



BRITISH ASIAN THEATRE COMPANY
presents

**A MAN
I NEVER
KNEW**



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 वोह अजनबी
 वोह अजनबी
 दूह अननबी
 ओह आजनबी
 AUTOE EINAI EENDOZ
 WOH AJNABI
 BİLİNMIYEN KiŞİ

Directed by RAJ PATEL

Originally devised by BELGRADE T.I.E.

GLC funded
Greater London Arts Association
Working for London
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**A MAN
I NEVER KNEW**

WO AJNABI

Directed by RAJ PATEL

A MAN I NEVER KNEW

In the early hours of the morning a house is attacked. The neighbours stand watching, trying to figure the motive. The owner of the house, Mohammed Sidat, reports the incident to the police and is convinced by his workmate, Stan, that it was the right decision.

Salim, his son is disturbed as his classmates Craig, Bev and Di pester him to find out more about the incident. He decides to take some action and goes to the police to enquire.

Mohammed hears of this and is enraged. An argument follows between the father and son.

In a history lesson Salim challenges his teacher about the civilization in India. She is unable to answer him and asks the class to write an essay on the topic and seeks support from the Head.

All this results in a rift between Salim and his friends as more attacks happen around them. Mohammed and Stan too find it difficult to cope with life at work.

A Man I Never Knew, a TIE piece for adults, started touring in autumn last year around community and theatre venues. After receiving much critical acclaim the tour was extended into schools and colleges until the end of February 1985.

It's success in schools was overwhelming and it was made a part of the curriculum by some schools. Questionnaires were set up to increase pupils' awareness of racism and how to combat it.

In March this year the GLC offered further financial help to extend this show into Spring 1985.

The play seeks to create a starting point for understanding 'History'. What is it? Who makes it? What is the role of the individual in the process of change?

It also aims to develop an understanding of the historical and contemporary relationship between the Asian and white British races and show how an understanding of the past can enlighten and inform present day attitudes.

This is the International Year of Youth. The Youth of today is the Society of Tomorrow.

REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

"This passionate and highly political piece of theatre with it's excellent performances and staging should be seen ..."

City Limits

Rauf Adu,

"... moving and entertaining educational experience. Whatever you do miss, don't miss this production."

South London Press

Cedric Porter,

"The play, through excellent performances of bitter realism, humour and sensitivity, is not only highly enjoyable, but also a vital organ for increased understanding and learning of the black and ethnic minority community in Britain today."

Asian Times

Graham Murray,

"The play was powerful with excellent and forceful acting. The way in which each of the characters slipped skilfully into playing different parts was so natural that they never lost their credibility. **This production is a true example of integrated casting.**"

New Life

Sunita Rai,

"This is Theatre-In-Education of the highest quality, provocative, progressive, entertaining and gloriously funny"

Morning Star

Tom Vaughan,

"It made us think about racists and bullies. About a day afterwards our class had a discussion in the neighbourhood which is bad. We should see more plays like the one I've seen" ...

Mohinder Gill.

"Excellent, brilliant, magnificent, fine, splendid, fantastic, wonderful, amazing, theatrical, fabulous, marvellous, and not forgetting a realistic play" ...

Nimisha

"Your play showed that being a racist is no good in any way. That God put us on this planet to be one big family, after all everyone on this planet is a human being. No one's different in this world are they?" ...

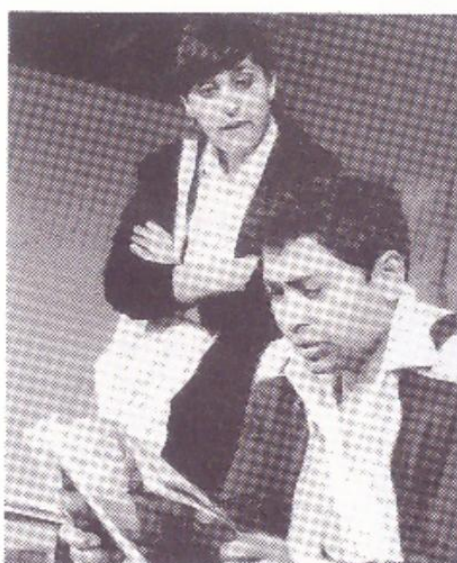
Satinder Patter

"Please could you carry on with your play because it tells you what is right and what is wrong. I like the play very much and I hope you will carry on" ...

Parmijit.

"Wonderful and so realistic play *A Man I Never Knew* or *Woh Ajnabi*. It was telling everyone that racist are out. Racism in this country, as we all know, it is so bad that that it seems it might never die and that won't do will it? ... It was so realistic it didn't look like a play, but it looked like everything was really happening" ...

Sandeep Sord.



"Write out a petition form and go around the houses and get people to sign against racism, and when they have collected about 200 votes against racism then take the petition to their local M.P. and ban racism" ...

Martine A. Patton.

"The performance was excellent and it was hugely enjoyed by the audience, and the audience's participation made it seem even more natural."

Francis Benjamin

"One of the best Asian groups you could hope to see ... 'A Man I Never Knew' is an excellent show."

Bea Culer, *Lantern Theatre*

"An Asian group successfully portray a wide variety of roles which spanned characters across racial and cultural boundaries."

Jasmine Hooper, *Walthamstow Youth Centre*

THE CAST OF A MAN I NEVER KNEW



MISLI ALAN

Misli obtained her theatre training in Canada where she spent three years in drama school. Her theatre credits include such plays as: *Plaza Suite*, *See How They Run*, and *The Young and Fair*. Has been involved with "The Refrigerator" group at the Oval House and recently completed a full length video film which was a Turkish adaptation of a Neil Simon comedy. Misli has also attended the British Asian Theatre workshops.



MALKIT BHARJ

Started attending workshops held by Star Productions about three years ago and since then has become very active in all aspects of the theatre in England. His credits include films like: *Octopussy* and *Indiana Jones*. TV. include *My Beautiful Launderette* and *Eastern Eye*. Theatre: *Ahmed The Wonderful Oriental Gentleman*, *Khalid Ki Khala*. He has recently attended sound courses at National Film and Television school. He also has technical stage management experience.



DHIRENDRA

A product of British Asian Theatre, started with the successful *Ahmed The Wonderful Oriental Gentleman*, worked since with Age Exchange Theatre in *A Place to Stay*. Starred in *Lotus and the Wind* for BBC Radio 4. Company member of Half Moon Young People's Theatre. Toured *Raj*, *Video Wicked* and currently touring *The Message*. Sound recordist/mixer and editor with Starr Productions of which a permanent member.



RAJ PATEL

Has acted, stage managed and directed professionally since completing a 3 year full-time course in acting and stage management. To mention a few of his credits: Television — *Bottles*, *Angles*, *Only Fools and Horses*, *Knife Edge*, *Mitch*, *Young Sherlock*. Films — *The Thief of Bagdad*, *Octopussy*, *Cricketer*. Theatre — *Reflections*, *The Sea*, *Mirza Ghalib in London*, *Ahmed The Wonderful Oriental Gentleman*, *Khalid Ki Khala*. Co-ordinated the drama week for CAA UK Festival of India. Founder of Star Productions, cine and video film makers, and a member of ACTT as a producer and hopes to produce a film concerning the British Asians called *Caught In A Tangled Web*. Was a devising member of this play at Belgrade.



ATIA SHAH

Since leaving Barking College of Technology joined Starr Productions to get involved in all aspects of video film making and became the first Asian cameraperson to be under ACTT union. As an actress has appeared in *Starryway*, *An Experience*, *Ahmed the Wonderful Oriental Gentleman*, with British Asian Theatre which led to plays like *Judas's Revenge*, *Billy the Kid*, *Raj*, *Why*, *Travelling Light*. Now a permanent member at Watford TIE. TV. includes: *Boxwalla*, *Mitch*, to name a few. Films include *Indian Jones*, *Good and Bad at Games* and *Cricketer*.

CAROL BEEN

Trained at the Guild School of Music and Drama. Has worked in a wide variety of theatre including TIE and community theatre all over the country, fringe theatre in London, pantomime in Harrogate and more. She has recently completed a short film entitled *The Undertakers*.



JAMES BENSON

Started with the National Youth Theatre. Was one of the founder members of "The Mayday Community Theatre". Has worked for several years in all aspects of theatre including community, repertory, TIE and has also worked extensively in television and film.



JULIE NANHOO

Trained at LSA. Films include *Dangerous Davis*, Macdonalds commercial and *Cricketer*. Theatre credits include *Aajki Raat* and *Ahmed The Wonderful Oriental Gentleman*. Attended TV. technology training at N.S.T.C.P.



ROBERT WEST

Trained at Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama. Has worked since with companies including: Age Exchange, Threater, Free Form Arts Trust and Royal Court Theatre as well as appearing in the one man show *A Clowns Workshop*, around the country. Was a co-founder of Experience Young People's Theatre and has been an actor and director with them for five years. TV. credits include: *Ages Apart* and *Hopping* for Independent television and *Tripods* for BBC television.



TARIQ ALIBAI

Tariq trained at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts. Joined the Northumberland Theatre Company in a musical comedy *Fair Slaves*, worked with BBC Radio 4: Productions include *Bhowani Junction*, *The Great Feast*, *Pictures in Your Mind*. TV. and Film productions include *The Golden Oldie Picture (Nights in White Satin)*. The Film, *The Electric City*. Most recent is the video film *Clashpoint* for Westminster Productions.



THE BRITISH ASIAN THEATRE COMPANY

The British Asian Theatre Company evolved in 1982 out of Star Productions video workshops. Thus was born a form of theatre which was a blend between video technology and live theatre, which resulted in *Ahmed The Wonderful Oriental Gentleman*, which was critically acclaimed by newspapers throughout the country.

This use of multi-media on stage has since been adopted by various companies who have worked in close contact with us.

The British Asian Theatre company is the only professional theatre company based in the East End presenting an Asian perspective. We produce plays at repertory, fringe and small scale levels

So far we have produced three plays:

- 1) *An Experience*. Toured extensively in the East End.
- 2) *Ahmed The Wonderful Oriental Gentleman*. Toured around fringe venues throughout London and other parts of the country.
- 3) *A Man I Never Knew*. A Theatre-In-Education piece toured extensively in the whole country.

Britain Asian Theatre is committed to the development of new blend of culture existing in Britain today.

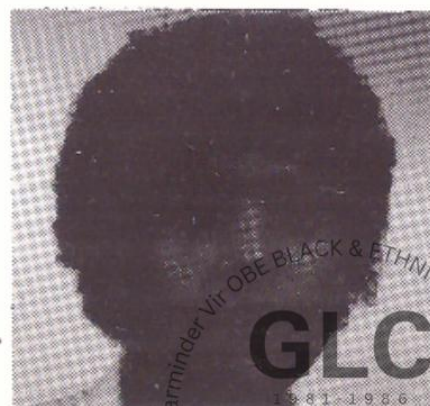
By producing plays about social issues facing British Asians, we aim to bridge the gap between East and West and help resolve universal problems of younger and older generation.



Director: Raj Patel Set Design: Mark Salkild
Stage Manager: Malkit Bharj
Sound/Lighting: Hemant Kumar
Poster Design: Sultan Farooqui Costumes: Dhirendra
Administration: Atia Shah and Carol Been

Hemant Kumar

Started with Star Productions and British Asian Theatre.
Has worked as a Stage Manager and Lighting Technician.



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HELP

The prime area in which you can help us is to get yourselves and other people to see our work.

We need more letters of sponsorship for our work to be sent to funding bodies, like the GLC, Arts Council addressed to us.

Contributions of any form are welcome and will be acknowledged.

Members of BAT — Past and Present.

M. Alan, J. Arke, R. Asif, C. Been, J. Benson, M. Bharj, D. Bhagri, Z. Bib, G. Brown, M. Digpal, Dharendra, E. Drywood, S. Farooqui, J. Hart, T. Hosh, R. Hussain, H. Kumar, R. Karapiet, H. Mann, M. Miyanger, S. Manzoor, J. Nanhoo, H. Patel, R. Patel, S. Patel, A. Paul, N. Oraich, S. Rani, A. Shah, S. Shah, A. Sharma, T. Singh, S. Vedak.

If you are interested in joining the British Asian Theatre Company as an Associate Member, please send your name, address and membership fee to: BAT, 61 Thistlewaite Road, Clapton, London E5 0QG.

BAT also holds regular workshops. If you are interested in getting involved in or in taking workshops please write to us, sending your name, contact, area of speciality and skills.

A Directory of Artists is currently under production. If you would like to be involved please fill in the bottom half and send it to us.

The membership fee is £2.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PROFESSION _____

PERSONAL DETAILS _____

DO YOU BELONG TO A UNION?
IF SO, PLEASE SPECIFY _____

AREAS OF WORK INTERESTED IN _____

WORK EXPERIENCE _____

AHMED THE WONDERFUL ORIENTAL GENTLEMAN

By **RAJ PATEL & DHIRENDRA**

Jagjit, a young Sikh boy, goes to seek advice from "Uncle" Ahmed regarding emigration. Ahmed tells Jagjit how he once emigrated from India, and how since coming to England he had learned to survive the changing times and maintain his identity. He dwells lovingly on memories of his "little kingdom" in India which are engraved in his heart forever.

Ahmed The Wonderful Oriental Gentleman deals with real life situations experienced by a majority of the Asian population in Britain today, in a way that has never before been depicted by any other theatre company nor other media.

The idea developed in 1982, out of workshops held by the group.

The play is a result of 3 months' research by the writers, cast and director.

The play in English also features various Asian languages. The richness of Asian culture is depicted through folk dances and festivals of India.

Directed by RAJ PATEL

REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

"British Asian Theatre are presenting, what is essentially a naturalistic theatre of social comment..."

Artrage.

"A delightful play. The best kind of comedy musical offered with style and laughter..."

Sunday Telegraph.

"An eye opening play about the arrival of first Asians in Britain and their uncertain position today..."

New Life.

"The play deals with issues faced by Asians in Britain in form of a comedy..."

Caravan.

Ahmed the Wonderful Oriental Gentleman



Living room scene in England



Dancers in India at a Holi festival

BRITISH ASIAN THEATRE COMPANY presents



AHMED :

THE WONDERFUL

ORIENTAL

GENTLEMAN

البسیلا احمد

अलबेलो अहमद

अलबेला अहमद

BY: RAS PATEL & DHIRENDRAS

DIRECTED BY: RAS PATEL



GLC
1981-1986

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