

GANDHI AND COCONUTS

BY BETTINA GRACIAS

CAST

Asha Sophiya Haque
Kali Nimmi Harasgama
Ajay Rez Kempton
Shiva Robert Mountford
Gandhi Gary Pillai

Director **Janet Steel**
 Movement **Kitty Winter**
 Designer **Alice Houlton**
 Music **James Hesford**
 Lighting **Chris Corner**
 Dramaturg **Tanika Gupta**

Company Stage Manager Jessica Thanki
 Production Manager Ceili Freeman
 Production Assistant Naomi Hodgson
 General Manager Christopher Corner
 Press Representation Juliet Rees
 Set built by Martin Field
 Photography Robert Workman
 Graphic Design Luke Wakeman

First performance of this production: 24 November 2010 at the Arcola Theatre

Kali would like to thank everyone at Arcola for all their help and support with presenting Black-i.

Thanks to Shashi Patel and Siva at Haywoods Accountants and all those whose help came too late to be mentioned here.



Kali seeks out strong individual women writers with a South Asian background who challenge our perceptions through

original and thought provoking theatre. We regularly tour new plays across the UK while our Writer Development Programmes provide resources to writers new to the theatre through workshops, dramaturgical support and public readings.

Kali aims to present the distinct perspective and experience of Asian women to people from all backgrounds and to celebrate its richness and diversity. No idea is too small, no statement too large. We actively encourage our writers and audience to reinvent and reshape the theatrical agenda.

Find our more at www.kalitheatre.co.uk

Artistic DirectorJanet Steel
 General ManagerChristopher Corner
 Audience Development ManagerBinita Walia

Board of Trustees: Shelley King (Chair), Amy Beeson, Elizabeth Cuffy, Penny Gold, Hena Miah, Anouk Mishti, Shiroma Silva, Jocelyn Watson, Elizabeth Youard.

Kali was founded in 1990 by *Rukhsana Ahmad and Rita Wolf*.

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Kali is a member of ITC and the London Hub of Sustained Theatre
 See www.sustainedtheatre.org.uk



TALKBACK 2010

Kali's is now looking for new scripts for its next *Writer Development Programme*.

Chosen writers will join Kali's fortnightly writing workshops, and receive dramaturgical support from guest writers and dramaturgs, culminating in a public reading of their work. The deadline for sending us your draft script is **10 March 2011**.

More details at www.kalitheatre.co.uk

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arcola
theatre

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Sophiya Haque *ASHA*

Trained at Arts Educational School. Writing & recording songs with her band Akasa led to a record deal with Warner Bros in 1988 and to presenting on MTV Asia where her 7 year presenting career earned her the title 'First Lady' of music TV, with her show reaching 53 countries. In Bollywood she has worked with Sanjay Dutt, Abhishek Bachan, Salman Khan, Mani Ratnam. Saroj Khan and Farah Khan. Her acting debut was a lead role in the film Snip. Theatre: Bombay Dreams (Apollo Victoria), The Far Pavilions (Shaftesbury), Britain's Got Bhangra (Rifco). Film: Wanted (with Angelina Jolie). TV: Coronation Street. She has been a DJ for the BBC Asian Network and was musical stager and Assistant Director on the new musical Rue Magique at The Kings Head Theatre.

Nimmi Harasgama *KALI*

Nimmi has recently returned to the UK after focusing on her film career in Sri Lanka. Her most recent film, Flowers Of The Sky, won Best Asian Film at the Granada International Film Festival and she won Best Actress at the Las Palmas International Film Festival for her previous film, August Sun. TV includes Doctors (BBC) and Mother Teresa (20th Century Fox). UK Theatre includes Trolley Talk, which she co-wrote (Camden Peoples Theatre), A Handful of Henna (Rasa Theatre Co/Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Co), and her solo show - Auntie Netta's Holiday For Asylum (Tamasha/BAC).

Rez Kempton *AJAY*

Trained at Rose Bruford. Theatre: The Hot Zone (Lyric Hammersmith), The Fortune Club (Tricycle & Leicester Haymarket), The Battle of Green Lanes (Theatre Royal Stratford East), The Arbor (Crucible Theatre), Hijra (Plymouth Theatre Royal, The Bush & West Yorkshire Playhouse), Nativity (Birmingham Rep.), Playboy Of The Asian World (Leicester Haymarket), Arrange That Marriage (UK tour), Heer Ranjha (mac), Love of the Nightingale (UK tour), Twelfth Night (Millfield Theatre),

Private Lives (Watermans). TV: Adha Cup (C4), Banged Up Abroad (Five), Desperados, Bash, Spooks, Trial By Jury (BBC), Singapore Mutiny (C4). Film Life Goes On, The Hidden Persuaders, The Baseline, Kapital, I Can't Think Straight, The Mystic Masseur, My Son The Fanatic, Brothers In Trouble. Radio Silver Street, Small Island, The Raj Quartet, Driftwood Heart, Oxford Road, Paper Flowers (BBC)

Robert Mountford *SHIVA*

Trained at RADA. Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing and Hercules (Chester Performs), The Black Album (RNT), Merchant of Venice (RSC World Tour) Prospero in The Tempest (Tara/West End), Stockman in Enemy of the People, Bassanio in Merchant of Venice (Tara), Baron Munchausen, Penal Colony and Medea (Tara Hotbed), Leontes in Winter's Tale, Horatio in Hamlet (USA Tours), Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It (UK Tours), Much Ado About Nothing (Byre Theatre), East Is East (Leicester Haymarket). TV: North Square, Eastenders, Casualty, Doctors, Reverse Psychology, Everything I know about Men, The Story of India, London's Burning, Always and Everyone. Robert has also appeared in many Short Films, Radio and Theatre Festivals.

Gary Pillai *GANDHI*

Trained: Oxford School of Drama Theatre: Wuthering Heights (Tamasha/ Lyric Hammersmith), Much Ado About Nothing (National), Krishna in Mahabharata (Sadler's Wells), A Passage To India (Shared Experience, UK & New York), The Good Woman Of Setzuan, Macbeth, Bollywood Jane, An Ideal Husband, The Witches, Unsuitable Girls, Death of a Salesman, The White Devil, Richard III, Naga Mandala (Leicester Haymarket), Unsuitable Girls (Contact Theatre & Lyric Hammersmith), Staying On (Theatre of Comedy/UK tour), Suzuki (Royal Court), The Prince (Young Vic), Troilus & Cressida, The Tempest (Tara), Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest (British Council international tour). TV: Dirk Gently, Survivors, The Passion, Torchwood, Mysterious Creatures, Adventure Inc,

Green Eyed Monster, Men Only, Family Affairs. Film Franklyn, Far North, A Short Film About Swearing, Green Lanes. Radio: The Archers, Funny Boy, Patricia's Progress.

Bettina Gracias *WRITER*

Mixed-race Austrian/Indian, Bettina has written 11 radio plays for BBC Radio 4, 7 theatre plays and one TV drama.. 'Other' was long-listed for both the Verity Bargate and the Manchester Exchange Awards, 'Jallebies and Tea' was nominated for the 'Race in the Media Award,' 'My Name is Iqbal' (theatre version) was short-listed for The Ice and Fire Award', 'The Plot,' won the Sony Gold Award for Radio' and, 'My Name is Iqbal Masih', won the Clarion Award for best radio drama. She has been on attachment to the National Theatre, London and is currently working on two new stage plays and a new radio drama for BBC Radio 4.

Alice Hoult *DESIGNER*

A multidisciplinary artist working with illustration, painting, installation, printmaking and design for performance. With Anoushka Athique she established Little Spoon, an artistic practice whose recent work includes: Tears Dreams and Memories (Barking Youth Theatre), Doubtful Sound, (Antenna Studios). For Kali: Another Paradise, Black-i. Other designs: Drink Me (Pins and Needles Dance), two Shakespeare T.I.E. seasons (Arts Educational). Costume design: Playing God (Deafinitely Theatre), Design for Dance (Royal Academy of Dance), Dreams Come Out To Play (Knavish Speech), Macbeth (Community20), Edward II (Ohio University). Film; Assistant Art Director on Alice (dir. Marianne Elliot), and art department assistant on Wreckers (dir. Dictynna Hood).

Janet Steel *DIRECTOR*

Artistic Director of Kali since 2003, After many years as an actress, Janet's directing career began in 1988 at Loose Change Theatre with her first full-length piece, White Biting Dog. Directing: Behzti (Birmingham Rep), April in Paris, Breteviski Street, A Hard Rain, Top Girls (Northampton Royal), Millennium Mysteries, Big School (Belgrade Coventry); Antigone, The Mother, Orpheus Descending, An Ideal Husband, Romeo & Juliet, The

Knockey, Serious Money (Rose Bruford). For Kali: Calcutta Kosher, Chaos, Paper Thin, Deadeye, Zameen, Another Paradise, Behna and 11 Public Readings of new work.

Jessica Thanki *STAGE MANAGER*

After a BA in Theatre Production, Jessica did a three month placement at The Thirteenth St. Repertory Theatre, New York as the Literary Manager's Assistant. Stage management for pantomimes (The West Wing), Another Paradise (Kali at Edinburgh Festival and on UK tour) and then as ASM/ Assistant Director on its national tour, Asian Women Talk Back, (Kali at Rich Mix), The Maid, (Odd Man Out Productions at Rich Mix), Double Espresso (Theatre Waah at Tristan Bates), Measure for Measure, The Oval House (BADA), Maybe Father, (Talawa at Young Vic), Behna (Kali Theatre site specific co-production with Birmingham Rep & Black Country Touring), AD2050, (Kali workshop at Young Vic) and It Hasn't Happened Yet (Liz Carr).

Kitty Winter *MOVEMENT DIRECTOR*

Kitty trained at LABAN and the Central School of Speech and Drama, and specialises in physical work for young audiences. See www.kittywinter.com. Current and forthcoming productions: The Night Pirates (Theatre Hullabaloo), Under the Story Tree (Nottingham Playhouse) and Puss in Boots (Derby Live). 2010 credits include: The Red Helicopter (Almeida Theatre), The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus (Third Party Productions/ John Wright), Park High School Musical (Paines Plough/Rose Bruford), AD2030 (Kali Theatre), Women on the Verge of HRT (Derby Theatre), Little Fish (The Space), FIVE (Theatre Hullabaloo and Theatre Direct, Toronto), Richard III (Riverside Studios) and The Little Mermaid (Nottingham Playhouse).