

Nottingham Asian Arts Council

Community & Culture, Isabella Street, Nottingham NG1 6AT

Tel: 0115-9158608 / 0115-9158613



Newsletter — July 2008

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Welcome to our "Summer" newsletter edition. Hope you've enjoyed what we've brought for you so far and thanks for supporting all our events. We have had some very positive feedback from our members who attended our events — Thank You — the best is yet to come! A quick recap...

Urjah — Nilima Devi Dance Company — an absolutely fantastic dance piece that took the audience on a colourful journey through India's classical dance heritage to the modern day fusion of contemporary influences. A great success.

It was also very welcoming to hear that so many of you loved "Black & White" - you said it brought back so many memories. We received numerous e-mails and phonecalls from people telling us how successful they thought it was...must admit, it was brilliant! The ageless music took us through that nostalgic lane, which we have left behind, and wish to re-live. SEWA International UK, the organizers are pleased to inform us that the events raised £4500.00 for the Burma Cyclone Appeal 2008 and the shows were an outstanding success in Nottingham, Leicester and Northampton. Similar events coming up soon...

News & Views:

- ♦ Welcome to Nottingham, **tuktuks**. Just to let you know that the tuktuk taxi service was launched on Saturday 21st June 2008. Nights out in Nottingham have just got better and more fun with the tuktuks — makes you feel at home...
- ♦ **YOGA** Classes — Pearson Centre, 2 Nuart Road (Off Wollaton Road, Behind Commercial Inn), Beeston NG9 2NH with Dr Paul Saini & other professional volunteers. Yoga Classes for Slimming, Relaxation, Healthy Living, Body Detox, Healthy Aging, Disease Prevention & Yoga Therapy - Every Wednesday from 6-7pm. For more information please contact: Pearson Centre on 0115 9254112 (Office Hours) or Mob:0790 888 4990.
- ♦ **"THANK-YOU PARTY"** - To recognise the very hard work undertaken by our volunteers, and the immense dedication and talent of our local young people and artists, we will be organising a Thank you party. This will be held on **Friday 19th September 2008** at the prestigious new ICCA building. Please note, that admittance to this party will be by invite only, and our regular volunteers, young people and artists should look out for their invites that will be posted out very soon.
- ♦ You may be aware that this Autumn is a very important year for Sikhs, we will be commemorating 300 years since the Guru Granth Sahib was installed as the Guru of the Sikhs. **Gurgaddi** day this year commemorates 300 years since the Adi Granth was proclaimed as Eternal Guru by Guru Gobind Singh Ji, just prior to his death in 1708. Therefore the Adi Granth became the Guru Granth Sahib and there were to be no more human Gurus. Major celebrations are taking place all over the UK. Any suggestions as to how Nottingham wants to celebrate this very auspicious event? E-mail or write in your suggestions...



Forthcoming Events

- **One City One World—featuring Bombay Baja on Saturday 12th July @ 2pm, 3.30pm & 4.30pm.**
- **Chhau**
- **Nottingham Mela**

Now on to what we have in store for you...but before that...Have you ever wondered why someone believes you when you say there are four billion stars, but checks when you say the paint is wet?

Events Diary



'Only he, who was the most powerful warrior was fit to marry Sita...'

Mela brought to you by NAAC, NAE, NCC and the NDC. Thanks to our funders...

Life is a Mela...
When Life Gets Too Hard To Stand, Try Kneeling...!



"CHHAU DANCE" - Thursday 17th July 2008, 7.00 for 7.30pm:

We are delighted to bring to you this very unique Dance event to take place at **The Hindu Temple and Community Centre Hall**, 215 Carlton Road, Nottingham NG3 2FX. This is a rare and unique production of episodes from the **RAMAYANA**; musically and rhythmically re-enacted by the 11 Royal Rahri Chhau dancers from ORISSA and West Bengal now touring Europe with Nottingham chosen as one of its hosting venues! The Chhau dance indigenous to the eastern part of India, originated as a martial art and consists of vigorous movements and leaps. The word 'Chhau' comes from the Sanskrit root 'Chhaya' - meaning shade. Masks form an important feature of this dance, hence the name 'Chhau', which means Mask. Unlike any other Indian dances, Chhau dance is full of vitality and robustness using the entire body and entire being of the dancer is employed as a single unit, as his language — a body language extremely poetic and powerful. The legs form an effective means of communicating the expression, even though the face is covered by the mask it mysteriously expresses the feelings to be communicated. We are looking forward to your continuous support. For more details please see the enclosed leaflet. **Tickets: £10.00 and £5.00 (NAAC Members & Children)**

Nottingham Mela 2008 — 27th July 2008 **Old Market Square — 12.30 to 6.00pm**

Come and experience the best of Asian culture, history and entertainment at this years Nottingham Mela — in its new home — the Old Market Square. Mela, a Sanskrit word meaning 'gathering' is used in the Indian Subcontinent for all sizes of gathering be it religious, commercial, cultural or sports. Every summer thousands of people from different cultures come together to attend Melas throughout the UK. Melas provide a unique opportunity to celebrate all aspects of Asian history and cultural heritage and are a major showcase for everything from music – classical to bhangra - the best of Bollywood, fashion, food and culture.

Showcasing at this year's Mela are the internationally acclaimed **Pratap Pawar and Triveni Dance Company** with their special fusion of Indian Kathak and African dance. Also on the main stage will be chart topping Bhangra artist **JASSI SIDHU** who in the past four years, has established himself as one of, if not THE finest, home-grown Punjabi artists, both within Europe and the rest of the world. He's seen, by many, as a global phenomena. With one of the most instantaneously recognisable voices in Punjabi music today, Jassi Sidhu has made the almost impossible transition from former 'boy-band' member to an international star with remarkable ease. For the ghazal and **quawalli** fans we have the **Khan Brothers** from classical gharana and who have also given teaching to the famous Sabri Brothers, to entertain you.

A splendid line-up...

Mela Bazaar: A highlight of any Mela, the Nottingham Mela will have mouthwatering food stalls from the Asian sub continent as well as commercial stalls offering anything from traditional and contemporary clothing, jewellery and accessories, to henna and crafts.

For the health conscious there will be health checks on offer... **This year's Nottingham Mela is bursting with entertainment - and it's all free.**





Nottingham Children's Festival: Telling Tales 1-17 August 2008

Hindi & Urdu Story Telling and Performances by Manushi

A brand new event for 2008 that will entertain and delight children aged 0-12. A feast of activities, workshops, films and performances will take place at venues throughout Nottingham over the first two weeks of August. Look out for Hobgoblins, dragons, pirates, fairies and heroes as the festival's theme is 'Telling Tales'. Most of the festival events are FREE so bring your children along for a summer that's full of fun! From Tibetan puppets in Victoria Centre to Caribbean pirates at Wollaton Park, the Festival aims to capture children's imagination and create a magical world in one city through the age-old tradition of storytelling. Highlights of the festival include three days of artistic activities in the Arts Zone at Riverside Festival (1-3 August) where activities include mask-making, dragon sculpture, Batik, glass painting and traditional arts from Africa and the Caribbean, a free Play Day at Harvey Hadden Sports Complex on 7 August, and a Global Picnic at Wollaton Hall on 17 August. In addition to this, libraries, museums and other cultural venues will be offering a wide range of myth and legend-themed events based around storytelling and performances, arts and craft workshops and puppet making. Look for our festival activities at your local Park Life event.



Nottingham Riverside Festival @ The Victoria Embankment

Friday 1 August: 6.30pm - 10.30pm, Saturday 2 August: 12pm - 11pm and

Sunday 3 August: 12pm - 6pm: Come and join us for one of Nottingham's largest family events on the beautiful banks of the River Trent. Enter the festival through the bustling street fair and be greeted by a vibrant mix of live music, crafts and food from around the world, with performances by artists including **Achanak (performing on Saturday @ 7pm),**

the Laye Sow Band (Senegal), Grupo Fantasma (USA) and Transglobal Underground (UK). This year's Riverside Festival is extra special as it marks the beginning of Nottingham's first ever Children's Festival with artistic activities suitable for children and young people, with opportunities for Mum and Dad to help out too! Music and dancing workshops are on the menu with drumming and percussion sessions for young people and free dance classes for all - try your hand (and your hips!) at Salsa and belly dancing as well as styles from across the globe in the African / Caribbean tent. Also look out for a host of comical characters to entertain you at the street theatre stages. Finally we've still got room for old favourites including Old Tyme Gallopers and Organs, Traction and Steam Engines and Sunday's Rotary Charity duck race, as well as a breath - taking firework display on Saturday night. We look forward to seeing you there!

Gitanjali Multilingual Literary Circle Annual International Kavi Sammelan will take place on **Sunday 24th August 2008 at 3pm- 6pm at the Hindu Temple.** Light Refreshments will be available after the recital. Please call 07866457622, 07713323535 or 01159204406 for more information.

KALA CHETHENA KATHAKALI COMPANY - Saturday 11 October, 8pm @ Djanogly Theatre Tickets: £15 & £12 CONCESSION

Kathakali is a 500 year old dance/drama from Kerala, South India which features exceptionally skilled actors, musicians, spectacular costumes, dramatic make-up and amazing sets.



Party— 16th October 2008, 8.00pm @ The Lakeside Arts Centre

NEEV, theatre group from Calcutta is proud to present a multilingual play social satire, PARTY, an English play, interspersed with Hindi & Bengali. Directed by Udita Chakraborty, PARTY mirrors the hypocrisies of the cultural and intellectual glitterati. The play centres around the state-sponsored genocide in a remote village of Orissa in eastern India. Party is based on contemporary Indian history with a universal appeal.

PARTY is about the so-called elite, power play, one-up-manship, sex and nepotism. It explores our society, where some people have shunned all comforts of life for social cause, juxtaposed against those who can't break free from their self-created shackles and snobbery. The play is designed to appeal to a universal audience despite being an Indian story.

The production is not a pure narrative, it has woven into it different Indian art forms- live recitation of contemporary Indian poets and Hindustani classical music - sarod, thumri and ghazal.



NAAC

**Community & Culture
Isabella Street
Nottingham
NG1 6AT**

Phone: 0115-9158608 / 9158613

Fax: 0115-9158619

E-mail: bhavesh.jani@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

nina.virdi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

WHAT'S ON / ACHIEVEMENTS

Also Watch Out For...

- ◆ **Husband On Hire**—Gujarati Comedy Drama on **Sunday 13th July '08, 6.30pm** @ The Peepul Centre, Orchardson Avenue, Leicester LE4 6DP. Call Vasant Bhakta on 0116 251 2331 or 07860 280655 for more details.
- ◆ **Raj Kapoor, A Night to Remember** on **Friday 25th July '08, 8.00pm** @ The Jungle Club — Leicester, Checketts Road, Leicester LE4 5ER. For more information call Vasant Bhakta on the number above.
- ◆ **Diwali Shopping Festival, Saturday 25th October '08 & Sunday 26th October '08** @ Ramgarhia Community Centre, Leicester. Call Mr Vasant Bhakta or e-mail info@lifestyleasia.co.uk. Log onto www.lifestyleasia.co.uk

◆ **Swami Ramdev:** The worlds leading exponent of Pranayam Yoga comes to **Nottingham on Saturday 9th August 2008 @ Harvey Hadden Sports Complex**, Wigman Road, Bilborough, Nottingham from 4.30pm to 8.00pm. Inspired by Swami Ramdev's belief that 'good health is humanity's birth right', the visit has been organised with the support of UK-based charity Patanjali Yog Peeth (UK) Trust with the sole aim of promoting yoga and good health in the UK. Swami Ramdev is probably the most well known person in India, admired and followed by people from all walks of life, from politicians and Bollywood celebrities, to housewives and rickshaw drivers. The impact of his teachings are evident across India, where you can often find men rubbing their nails in hopes that it will prevent them going bald and elderly people trying to improve their memories by breathing through alternate nostrils. Experience his teachings, and to start learning the intricacies of Pranayam Yoga, come and join us Make NOTINGHAM Healthy: **For further information and details please contact Darshanlal L Sohal : 07803 149781**

Congratulations to Kala Niketan Hindi School : Kala Niketan Hindi School has been recognised once again for its services to teaching Hindi and Ankith Kamath, a student at the Temple is one of five children in the UK who has won the Hindi competition. Seven other children from Russia, Hungary, Romania, Croatia and five from UK will be leaving for India on 10th August for two weeks, visiting Bombay, Delhi, Jaipur & Agra. The trip is arranged by Hindi Samiti UK London, Kruti UK Birmingham and High Commission of India London. The children will be looked after by "Akashram" and also by the Govt. of India.

NAAC Congratulates Culture East Midlands Chief, Sukhy Johal, On Receiving Queen's Honour — MBE



Sukhy Johal, the Executive Director of Culture East Midlands (CEM) received an MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours list, for 'outstanding services to the arts and culture'. At a ceremony in London, Johal met the Queen to receive the prestigious Member of the British Empire accolade. The investiture, as the official ceremony is known, took place at Buckingham Palace on 19/02/08. Sukhy, 35, has been involved in cultural and community projects for over 20 years and was part of the team that established, developed and lead the first UK Mela in Nottingham in 1988. He helped set up and was Chair of the National Association of Melas in the late 1990s and was instrumental in supporting other cities in developing their Melas - now regular fixtures in the UK calendar. Sukhy has also been key to securing £6 million funding to create The New Art Exchange in Nottingham, the UK's largest gallery outside London dedicated to Multicultural artists. As well as his role for CEM, he is a Board member of East Midlands Tourism, Cultivate, Company Director of Black Environment Network, Chair of Apna Arts and Vice Chair of the NAE. **Commenting on his award, Sukhy said:** "I am absolutely thrilled to have been recognised in this year's Queen's New Year's Honour List. I have always believed that culture has the ability to transform people's lives - and having been raised in the East Midlands, getting behind key creative projects in the region and heading up CEM, has seemed like a natural fit. "The work I am involved in through CEM and on a voluntary basis is all about unlocking the full potential of the East Midlands' cultural and creative life for the benefit of everyone. It is an absolute honour to be recognised for work that I see as a vocation rather than simply as a profession".

.....Well Done Sukhy.....

Finally, till next time have some fun, enjoy, smile and cherish all the things you have... And Also... Remember to Renew your NAAC membership.

