Ali Story*, *Umrao Jaan, Mishti Gals* and *Silent Sisters*. TV credits include *Thikana*. Saida aims to represent Bangla music internationally, as she believes music is beyond borders and has its own unique language to connect with people.

**Dave Kukadia (Beant, Iqbal, Krishna, Rehan)**

Trained at the Birmingham Theatre School, Dave Kukadia has alternated his acting between theatre play – toured with Shakespeare plays *The Tempest*, *Richard III*, *King Lear* and *Othello* – and TV roles – as PC Ali in BBC *Doctors*, followed by roles in BBC *Casualty* and *Citizen Khan*. He was further cast as Sid in *Guilty Pleasures*, based on real life child grooming cases in Rochdale. Currently working on film projects (*Patient 52*, *Ruthless* and *Franco*) to be released in 2018.

**Raminder Kaur (Writer and Artistic Director of Sohaya Visions)**

Raminder Kaur’s scripts were produced in various venues across the country. They include*Draupadi’s Robes, Bullets through the Golden Stream*, *Futures*, *Spirit of the Age*, *Pregnant Pauses, Fair's (Not) Fair!*, *Enig-Mas,* and *Mishti Gals.* Her prolific writings include books *Atomic Mumbai*, and *Performative Politics*. www.sohayavisions.com

**Mukul Ahmed (Director and Artistic Director of Mukul & Ghetto Tigers)**

Trained at Birkbeck University, Mukul has staff directed at the National Theatre, and directed a series of classics and new writing including a bi-lingual *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar* (all female cast), *Faust* by Farrukh Dhondy, *Londonee* by Gurpreet Bhatti, *Silent Sisters, Mishti Gals* and *Enig-Mas* by Raminder Kaur. www.mukulandghettotigers.com

**Stephen Freeman (Stage Manager)**

Stephen Freeman is a freelance Production and Stage Manager whose credits include *The Altab Ali Story* (Brady Arts Centre), *The Punjabi Girl* (Rich Mix). He is currently producing the immersive play *Take Me Home: Horror Within* at the Broadway Barking.

**Paul Micah (Lighting Designer)**

Paul Micah is a freelance lighting and sound designer, technician and stage manager. He has worked for productions at Rich Mix, Crawley Hawth, Paul Robeson, Broadway, Arcola, Tramshed, Watersmeet, and for Bounce Theatre Company, Mukul & Ghetto Tigers and Sohaya Visions. Paul has also lit concerts, exhibitions and dance performances.

**Isobel Power Smith (Set and Costume Designer)**

Trained at RADA in Theatre Design, Isobel Power Smith has designed for productions at the Arcola Theatre, Chickenshed, Rich Mix, Upstairs at the Gatehouse, The Space, RADA, Warwick Arts Centre Main Space, Rich Mix and Crawley Hawth Studio. She has also designed for events at The National Gallery and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

**Tarun Jasani (Sound, Music and Film)**

Tarun started musical training in Indian Classical music at the age of 8, learning Tabla in the Benaras style, followed by Sarod training in the Dhrupad-style under Krishnamurti Sridhar of the prestigious Dagar school. After a degree in Indian Music at SOAS, he studied under Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta in India. Since his return he has participated in numerous Classical festivals both in the UK, Europe and India. His solo recitals have been broadcasted on numerousradio channels as well as Zee TV, Channel 4, and his performance at the Darbar festival was broadcasted on Sky Arts. Tarun is currently working for Mukul and Ghetto Tigers and Sohaya Visions’ *Rabi’a*, an experimental work incorporating motion-capture technology live on stage.

**Giulia Grassilli (Production Manager)**

Giulia Grassilli has worked in film and music festivals, performances, public events, film productions and communication campaigns, for cultural institutions and organisations in Italy, UK and rest of the world. As Director of Human Rights Nights and founder of Human Rights Film Network, she has promoted human rights through cinema and the arts at international level. She has collaborated among others with Venice Film Festival, Cineteca di Bologna, Clam in Paris and Lagos, AfricanBamba in Senegal, Oxfam GB.

**Emilia Melossi (Marketing and Publicity)**

Engaged in studies of migration and African workers in Southern Italy, she has collaborated with Radio Ghetto in Puglia, alongside her work in film festivals – Film Africa in London, Human Rights Nights and Mercatino Verde del Mondo in Bologna – and her research training at University of Sussex. She has collaborated as film programming assistant at AfricanBamba festival in Senegal.

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