

kali

Kali Theatre Company presents

# bells

by Yasmin Whittaker Khan

# chaos

by Azma Dar

First performed on 16 March 2005 at Birmingham Rep, The Door

■ JERWOOD SPACE ■



# Chaos

I began writing *Chaos* a few months after September 11<sup>th</sup> when the terrorist attacks in New York had left the whole world in a state of shock and confusion. Although most of us, thankfully, didn't have to endure the terrible pain suffered by the victims and their families, it seemed to me that many people were affected in some way or other, even if it was only that they were questioning the beliefs, ideals, and truths in their lives.

All the Muslims I knew condemned the killings, but when the war against Afghanistan and further violence against innocent people followed (this time it was 'unintentional'), I began to see how some people might find their loyalties drifting. With all the conspiracy theories, censored news reports, confessional video diaries, and leaders of all kinds bombarding us with their own ideas, much of the time people didn't know what to think or who to believe.

I was also thinking about families, and about secrets, resentments and unspoken things that simmer beneath the fabric of most homes, and how they cause splits and divisions in relationships.

In *Chaos*, I've tried to explore some wider social and political concerns through the conflicts and dilemmas of the Rizvi family. When each member takes a different stance on big global issues and becomes lost in their own world, the family begins to crack and gradually, deeper, more personal troubles are revealed.

In the end, I think the play is about the dangers of obsession and extremism of any kind, the need for tolerance and understanding, and what happens when people stop listening to each other.

Azma Dar, 2005

## Bells

Bells is a fiction based on my research into Mujra clubs in the UK. I've been fascinated since seeing them portrayed in films as a child. Then I aspired to the pretty clothes, the dancing prowess and apparent natural grace of the courtesans. Now I have the glittery clothes but little dancing grace – and I'm still fascinated.

The love, support and sense of justice I've had from my own family, especially my Mum and Dad, has given me the strength to write about the many issues that pique my interest or make me laugh even if they are difficult.

I'm fascinated how overtly the Mujra culture is displayed in Bollywood/Lollywood films and music, yet I've not come across any serious concern about the reality of Mujra clubs. It's rumoured that Lollywood has worked with actresses from the Heera Mandi area of Lahore and Mujra dancers strive to be scouted. The films glamorise life in these clubs and so families gather to watch the latest blockbuster.

My research has left me sickened by the hypocrisy, psychological bullying, use of money as power and the seediness of these clubs. Some *respectable*, even *religious* men visit Mujra clubs – condemning these vulnerable women in public whilst pursuing them in private. Beneath the exploitation and degradation of the unprotected and sometimes helpless, there are many lonely and pained individuals – both buying and selling the entertainment.

Yasmin Khan, 2005

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Kali seeks out strong individual Asian women writers who challenge our perceptions through original and thought-provoking theatre. The company has established a reputation for presenting work that takes audiences on unpredictable journeys that entertain, excite and inspire.



*Calcutta Kosh* 2003

Since its inception in 1990, Kali's connections within the Asian community have made it a natural home for women who are seeking new ways to express and explore the issues and human interest stories of the Diaspora.



*Sock 'em With Honey* 2002

Kali aims to present the distinct perspective and experience of Asian women to people from all backgrounds and to celebrate that 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.

Through our *Kali Shorts* and *Kali Futures* programmes, we provide core resources for writers new to the theatre through workshops, dramaturgical support and public readings.



*Singh Tangos 2001*



*River On Fire 2000*

Artistic Director:

Janet Steel

Board of Trustees:

Penny Gold,

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Registered Charity No. 1071733

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# CHAOS

By Azma Dar

**Salim  
Babar  
Mr Rizvi  
Mrs Rizvi  
Aunty Moona**

Damian Asher  
Marc Elliott  
Nicholas Khan  
Shelley King  
Jamila Massey

**Director  
Designer  
Lighting  
Composer  
Assistant Director  
Dramaturgy  
Stage Manager**

Janet Steel  
Matthew Wright  
Chris Corner  
Sayan Kent  
Sophie Austin  
Penny Gold  
Sarah Pearce

**Project Manager  
Marketing Consultant  
Press Representative**

Christopher Corner  
Suman Bhuchar  
David Bloom  
for Guy Chapman Associates  
Luke Wakeman

**Graphic Design**

First performance: 16 March 2005 at Birmingham Rep, The Door

Kali would like to thank the Directors and everyone at Birmingham Rep for all their help and support with presenting *Chaos*.

Thanks to Richard at The Jerwood Space, Dawn Garrigan at Arts Council England, Ben Payne at Birmingham Rep, Sarah Tibbatts, Binita Walia, Marilyn Kingwell, everyone at Southwark Playhouse, Dan at Hedgehog, ?? ????? ????? ????? another 3-4 names ?????? ?????? and those whose help came too late to be mentioned here.

Subsidised rehearsal space provided by ■ JERWOOD SPACE ■



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# BELLS

By **Yasmin Whittaker Khan**

**Charles  
Pepsi  
Aiesha  
Ashraf  
Madam**

Damian Asher  
Marc Elliott  
Shivan Ghai  
Nicholas Khan  
Shelley King

**Director  
Designer  
Lighting  
Composer  
Choreography  
Assistant Director  
Dramaturgy  
Stage Manager**

Poonam Brah  
Matthew Wright  
Chris Corner  
Sayan Kent  
Kella Panay  
Pia Furtado  
Penny Gold  
Sarah Pearce

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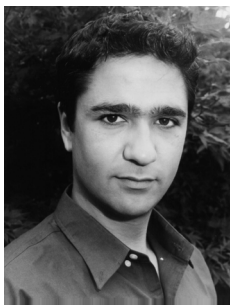
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## Cast in alphabetical order

### **DAMIAN ASHER** Salim (*Chaos*) / Charles (*Bells*)



Damian Trained at Guildford School of Acting. Theatre includes: *Monkey in the Stars* (Polka), *The Phoenix and the Carpet*, (Chester Gateway), *East Is East* (Leicester Haymarket), *Dealers Choice* (Salisbury Playhouse), *My Dad's Cornershop* (Derby Playhouse), *The Maids* (Naach Theatre at Lyric Hammersmith). TV includes: *The Bill*, *Hetty Wainthrop Investigates*, *Doctors*, *Being April*, *Strange*, *According to Bex*. Film includes: *Bollywood Queen*, *Cool Blokes*: *Decent Suits*, *Naked In London*.

### **MARC ELLIOT** Babar (*Chaos*) / Pepsi (*Bells*)



Marc made his professional debut with the RSC in *Julius Caesar*. Later he was in *A Winters Tale*, *Macbeth* and the premiere of Nigel Williams' *Lord of the Flies* (The Other Place). Theatre includes: *Two Lost Souls On A Dirty Night* (Latchmere), *The Mill On The Floss* (Loft Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Tour), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Vienna English Theatre), *Mandragora*, *King of India* (Tara Arts tour). He played Jean in *Miss Julie* and Claire in *The Maids* for Naach Theatre (Lyric Hammersmith). Radio includes: *The Mob*,

*Jadoo*, *The 10<sup>th</sup> Man*. Marc made his TV debut this year in *Mile High*.

### **SHIVANI GHAI** Aiesha (*Bells*)



Originally from Newcastle, Shivani studied drama at the Birmingham Theatre School before moving to London. Theatre credits include: *Cornershop* (Man Mela), *Bollywood 2000* (The Reduced Indian Film Company), *Made in India* (Hungama), *Bollywood Yet Another Love Story* (RIFCO), *Can U Kick it* (Caught In The Act), *Made In England* (Firebrand). Film and TV credits include: *Doctors* (BBC), *The Bill* (Granada), *Spooks*, (KUDOS), *My Hero*, (BBC), *Adventures Inc* (GTV), *Day Of The Sirens* (Imaginary Films),

*Bride and Prejudice* (Bride Productions), *The Camping Trip* (Frigid Films/BBC), *Red Mercury* (Dirty Bomb Films). Radio: *There Comes a Khama* (BBC).



**NICHOLAS KHAN** Mr Rizvi (*Chaos*) / Ashraf (*Bells*)



Theatre includes: *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book* (Soho Theatre), *Passage To India* (Shared Experience), *Messiah* (Directed by Steven Berkoff), *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, *Winters Tale*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry V* (RSC), *Mincemeat* (Cardboard Citizens), *Arabian Nights* (Young Vic), *Animal Crackers* (Manchester Royal Exchange), *Maa* (Royal Court), *Alice Through The Looking Glass*, *Punchkin*, *The Wonderland Adventures of Alice*, *Ali Baba*, *Aladdin*, *Dick Whittington*

(London Bubble). TV includes: *Casualty*, *East Enders*, *The Genius of Mozart*, *Holby City*, *Gory Greek Gods* (BBC).

**SHELLEY KING** Mrs Rizvi (*Chaos*) / Madam (*Bells*)



Theatre includes: *Bombay Dreams* (Really Useful Theatre Co), *Besharam* (Soho Theatre/ Birmingham Rep), *River on Fire* (Kali), *Orpheus*, *The Modern Husband*, *Ion* (Actors Touring Company), *Women of Troy*, *Tartuffe*, *Little Clay Cart* (RNT), *Heer Ranjha*, *Antigone*, *Danton's Death* (Tara Arts), *The Crutch* (Royal Court), *Death and the Maiden* (Wolsey, Ipswich), *Damon and Pythias* (Globe), *Top Girls* (Royal Northampton), *Hobson's Choice* (Young Vic), *Calcutta Kosher* (Kali Theatre), *Bhetzi* (Birmingham

Rep). TV includes *Silent Witness* (BBC), *See How They Run* (BBC/ ABC), *Angels* (BBC), *Tandoori Nights* (Channel 4). Film Includes: *Code 46* (BBC/Revolution Films).

**JAMILA MASSEY** Aunty Moona (*Chaos*)



Born in Simla and came to England at age 12, later graduating from Kings College London. Theatre includes: *The Great Celestial Cow* (Royal Court), *Conduct Unbecoming* (Canada & UK tour), *Song for a Sanctuary* (Kali Theatre/Lyric Hammersmith), *Women of the Dust* (Tamasha/Bristol Old Vic), *The Life & Loves of Mr Patel* (Leicester Haymarket), *Moti Roti Puttli Chunni* (Theatre Royal Stratford East & international tour), *Calcutta Kosher* (Kali

Theatre). TV includes: *The Jewel In The Crown*, 33 episodes of *Mind Your Language*, *All About Me*, *Doctors*, *Albion Market*, *Langley Bottom*,

*Churchill's People, Pie In The Sky, Casualty, Coronation Street Arabian Nights, Perfect World, Family Pride, Eastenders*. Film includes: *Madame Sousatzka, King of Bollywood, Wild West, Chicken Tikka Masala*. Radio: *Auntie Satya* in *The Archers*. A regular broadcaster for BBC Home and World Services. With her husband, Reginald Massey, she has written books on the music and dance of India.

## Company in alphabetical order

### **SOPHIE AUSTIN** Assistant Director (*Chaos*)

Sophie graduated from the Rose Bruford College Directing Course last year. Her London directorial debut was *Oedipus the King* at the Tristan Bates Theatre. Her assistant directing credits include *Dead Hands* written and directed by Howard Barker (Riverside Studios and national tour) and *The Life of Galileo* directed by David Salter and (Battersea Arts Centre). Sophie is also Artistic Director for Teatro Vivo, a South East London theatre collective.

### **POONAM BRAH** Director (*Bells*)

Theatre as Director includes: *Lady with a Lapdog* (Experimental work, Young Vic Studio), Staged readings of *Chess, King Saturn* and *Bells* (Stratford East, Soho Theatre, Birmingham Rep, Oldham Coliseum), *Unfinished Business* (White Bear), *Girl Talk/Sami* (New Experimental Theatre, Mumbai), *Reader I Murdered Him, Black Tigers, Invisible, The I of the Needle* (King's Head), *Andorra, The Bacchae* (Warwick Arts Centre). As Assistant Director: *Calcutta Kosher* (Stratford East), *Skellig* (Young Vic), *Hobson's Choice* (Young Vic and Tour), *Sock 'em with Honey* (Kali Theatre and Tour), *Bless the Bride, Billy Liar; Lebensraum, The Vagina Monologues* (King's Head).

### **AZMA DAR** Writer (*Chaos*)

Azma Dar was born in Ashford and grew up in Pinner. She studied art at Central Saint Martins College and then completed a degree in Literature and Classical Studies. Shortly afterwards she joined the Young Writers' Programme at the Royal Court, and began writing plays and a novel. Her work is usually inspired by the people she meets, the odd stories they have to tell and the darkness, hope, and absurdity of the human spirit. She is currently developing a new work with Theatre Royal Stratford East and Watermans Arts Centre. *Chaos* is her first full-length play.

### **PIA FURTADO** Assistant Director (*Bells*)

Pia has performed in venues ranging from The Underbelly, Edinburgh to The Royal Albert Hall. Directing credits include *A Child Can Change The World* (Nehru Centre), *Yard Gal* (Garage Theatre), *All MY Sons* (Bloomsbury), *Leaving Home* (Kings Head). As assistant director

projects include *A Girl In A Car With A Man* (Royal Court), *A Perfect Ganesh*, *Missing Marilyn* (Kings Head) and *Only You Can Save Mankind* (Pleasance).

### **YASMIN WHITTAKER KHAN** Writer (*Bells*)

Recent work includes: *Love Stomp, Pleasure and Pain, Lucy* (with Kadam Dance Co). Yasmin is developing a new play for Theatre Royal Stratford East about Asian women who've been incarcerated in the UK, and is also under commission to M6 Theatre Company. Film: *Lemon Juke Box* (a five minute short). This year she developed *Le Grand Jour*, a short film produced by Revolution Films for refugee week. TV: Yasmin co-presented, researched and scripted a series for Anglia TV (With Paul Ross). Radio: BBC Radio Asian Network's *Silver Street*.

### **JANET STEEL** Director (*Chaos*)

Artistic Director of Kali, with an MA in Theatre Practice, Janet began her career as an actress. **Theatre:** *Cinders, A Colder Climate* (Royal Court), *Blood Wedding* (Half Moon), *Romeo and Juliet* (Sherman Theatre & Albany Empire), *Oedipus Rex* (Tara Arts). **TV:** *An English Christmas, The Bride, Gems, The Refuge, Shalom Salaam*. Janet began directing as assistant to Tessa Schneideman at Loose Change Theatre, producing UK premiers at BAC by Spanish authors, where she directed her first full-length piece, *White Biting Dog*. **Directing:** *April in Paris, Breteviski Street, A Hard Rain, Top Girls* (Northampton Royal Theatre), *Exodus* (Millennium Mysteries at Coventry Belgrade), Brecht's *Antigone, The Mother, Orpheus Descending, An Ideal Husband, Romeo & Juliet, The Knockey, Serious Money* (Rose Bruford College). For Kali: *Sock 'em with Honey* and *Calcutta Kosher*. Last December Janet directed *Behzti* at Birmingham Rep.

### **MATTHEW WRIGHT** Designer

Matthew recently designed *Bezhti* at Birmingham Rep for Janet Steel. Other recent work includes: *Clouds* (No. 1 Tour), *US And Them* and *The Dead Eye Boy* (Hampstead Theatre), *The Green Man* (Bush Theatre & Plymouth Theatre Royal), *Larkin With Women* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Arcadia, Summer Lightning* (Northampton Theatre Royal), *Getting To The Foot Of The Mountain* (Birmingham Rep), *Charley's Aunt, Private Lives* (Exeter Northcott) and *Four Night In Knaresborough* (Stoke New Vic Theatre). He is also designing *On The Ceiling* by Nigel Planer (Birmingham Rep), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Stoke New Vic Theatre) and *One Under* by Winsome Pinnock (Tricycle Theatre).

