

READY OR NOT

By Naylah Ahmed

Pat **Joan Blackham**

Yusuf **Adam Karim**

Holly **Natasha Rickman**

With Ryan Early as the voice of Jack and Leila Farzad as the newsreader

Director **Helena Bell**

Designer **Sophia Lovell Smith**

Based on initial design ideas by Rajha Shakiry

Lighting Designer **Katharine Williams**

Video Designer **Daniel Denton**

Sound Designer **Chris Drohan**

Fight Director **Philip d'Orléans**

Associate Lighting Designer **Sana Yamaguchi**

Production Manager **Simon Sinfield**

Company Stage Manager **Jessica Thanki**

Assistant Stage Manager **Marisa Bourne**

KALI THEATRE

Artistic Director **Helena Bell**

Executive Director **Christopher Corner**

Administration **Binita Walia**

Publicist **Judy Lipsey of Premier Communications**

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Kali Theatre Company develops and tours ground breaking, thought provoking, contemporary theatre by women writers of South Asian descent.

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Kali Theatre Company has been championing women writers from a South Asian background for over twenty five years. Since it was established in the mid 1990's, Kali has established a reputation for creating and touring exciting and intriguing theatre.

Our Writer Development Programme encourages and supports the creation of new work through writing workshops, dramaturgical support and our regular week long *Talkback* public readings.

Helena Bell has recently become Artistic Director.

Watch out for *Bitched*, a biting look at the battle of the sexes by Sharon Raizada, Kali's next production as part of our *Talkback* Festival at the Tristan Bates Theatre in London in October.

Find our more and join our mailing list at kalitheatre.co.uk

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KALI THEATRE WAR PLAYS SEASON

In spring 2018, the year of the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, Kali will present a season of staged readings on the theme of women's experiences or untold stories from war or conflict across the globe.

We are inviting UK based women writers of South Asian descent to submit new plays relating to this theme for inclusion in the season. Deadline is 5 June. Full details on our website www.kalitheatre.co.uk

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Sometimes the worst human actions are the result of one moment - a moment we can't take back, a moment with unimaginable consequences.

The 'war on terror' has left countries and peoples ravished with untold numbers of non-combatants killed - untold because they're uncounted.

In the 16 years since 9/11, so much has changed; paranoia has grown, the 'us' and 'them' rhetoric gathers pace, 24/7 news coverage in the post-truth era provides a soundtrack to our lives, and democracy can seem more a logo than a political reality.

Ready or Not explores these themes in a small domestic setting where a handful of characters deal with their own personal battles in this wider global context. It explores loss, guilt, motherhood, and the fallout of collateral damage in a world where the rules of engagement suit transient objectives and the enemy could be anyone.

The play is set in Pat's living room. Pat, a retired teacher, divorced and living alone, is hiding out burdened by an unwanted secret. Yusuf, a young man who has lived all his adult life in the post 9/11 world, is trying to own his faith and engage in democracy, taking an anti-drone petition to the streets. While Holly is holding tightly to what she thinks she knows until it begins to unravel before her eyes.

No one wants to be there but no one can leave.

Secrets have a habit of getting out...

Naylah Ahmed

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Joan Blackham **Pat**

Theatre: *Blown Apart* (Windsor Fringe) *Calendar Girls* (Noel Coward) *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Guildford Shakespeare Company) *Jane Eyre* (Shared Experience (UK/World Tours) *When We Are Married* (WYP) *Games* (Gate) *Lettice & Lovage* (Westcliff) *Across Oka*, *Love of the Nightingale*, *King Lear*, *Man of Mode* (RSC) *Children of a Lesser God* (Albery) *Loot* (Lyric Studio/Arts Theatre) **TV:** *Raised by Wolves*, *New Tricks*, *Dr Who*, *Whitechapel*, *Doctors*, *Cry Wolf*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Honest*, *Judge John Deed*, *Inspector Morse*, *Back Home*, *Home to Roost*, *Sweet Sixteen*, *A Small Problem*, *Take a Letter*, *Mr Jones*, *To the Manor Born*, *Reginald Perrin* **Film:** *Battle for Sevastopol*, *The Sweeney*, *Mothers and Daughters*, *Bridget Jones's Diary*, *Plenty*

Adam Karim **Yusuf**

Adam recently graduated from Manchester School of Theatre (MMU). Since graduating he has appeared as Sajit in *East is East* (ATG - UK Tour) Abe in *Disgraced* (English Theatre Frankfurt) and will be appearing in the upcoming BBC Drama *Three Girls*.

Natasha Rickman **Holly**

Trained at RADA. **Theatre includes** *King Lear*, *Hamlet* (Creation Theatre), *The Mousetrap* (West End), *Roots* (Nottingham Playhouse), *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (English Theatre of Frankfurt) *Romeo and Juliet*, *Joan of Arc*, *Dogs Dialogue*, *The Talented Mr Ripley* -offie nominated best supporting actress (The Faction), *Julius Caesar*, *Iphegenia* (Mercury Theatre), *Relatively Speaking*, *Within The Gates* (Frinton Summer Theatre), *Suitcase Stories*, (Sell A Door, United Arab Emirates Tour), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Canterbury Tales* (Cunard). **Radio includes** *Selling Shoes in Southend* (Frequency Theatre). Natasha is co-founder of Women At RADA, an initiative campaigning for gender equality onstage. She is also a core ensemble member with The Faction.

Ryan Early **Voice of Jack**

Theatre includes: Previously for Kali - *Mustafa* (Soho Theatre and National Tour), *The Argument*, *Donny's Brain* (Hampstead) *Anna Karenina* (Royal Exchange Manchester), *Blue Remembered Hills* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Hounding of David Oluwale* (Eclipse National Tour) *Knight of The Burning Pestle* (Young Vic), *War and Peace*, *The Eleventh Capital*,

(Royal Court), *Beau Brummell* (New York), *A Midsommer Nights Dream*, *The Golden Ass* (Shakespeares Globe), *Oliver Twist*, *The Servant* (Lyric Hammersmith), *One Life And Counting* (Bush). **Television includes:** *The Crown*, *Knightfall*, *Holby City*, *Casualty*, *Coronation Street*, *Emmerdale*, *The Jason Phillips Show*, *Margot and Mez*, *Soup Kitchen*, *The Bill* and *Heartbeat*. **Films include:** *The Foreigner*, *Red Tails* and *Beseme Mucho*.

Naylah Ahmed **Writer**

Naylah is an established writer for theatre, radio and TV as well as a freelance radio drama producer. Her play *Mustafa* was commissioned by Birmingham Repertory Theatre and co-produced by Kali Theatre (Soho Theatre London and UK tour). It was awarded a Special Prize by the National Theatre Foundation (2013). Her play *Butcher Boys* was one of the four joint winners of the Bruntwood Prize (2008). Naylah has written several episodes of *Jamillah & Aladdin Series 1 & 2* (CBBC/Kindle). Naylah is based in Birmingham.

Helena Bell **Director**

Helena Bell is the new Artistic Director of Kali Theatre. She was previously AD of Pursued by a Bear Productions, a new writing company resident at Farnham Maltings. **Productions include** *The Lamellar Project* by Grant Watson (Arcola Theatre and forthcoming US transfer); *Kabaddi Kabaddi Kabaddi* by Satinder Chohan, co-produced with Kali Theatre (Arcola and UK tour); *Kalashnikov - in the Woods* by the Lake by Fraser Grace in association with Oxford Playhouse and Colchester Mercury and *Fresh Tracks*, a festival of short new plays. Previously: Co-Artistic Director of Brighton's Alarmist Theatre developing, directing and touring new plays including *Fossil Woman* by Louise Warren (Lyric, Hammersmith); *The School of Night* by Stephen Plaice (Pleasance, Edinburgh Festival) and *The Bedbug* (British Council tour). Freelance direction and dramaturgy includes early plays for Kali such as Rukhsana Ahmad's *River on Fire* - nominated for the Susan Smith-Blackburn Award (Lyric Hammersmith and UK tour) and as a guest director with drama schools and new writing companies throughout the UK.

Sophia Lovell Smith **Designer**

Sophia studied Theatre Arts at Bretton Hall and now designs for theatre, opera, dance and most extensively theatre for children. Her most recent designs include *Sponge* (Barbican & ZArts), *Fogonogo* (Spitalfields Music), *The Bogus Woman* (TBTL & Curtis Productions) and *Wave* (Nottingham Playhouse). Sophia has designed for Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, The Unicorn, Theatre Centre, Royal Opera House, 20 Stories High, Theatre-Rites, Polka, Royal & Derngate Theatres, Little Angel Theatre, ENO, National Theatre, Tell Tale Hearts, Trestle and Theatre by the Lake. She is delighted to be returning to Kali having designed Kali's 2016 double bill - *She Is Not Herself & Stateless*, and also *Love comes In At The Window*, *River on Fire* and (with PBAB) *Kabaddi Kabaddi Kabaddi*.

Daniel Denton **Video Design**

Daniel Denton is a visual artist and designer working with moving image across theatre, opera, music and installation. Graduating from The University for the Creative Arts in 2012 he joined video design collective Mesmer as an animator and has since gone on to create visuals for shows ranging from fashion to theatrical performances. **Video Design:** *Peter Pan* (Exeter Northcott Theatre) *Bumblescratch* (Adelphi Theatre), *Biedermann and the Arsonists* (Sadler's Wells). **Animator:** *Big The Musical* (Theatre Royal Plymouth), *Madame Butterfly* (Glyndebourne), *Mickey and the Magicians* (Disneyland Paris), *Only the Brave* (Welsh Millenium Centre), *The Government Inspector* (Birmingham Rep), *Andrea Chénier* (Opera North), *Gypsy* (The Savoy).

Chris Drohan **Sound Design**

New Nigerians, *The Lamellar Project* and *La Boheme* (Arcola Theatre), *The Mirror Never Lies* (Cockpit), *After Three Sisters* (Jack Studio), *Tonight at the Museum* (Cinema Museum), *'Tis Pity* (Tristan Bates), *Pheobe* (Kings Head Theatre), *The Marvellous Adventures of Mary Seacole* (Edinburgh Festival), *In The Gut* (Blue Elephant), *All Or Nothing* (Touring), *Dr. Angelus, Don't Smoke in Bed* and *The One Day of the Year* (Finborough), *Spring Awakening* (Chelsea Theatre), *Resolution* (The Space), *The Drunken City* (Tabard Theatre), *Roaring Trade* and *Finders Keepers* (Park Theatre), *Stitching* (White Bear), *Counting Stars* (Assembly), *The Social Network* (Lion and Unicorn). As a composer, Chris has recently composed for a BBC Radio Production of *Andromache*.

Katharine Williams **Lighting Designer**

As a lighting designer for live performance, Katharine works in the UK and internationally. **Recent designs include:** *Two Man Show* and *The Darkest Corners* (RashDash), *Safe House* (Daniel Bye), *Big Guns* (Yard Theatre) and *Partus* (Third Angel). Katharine is lead artist on the Love Letters to the Home Office project which campaigns using art, words and theatre to stop the means-tested tiering of human rights that is currently in place in the UK for international families. She is the founder of the Crew for Calais initiative, which is what happens when people from the theatre and creative industries come together to help refugees. www.crewforcalais.org

Philip d'Orléans **Fight Director**

Theatre include: *The Kite Runner* (Wyndham's Theatre); *Roméo et Juliette* (Korea National Opera); *As You Like It* (Chester Performs); *Kiss Me Quickstep*, *Robin Hood and Marian*, *Gaslight*, *The Widowing of Mrs. Holroyd*, *The Ladykillers* (New Vic); *Treasure Island*; *As You Like It*; *Macbeth* (Creation Theatre); *Duchess of Malfi*, *The Kite Runner*, *Robin Hood*, *A Skull in Connemara* (Nottingham Playhouse); *Robin Hood* (Chipping Norton Theatre); *King Lear* (Northern BroadSides); *King Lear* (Guilford Shakespeare Company). **Film includes:** *Knights of the Round Table: King Arthur* (Guy Ritchie); *Pan* (Warner Brothers); *The Knife That Killed Me* (Universal Pictures); *Dark Signal* (Independent).

Jessica Thanki **Company Stage Manager**

With a BA in Theatre Production, Jessica has been stage managing professionally for the last 9 years on various types of productions including: *Double Dutch Espresso* (Theatre Waah/Tristan Bates), *Maybe Father* (Talawa/Young Vic), *Behna* (Kali/Birmingham Rep), *Squid* (Theatre Royal Stratford East School Tour), *Brixton Rocks* (Tara Arts tour), *Tagore's Women* (Kali/Southwark Playhouse), *Sports Play* (Just a Must UK and International Tour), *Dea* by Edward Bond (Sutton Theatres), *Marco Polo: The Untold Love Story* (ATC/Shaw Theatre), *Gandhi and Coconuts*, (Kali/Arcola & tour), *Mustafa* (Kali/Birmingham Rep tour), *The Dishonoured*, (Kali/UK Tour). Jessica was shortlisted for Stage Manager of the Year 2011 by the Stage Management Association.