

KALI THEATRE, ARTS ALIVE & BLACK COUNTRY TOURING

# My Big Fat Cowpat Wedding

By Sayan Kent

## CAST

**Arjun** ..... **Shri Patel**  
& BIG FRANK, MADHU, UNCLE ASHIN & TYRONE

**Clare** ..... **Genevieve Helson**  
& NINA & DOM

**Shruti** ..... **Sukhraj Dhillon**  
& SCOTTISH RACHEL, RINA, AUNTY LALITA & TOM

**Jack** ..... **Graeme Rose**  
& BINA & AUNT MARIGOLD

Directors ..... **Janet Steel & Steve Johnstone**

Designer ..... **Abigail King**

Music ..... **Sayan Kent**

Company Stage Manager ..... **Nicola Cartwright**

Photography ..... **Robert Day**

Graphic Design ..... **Luke Wakeman**

First Performance Wednesday 1 October 2014 at Newhampton Arts Centre

Many thanks to all the Rural Touring Schemes across the country that have helped to make this tour possible and the Strategic Touring Fund of Arts Council England.

Please add a comment to Clare and Arjun's Facebook page [fb.me/cowpatwedding](http://fb.me/cowpatwedding)

## FOR KALI THEATRE

Artistic Director ..... **Janet Steel**

General Manager ..... **Chris Corner**

Audience Development ..... **Binita Walia**

Tea Party and Story Sharing Assistant ..... **Komal Amin**

## FOR BLACK COUNTRY TOURING

Co-Artistic Directors ..... **Steve Johnstone & Frances Land**

Producer ..... **Dawinder Bansal**

Company Manager ..... **Deb Justice**

Promoter Co-ordinator ..... **Natalie Kidman**

Admin Assistant ..... **Sarah Watton**

Development Manager ..... **Ruth Harvey**

## FOR ARTS ALIVE

Directors ..... **Sian Kerry & Ian Kerry**

Finance ..... **Terri Jones**

Administrator ..... **Mary Napper-White**

Intern ..... **Bryoni Sadler**

Thanks to all the people who participated in the original Black Country/Green Country workshops and those we interviewed when first developing this project. Without their stories to inspire us, it wouldn't have happened.

**The interviewees:** Amy Beeston, Tom Crone, Jac Elsley, Victoria Anne Ganderton, Dilbir Gauher, Peter Chand, Sharmila Chauhan, Gillian Griffiths, Ro Hands, Parminder Kairo, Rajesh Mair, Melissa Paul, Douglas Preston, Satnam Rana, David Ryder, Bob Thompson, Binita Walia, Deta Ward & Courttia. **Researchers:** Dawinder Bansal, Jenny Matthews, Tahira Paul, Janet Steel.

Please let us know what you thought of the show via:  
[info@kalitheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@kalitheatre.co.uk) | [fb kalitheatreUK](https://www.facebook.com/kalitheatreUK) | [@kalitheatreUK](https://twitter.com/kalitheatreUK)

# kali

**Kali Theatre** has been presenting ground-breaking new theatre writing by women with a South Asian background for over 20 years.

We seek out and nurture strong individual writers who challenge our perceptions through original and thought-provoking drama, and actively encourage our writers to reinvent and reshape the theatrical agenda.

Our work presents the distinct perspective and experience of South Asian women, engaging people from all backgrounds in work that reflects and comments on our lives today. We have won rave reviews, sold-out shows and inspired audiences all over the UK with work that challenges our perceptions through original and surprising theatre.

Find our more and join our mailing list at [www.kalitheatre.co.uk](http://www.kalitheatre.co.uk)

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Black Country Touring (BCT) works in partnership with volunteer promoters and venues in the Black Country to create a dynamic programme of professional theatre and dance for local communities. BCT also works in partnership with a wide range of theatre and dance organisations to create new work rooted in the rich vein of stories of people who live in our region. These productions take place in a variety of different settings from empty shops and touring caravans to historic houses and village halls.

To find out more about our work and future shows

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Every year Arts Alive organises over 100 live professional performances and nearly 1000 film screenings through Flicks in the Sticks.

Arts Alive works with volunteer promoters in Herefordshire and Shropshire in over 80 venues, including village halls, community centres, churches and outdoors. We programme top quality regional, national and international professional arts events including theatre, music, puppets, poetry and dance. We love making the most of these characterful and varied informal spaces to host great live performances.

To find out more about our work, what's on and for free email alerts visit [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk)

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# kali

arts alive



# My Big Fat Cowpat Wedding

By Sayan Kent

*The wedding reception of a country girl and a lad from the city, with all their friends and family. What could possibly go wrong?*





## COUNTRYSIDE OR CITY?

As part of our research for My Big Fat Cowpat Wedding we interviewed people in mixed marriages, from different ethnic cultures and from both urban and countryside environments. We asked them – Countryside or City? These are some of their responses.

### CITY

- “Cities are full of life with a great buzz and lots people rushing about. It’s where all the fun seems to be happening!”
- “There’s people everywhere so you might not ever see the same face twice.”
- “Cities are multicultural and full of difference. I think you’d feel more accepted here.”
- “It’s like everything is on your doorstep in the city, like your family/friends, schools, jobs and supermarkets.”
- “My Best Man didn’t make it to the church on time. He didn’t realise that driving 16 miles through London would take far longer than 16 miles in Shropshire!”

### COUNTRY

- “I remember, the first time I stayed overnight in the countryside. It’s the strangest thing but the silence was deafening and I just couldn’t sleep. Not until I put the radio on for background sound.”
- “It’s so green and beautiful here and I feel more relaxed. It’s good to get back to nature sometimes.”
- “First thing I noticed were those narrow country roads and no street lights - driving is so scary at night without lights. There’s no pavements, so how do you know where to walk?”
- “People in the country know everyone and talk to everyone. They help you out if they know you, but they spot an outsider straight away.”
- “Some locals just turned up to my wedding at the Church without being invited! They’d heard there was a wedding on and stood in the road to wave good wishes. Would that happen in a city?”

Illustration by Liz Dickeson

## COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

### Sukhraj Dhillon *Shruti*

Sukhraj has acted for a number of years in both the UK and India. **Theatre includes:** Katherina in *Taming of the Shrew* and various plays in London and at the Edinburgh Fringe. She has also been involved in commercials, photo shoots and rehearsed readings including *The Mother* in *Twelve and Aman/Sunny* in *Pebbles and Stones* (Kali at Tristan Bates Theatre).

### Genevieve Helson *Clare*

Trained at Rose Bruford. BA in Actor Musicianship. **Theatre credits include:** Ursula in *Much Ado About Nothing*, (Stafford Gatehouse Theatre), Venelia in *The Old Wives’ Tale* (Rehearsed Reading at The Globe), Jive and Garden Spirit in *Dig And Delve* (Half Moon Theatre), Storyteller in *Taha and Tallulah* (Polka Theatre), Helena in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream Workshop* (Artstrust Productions), Miranda in *The Tempest* (Individual Arts), Dance Captain in *The Winter’s Tale - The Musical* (Youth Music Theatre UK), Liza Elliott in *Lady In The Dark*.

### Shri Patel Arjun

Shri trained at ALRA. Since graduation he has appeared in *Romeo & Juliet* (Secret Theatre), *5 Guys Chillin’* (King’s Head), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Camden Peoples’ Theatre), *The Ulster Kama Sutra* (Terra Nova Productions), *Confessional* (Theatre 503), *A Small Fire of Virtues* (Arcola). **Film and TV includes:** Emmerdale (YTV), *The Turtle & the Sea*

(Animus Pictures), *Questionable Prejudice* (Jam Jar Media), *Flowers* (Central Film School).

### Graeme Rose *Jack*

A Birmingham-based actor and theatre-maker. Co-founder of Stan’s Cafe theatre (25 years old this year) and a long-time collaborator with companies including Talking Birds, Red Shift and KILN ensemble, he has a history of creating shows for unusual theatre spaces, and has performed in a swimming pool, car park, caravan, tin whale, empty gaol and an operating theatre. **Recent projects include** *The Furies* and *A Journey Round My Skull* (KILN ensemble), *EAT!* (Black Country Touring/ Birmingham Rep), *Vampomime!* (Coventry Belgrade), *Jekyll & Hyde* and *A Tale of Two Cities* (Chung Ying Theatre, Hong Kong/Red Shift) and *The Cardinals* (Stan’s Cafe), which has toured to North America and Australia.

### Janet Steel *Co-Director*

Artistic Director of Kali since 2003, she has directed over 30 readings of new work and productions of *Calcutta Kosher* (2004 & 2012), *Chaos*, *Paper Thin*, *Deadeye*, *Zameen*, *Another Paradise*, *Behna*, *Ghandi & Coconuts*, *Purnjanam/ Born Again*, *Mustafa*, *My Daughter’s Trial*, *The Husbands* and *The Dishonoured*. After many years as an actress, Janet began directing in 1988 at Loose Change Theatre with White Biting Dog. **Other directing credits include** *Behzti* (The Rep), *April in Paris*, *Brevetvski Street*, *A Hard Rain*, *Top Girls*

(Northampton Royal), *Millennium Mysteries*, *Big School* (Coventry Belgrade); *Antigone*, *The Mother*, *Orpheus Descending*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Knockey*, *Serious Money* (Rose Bruford).

### Steve Johnstone *Co-Director*

Currently Co-Artistic Director of Black Country Touring. **Production work includes:** *Eat!*, *The Corner Shop*, *Apna Ghar*, *And Tigers Mingle*. Former Artistic Director of Pentabus Theatre Company. As a freelance director he specialises in new writing and site specific work & has directed productions for Shared Experience, Moving Hands & Birmingham Rep, Chol Theatre Company, Welsh National Opera, O Teatro Regional Da Serra Do Montemuro, Meet the Future, Mac Productions and many others. He has worked in a number of countries including Portugal, India, Finland and Bangladesh.

### Sayan Kent *Writer*

Sayan comes from London and lives in Coventry. **Recent plays include** *Jessica* (‘WomenRedressed’ at the Arcola), *Tales of Birbal* (Mashi Theatre), *Like Happy Stuff* (Kali Theatre’s ‘12’ project), *The Predator* (Staged reading, The Rep), *Endless Light* (Kali at Southwark Playhouse), *Shared Memories 1* (Kali at Curve Leicester), *Shared Memories 2* (Kali at Arcola), *Another Paradise* (Kali at Edinburgh/National tour – nominated for the John Whiting Award), *Antigone’s Sister* (Birmingham Young Rep), *The Contract* (Joint winner of the Capital New Writing Festival), *Invisible* (mac Birmingham), *Killing Wasps* (Soho Theatre reading), *The Good Companions*

(musical adaptation, New Vic Stoke, Belgrade Coventry, Wolsey Ipswich, Keswick), *Silas Marner* (musical adaptation), *Mother Goose*, *Dick Whittington*, *Aladdin* (Coventry Belgrade). **5 short plays:** *Illusions of Democracy*, *The Bridge*, *Here*, *Hundreds and Thousands*, *And Breathe* (Bold Text playwrights at Open Door, The Rep). Sayan is also a composer and has written music for over 30 productions.

### Abigail King *Designer*

Abigail trained at Birmingham Institute of Art and Design. **Recent work** has been with Birmingham School of Acting on *The Superheroes*, *Heterophobia* and *The Pirates of Cannon Hill* and with the REP and Black Country Touring designing costumes and working on the set for *Eat!* Previous design work has been with Clearchannel Productions, Coventry Belgrade, Birmingham Theatre School, Almeida Opera, Gazebo Theatre, Maverick Theatre, The Crescent Theatre, The Conservatoire, New Sussex Opera as well as working on **short and feature length films** for Solar Pictures, One Small Barking Dog, Birmingham Media and Incubator Screen.

### Nicola Cartwright *Stage Manager*

Nicola graduated from East 15 Acting School with a BA in World Performance. Her professional **stage management credits include** *My Daughter’s Trial* (Kali Theatre), *Storming the Barricade/ Keep Smiling Through* (Claire Evans Productions) and *A Rock and A Hard Place* (Act Naturally). Nicola Stage Managed the 2014 tour and the 2015 revival of *My Big Fat Cowpat Wedding*.