

KALI THEATRE

# War Plays

70 Years | 7 Plays

Global stories of courage and hope amid the chaos and displacement of war

Staged readings of compelling new plays inspired by women's experiences of global conflict spanning Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Tibet, Bangladesh and occupied France.

To mark the 70th year since the ground-breaking Declaration of Human Rights following the end of the Second World War, some of our best and most original women's voices in new theatre writing tell contemporary stories of courage, hope and determination amid the chaos, suspicion and displacement of war.

This two week festival will feature seven new plays plus two weekend events with leading female writers and human rights activists talking about the impact of conflict on women.

Award-winning photojournalist Kate Holt will exhibit photos taken in conflict zones across the world.

8-19 May

TRISTAN BATES THEATRE

1A Tower St London WC2H 9NP

5 mins walk from Leicester Square underground

Box Office 020 3841 6611

Book online [www.tristanbatestheatre.co.uk](http://www.tristanbatestheatre.co.uk)

Readings £12 (£10 concessions)

Speakout Events £5

# kali

*Intrepid plays by fearless women since 1991*

Kali Theatre produces thought provoking, contemporary new writing by South Asian women which reflects and comments on our lives today. Kali's award winning productions have won rave reviews, sell out performances and inspired audiences throughout the UK and beyond.

*"...an ambitious black comedy which thrives in its darker moments..."*

THE INDEPENDENT ON READY OR NOT

*"it will have you on the edge of your seat."*

WHATSONSTAGE.COM ON THE DISHONOURED

*"Another challenging and thought provoking work from Kali Theatre"*

ASIANCULTUREVULTURE.COM ON THE HUSBANDS

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COMING NEXT FROM KALI...

## Sundowning

by Nessah Muthy

Alyssa's aunt has put her beloved grandmother Betty in a care home. Horrified at her ailing condition, Alyssa kidnaps Betty and they embark on a campervan trip to the seaside. But soon Betty's dementia and Alyssa's troubled past catch up with them...

A compelling new play about love, loneliness and guilt between three generations of women.

Tristan Bates Theatre **16 Oct - 3 Nov**

# War Plays **kali**



Global stories of courage and hope amid the chaos and displacement of war





## From Kabul To Kunduz by Rukhsana Ahmad

Tue 8 May & Sat 12 May 7.30pm

Determined to reconnect with his past and obsessed with memories of his long-lost brother, young Afghan refugee Saeed Khattak ventures from London to Kabul. He is soon caught up in the paranoia, suspicion and violence of contemporary Afghanistan. Forced to travel from Kabul to Kunduz he must face up to the realities of a changed world.

## Afghan Girls Don't Cry by Nushin Arbabzadah

Sat 12 May 2.30pm

Layla, a young Afghan woman living in London, is told by her mother that a celebrated Afghan diplomat she saw interviewed on the BBC is a rapist and the murderer of Layla's father. Pushed by her mother to seek revenge, Layla returns to Kabul only to discover a much darker and more dangerous truth about her family.

## Noor by Azma Dar

Thur 10 May & Thur 17 May 7.30pm

Princess, musician and writer of children's stories, Noor was recruited by the British Special Operations Executive during World War 2 and sent to Occupied France on a deadly mission as an undercover wireless operator. After the war, the senior officer in charge of recruiting female agents meets the German Major responsible for hunting them, and they piece together Noor's story- one of determination, courage and the power of the imagination.

## Lhasa by Bettina Gracias

Mon 14 May & Fri 18 May 7.30pm

Ama, a feisty Tibetan woman, is fighting to keep her guest house, homeland and traditions. Her son Karma wants her to leave Tibet with him and his Chinese girlfriend, to seek refuge in India near the Dalai Lama where they could live without prejudice. But Ama stubbornly continues to resist the colonisers, and suspects her one guest - a troubled monk - of being a Chinese spy.

## My Homemade Kite by Nimmi Harasgama

Wed 16 May 7.30pm & Sat 19 May 2.30pm

After being tortured during the Sri Lankan conflict, Krishnaveni has begun a new life in the UK. Here she must live with the stigma of being an asylum seeker and the lingering effects of her experiences. This topical new play is based on real life interviews and stories from victims of torture.

## Hecuba Birangona by Sayan Kent

Fri 11 May & Tue 15 May 7.30pm

The 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War triggered genocide, a huge refugee crisis and the mass rape of women and girls. *Hecuba Birangona* draws on the myths of Hecuba and The Trojan women to tell the story of five women being held in a prison camp. They have survived the war but as the Indian Army and Freedom fighters approach they must get through one last day...

## Freedom by Anu Kumar

Wed 9 May & Sat 19 May 7.30pm

January 2017. Maya has come to work as a doctor in a UN Displaced People's Camp near ISIS controlled Mosul in Iraq. Initially she feels free to have left England and her obligations there but as she meets local women and joins their journeys she discovers there is more than one form of freedom in the world.

## SPEAK OUT EVENTS

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### Afghanistan

Sat 12 May 4.30pm

Award winning journalist, Nadene Ghouri talks about her experiences covering Afghanistan alongside award winning photojournalist Kate Holt who has covered war zones for numerous UK newspapers. They will be joined by Elaha Walizadeh, co-founder of Afghan Women in the Diaspora and Dr Ayesha Ahmad, a therapist working with victims of trauma and gender based violence during conflict.

### Sri Lanka

Sat 19 May 4.30pm

Director Pooja Ghai and writer Nimmi Harasgama discuss her play *My Homemade Kite* and the ongoing conflict in Sri Lanka.