

## ***Purnjanam / Born Again***

By Sharmila Chauhan

Directed by Janet Steel

**Muni** Rebecca Grant

**Divya, Sumitra** Manjeet Mann

**Naresh, Vikram** Robert Mountford

**Flower Girl** Goldy Notay

**Muna** Dharmesh Patel

**Doctor, Arjun** Gary Pillai

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## ***Endless Light***

By Sayan Kent

Directed by Elizabeth Freestone

**Nadia** Rebecca Grant

**Kaz** Manjeet Mann

**Red** Robert Mountford

**Chandra** Goldy Notay

**Seth** Dharmesh Patel

**Mohan** Gary Pillai

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**Designer** Molly Einchcomb

**Lighting Designer** Richard Howell

**Music** Arun Ghosh

**Production Manager** Simon Sinfield

**Company Stage Manager** Jessica Thanki

**ASM** Kärt Lepik

**Costume Assistant** Rosa Fernandez Day

**Scenic Painter** Matthew Hellyer

**Production Photographs** Robert Workman

**Fight Director** Robert Mountford

**For Kali Theatre**

**Artistic Director** Janet Steel

**General Manager** Chris Corner

**Audience Development** Binita Walia

*Thanks to Talawa Theatre, The Unicorn Theatre, Robin Fisher at The Almeida Theatre and all the staff at Southwark Theatre who have helped with Tagore's Women. Thanks to Courttia and Sharmila's parents for the babysitting.*

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## **The Vault at Southwark Playhouse**

## **January 2012**



# Purnjanam/Born Again

A play in three parts: The Lovers  
The Liars  
The Leaders

## By Sharmila Chauhan

‘Purnjanam' was a real pleasure to write. Tagore’s work was inspiring in subject and style. A feminist at heart; his protagonists struggle with power, sexuality and love in complex and real ways. His play *Tapati*, in which a feisty queen returns to her homeland to lead her people was my inspiration. *Formless Jewel* and *Chitra*, meditations on love and beauty, explored ideas familiar to me from my own work but Tagore's playfulness was very fresh. I luxuriated in his language which was simple yet evocative. His social and spiritual connection resonated with my own beliefs and lead me to write a piece that I hope highlights personal and political struggles in a world of constant transition.’

Sharmila was part of the Royal Court's Critical Mass programme and has written three plays. *Frangipani Hill* was read at Kali’s Talkback Festival at Oval House and is being developed by Kali. Sharmila was shortlisted for the Asian New Writer Award (2009). Her short stories have been published online and in print, including *Tell Tales Vol 2*, *Happy Birthday to Me*, *Word Masala* and *Pratilipi*. Her short film *Peacock* has been longlisted for the International Screenplay Competition. She is currently working on her second novel, *Seven Mirrors*. Fascinated by all things transgressive, Sharmila's work searches to uncover the quiet meaning of people’s lives.

www.sharmilathewriter.com @sci\_literati

## Endless Light by Sayan Kent

‘I was initially struck by Tagore’s play *Red Oleanders* which highlights the abuse by a powerful mine-owner. But Tagore’s spiritual connection to nature and the environment, his recognition of the inequality of women and his sense of the limitation of national boundaries all contributed to the inspiration behind this play. They are issues I have come up against in my life and which I continue to explore in my work. How we as individuals try to live in a harmonious place with ourselves while we struggle to find our place in the world.’

Recent writing includes, *Invisible* (Midland Arts Centre), *Antigone’s Sister* (Birmingham Rep Young Rep), *The Big Contract* (joint winner in the short play Capital Festival of New Writing), *Another Paradise*, (Kali published by Oberon and nominated for the John Whiting Award in 2009), *Killing Wasps*, (Soho reading) *The Good Companions* (New Vic Stoke), *Silas Marner* (Belgrade Coventry). Currently working on monologues with Kali for Curve, Leicester and developing ideas with BBC radio drama. Sayan is also a composer and director. She originally trained as an actor at Rose Bruford, is a graduate of the prestigious Birmingham University Playwriting Course (MPhil) and a committee member of the West Midlands branch of the Writer’s Guild.



### Molly Einchcombe Designer

Trained at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Theatre: Barbershopera: Apocalypse No! (Drum Theatre, Plymouth and Trafalgar Studios), African Gothic (Arcola), Barbershopera (Trafalgar Studios, Theatre 503, Edinburgh Fringe), Wizard of Oz (Courtyard Theatre, Hereford), Black Comedy, Flying to Nowhere (St Paul’s School), L’Etoile, Three Sisters (Sherman Theatre, Cardiff). Assistant to Vicki Mortimer on productions for the National Theatre, ENO, Almeida, Aix en Provence Opera Festival and Glyndebourne.

### Elizabeth Freestone Director of Endless Light

**Theatre:** For Kali: *Border Lies*, *Reputation*, *Frangipani Hill*, *Bhus* (Rehearsed readings), *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Volpone*, *The School for Scandal*, *Dr Faustus* (Greenwich), *Romeo and Juliet* (Globe tour), *Here Lies Mary Spindler*, *The Tragedy of Thomas Hobbes* (RSC), *The Water Harvest* (Theatre 503), *The Travels of Three English Brothers* (British Museum), *Skellig* (tour), *Lock the Gates* (Lyric Studio), *Night Must Fall*, *Top Girls*, *The Comedy of Errors* (RWCMD). Her production of *The Rape of Lucrece* (RSC) will premiere at the Edinburgh International Festival next summer. Elizabeth has been a staff director at the RSC, The National, Hampstead, Soho, Royal Court. She has recently been appointed Artistic Director of Pentabus Theatre.

### Rebecca Grant

Well known for playing Daisha Anderson in *Holby City* (BBC). She has just completed filming *Chakara* (Laidback Films). Theatre: Sonya in *Too Much Pressure* (Coventry Belgrade), *The Glass Cage*, *Twelfth Night* (Northampton Derngate), Nurse Flynn in *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* with Christian Slater, Munni in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Bombay Dreams*, (West End), ‘Magic Wanda in *Immodesty Blaize*, *Walter’s Burlesque* (Arts), *The Maharabata* (Old Vic) *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Nottingham Playhouse). TV & Film: *Elgar’s Enigma* (BBC2), *Other People* (Channel 4), title role of *Kristina* in an independent feature, a featured dancer in *The Other Boleyn Girl* (Columbia Pictures).

### Richard Howell Lighting Designer

**Theatre:** *Les Parents Terribles* (Donmar/Trafalgar), *The Swallowing Dark* (Liverpool Playhouse/Theatre 503), *Orpheus Underground/Our Days of Rage* (NYT at Old Vic Tunnels), *Faith, Hope and Charity* (Southwark Playhouse), **.45** (Hampstead Studio), *Great Expectations*, *Single Spies*, *Heroes* (Watermill), *Snake in the Grass* (Print Room), *Romeo and Juliet* (York/Tour), *Wolves at the Window* (Arcola/New York), *The Car Cemetery* (Gate), *Angry Young Man* (Trafalgar), *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Ripley Castle) and numerous productions for Theatre 503, the Arcola and Arts Ed. **Opera & Ballet:** *A Little Princess* (London Children’s Ballet), *The Magic Flute* (RCM), *Opera Scenes* (Guildhall), *Lucia Di Lammermoor* (Clonter Opera).

### Manjeet Mann

**Theatre:** *Cupid Painted Blind*, *The Crucible* (Coventry Belgrade), *The Tempest* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Invocation*, *What Happened in Iraq* (Theatre 503) *Transmissions*, *The Madness of Crowds*, *Unwrapped* (Birmingham Rep), *The Duel* (Newhampton Arts), *The Learning Curve*, *From The Heart* (Women and Theatre) *When Amar Met Jay* (Lyric Hammersmith), *That Pesky Rat* (Soho), *The BFG* and *James and the Giant Peach* (Polka), *Counted* (Roundhouse). **TV:** *Derailed* (BBC), *The Score* (C4), *Primeval* (ITV), *DCI Banks* (ITV), *Eastenders* (BBC). Film: *Almost Adult* (Paralax Films/ Film4), *The Plague* (BBC), *Happy Birthday* and *Jenna* (Ch4 Shorts). **Radio:** Over 50 Radio plays since winning the Norman Beaton Fellowship in 2008.

### Robert Mountford

Trained at RADA. **Theatre:** *Gandhi and Coconuts* (Kali), *Merchant of Venice* (RSC, World Tour), *The Black Album* (RNT), *Prospero*, *The Tempest*, *Enemy of the People*, *Medea*, *Penal Colony*, *Baron Munchausen* (Tara), Leontes in *The Winter’s Tale*, Horatio in *Hamlet* (USA), *Much Ado about Nothing*, *As You Like It*, *Hercules*, *Merlin* (Chester Open Air), *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (UK Tours). **TV:** *North Square* (C4), *One Night* (BBC for Spring 2012), *Eastenders*, *Doctors*, *Casualty*, *The World According To Bex*, Michael Wood’s *Story of India* (BBC), *Always and Everyone*, *London’s Burning*, *Torn* (ITV).

### Goldy Notay

**Theatre:** Zameen (Kali/Arts Theatre), *A Handful of Henna* (Sheffield Crucible), *There’s Something About Simmy* (RIFCO Arts), *The Deranged Marriage* (RIFCO Arts), *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Vagina Monologues* (Waterspout), *Blood Wedding* (Theatre Passe Muraille). **Film:** *The Beloved* (Closing night film at Cannes Film Festival 2011), *Sex and the City 2* (Dir: Michael Patrick King) *It’s A Wonderful Afterlife* (Dir: Gurinder Chadha), *London Dreams* (Bollywood Feature), *My Own Country* (Dir: Mira Nair), *Death Threat* (Toronto Film Festival-Best Short). **TV:** *Doctors*, *Holby City*, *The Bill*, *Noddy*, *In a Heartbeat* (Disney)

### Dharmesh Patel

Trained at Hope Street physical theatre school. **Theatre:** *Hamlet*, *Oxygen* (RSC) *Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *American Trade*, *The Grain Store*, *Morte Arthur* (RSC), *Happy and Married?* (Freedom Studios), *Satyagraha* (Improbable/New York), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lyric, Hammersmith); *Satyagraha* (Improbable/ENO), *Coast* (Contact, Manchester), *Too Close to Home* (Lyric Hammersmith & tour), *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Octagon, Bolton), *Slow Time* (RNT), *Silent Cry* (Red Ladder), *The Happy Prince*, *Bollywood Jane* (Leicester Haymarket) Radio—*Jefferson 37* (Radio 7), *Silver Street* (BBC Asian Network), *Wimmy Rd* (Radio 4). TV –*Doctors* (BBC), *Casualty* (BBC), *Rays Daze* (BBC).

### Gary Pillai

**Theatre:** *Gandhi and Coconuts* (Kali), *Wuthering Heights* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Much Ado About Nothing* (National), *Mahabharata* (Sadler’s Wells), *A Passage To India* (Shared Experience,UK, New York), *The Good Woman Of Setzuan*, *Macbeth*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Witches*, *Unsuitable Girls*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The White Devil*, *Richard III*, *Naga Mandala*, *Bollywood Jane* (Leicester Haymarket), *Staying On* (Theatre of Comedy), *Suzuki* (Royal Court), *The Prince* (Young Vic), *Troilus & Cressida*, *The Tempest* (Tara), **TV:** *Coronation Street*, *Emmerdale*, *Dirk Gently*, *Survivors*, *The Passion*, *Torchwood*, *Mysterious Creatures*, *Footballers Wives*, *Family Affairs*, *Adventure Inc*, *Men Only*. **Film** *Tooting Broadway*, *Franklyn*, *Far North*. **Radio:** *The Archers*, *Funny Boy*.

### Janet Steel Director of Purnjanam/Born Again

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, Ghandi & Coconuts and Mustafa in March 2012 a co-production with Birmingham Rep.

### Jessica Thanki Stage Manager

BA in Theatre Production. Since graduating Jessica has stage managed the following shows: The Maid (Odd Man Out Productions at Rich Mix), Double Dutch Espresso, (Theatre Waah at Tristan Bates), Measure for Measure (BADA at Oval House), Maybe Father, (Talawa at The Young Vic), Behna 2010 (Kali with Birmingham Rep and Black Country Touring), It Hasn’t Happened Yet (Liz Carr Tour), Behna 2011 (Kali), SQUID (School Tour for Stratford East) and Brixton Rocks, (Tara Arts tour). Company Stage Managed Black-I (Kali at Oval House), Gandhi and Coconuts, (Kali at Arcola and on tour). Shortlisted for Stage Manager of the year 2011.