

Sohaya Visions and Mukul & Ghetto Tigers present

SILENT SISTERS

Silent Sisters is part of research and development in preparation for the 70th year commemorating India and Pakistan's independence and partition in 1947. Its 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. Younger generations talked about what their parents and relatives had told them. And others related to the subject through their own experiences of migration, displacement and violence. From these fraught threads, this drama was 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. More than 10 million people were displaced on both sides of the subcontinent. 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. Silence is also evident in the pages of history through neglect, oversight, and a wilful amnesia.

Silent Sisters 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.

CAST AND CREW

Avita Jay (Amrit)

Avita's theatre credits include Spare (New Diorama Theatre), Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World (Southwark Playhouse, BAC), The Merry Wives of Windsor (national tour), Unsung (Wilton's Music Hall), Warde Street (Park Theatre), Pioneer (national tour), Peer Gynt (Crossrail Place), Rapunzel (Park Theatre), We're Stuck (Shoreditch Town Hall) and Punjabi Boy (Hounslow Arts Centre). TV and film credits include Emmerdale (ITV), L8R (BBC2), The Rezort (Matador Pictures), London, Paris, New York (Fox Star Studios) and Twenty8K (Formosa Films). Avita also narrates audiobooks.

Javed Khan (Akbar, Beant, Iqbal)

Javed's recent theatre credits include Broken Dolls (New York) and Punjabi Girl (Rich Mix). His TV credits include Adha Cup (Channel 4), Hotel Babylon3, Holby Blue and film credits: Welcome to London, Pack of Pain (Award Winner at Phoenix Comicon 'Best Action Film'), Musafir (Nominated 'Best UK Short' at Raindance), Romeo Vs Juliet, Rustom and Tehzeeb (Award Winner at RTS for 'Best Drama'). Javed can be seen in BBC1's new docu-drama Lawful Killing, and he will be filming this year in the title-lead of a feature film.

Sandeep Garcha (Noor, Sukhwant)

Sandeep's theatre credits include Punjabi Girl, Gauhar Jaan, Casualties of War, Behna and Ek Chader Maili Si. Film credits include Born to be King, Honour Killing and Azhar. TV credits include Cloud 9 (Zing), Horizon and Spooks (BBC). She has also appeared in commercials for the State Bank of India, Pataks and Pride Oil Theatre.

Diljohn (Amin, Charan, Amar)

Diljohn's theatre credits include All's Well That Ends Well, Total Eclipse, Phaedra, In Extremis, Bedlam and Motortown, Water under the Bridge, Punjabi Girl, and Punjabi Boy. TV and film credits include Sanjay & Karishma, Agatha Raisin, The Hanged Man, The Last Goodbye, Home Office and Raagni.

Saida Tani (Roza, singer)

Saida Tani is an internationally accomplished singer/songwriter and stage performer. Her theatre credits include The Altab Ali Story and Umrao Jaan, and TV credits include Thikana.

Paul Micah (Lighting Designer)

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

Isobel Power Smith (Set and Costume Designer)

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

Charlotte Wilson (Production Manager)

Trained in Theatre Arts (Contemporary Design and Technical Theatre) at Middlesex University, Charlotte has helped to produce several productions in venues such as Charing Cross Theatre and Trafalgar Studios. Recently she production managed Punjabi Boy at Hounslow Theatre, and stage managed Stig of the Dump at the Arts Theatre in the West End.

Suman Bhuchar (Marketing and Publicity)

Suman works in the arts specializing in arts production, press and marketing and making documentaries. She is a regular contributor to www.theatrevoice.com, an audio forum for discussing theatre. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and networks on a creative level on behalf of artists. @SumanBhuchar

Smita Yadav (Workshop and Production Facilitator)

Smita is a Research Associate and Tutor in the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex.

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

Trained at Birkbeck, Mukul has staff directed at the National Theatre, and directed a series of classics and new writing including a bi-lingual Romeo and Juliet, Faust by Farrukh Dhondy, Londonee by Gurpreet Bhatti, Enig-Mas by Raminder Kaur, and Punjabi Boy and Punjabi Girl by Amman Paul Brar.

Raminder Kaur (Writer and Artistic Director of Sohaya Visions)

Raminder's scripts, produced in various venues across the country, include Draupadi's Robes, Bullets through the Golden Stream, Futures, Spirit of the Age, Pregnant Pauses, Fair's (Not) Fair!, and Enig-Mas. Her books include Atomic Mumbai, and Performative Politics.

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