



British South Asian Theatres

A Documented History (with accompanying DVD)

edited by Graham Ley and Sarah Dadswell

DESCRIPTION:

The book includes a complimentary DVD providing an album of rare and previously unpublished items from private collections: historical documents, programmes, designs, photographs, and clips from recordings of rehearsals and productions.

British South Asian companies have formed one of the most significant features of theatre throughout the world in the last thirty years. Drawing on archive material and an extensive series of personal interviews, this exciting new book reverses the neglect of this vital element in the history of contemporary theatre - the vibrant presence of South Asians in theatre in Britain.

British South Asian Theatre provides a detailed picture of the activity of twelve remarkable theatre companies and one major arts centre, including Tara Arts, Tamasha, Kali, Rasa and Rifco, making use of a wide range of new interviews with the practitioners involved and extensive research in the archives of those companies, it also contains a survey of British based South Asian language theatres by Chandrika Patel.

This is a major contribution to the understanding of diasporic arts through one of the most impressive movements of its kind in the world.>

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Introduction

1. British Asian Theatre: the Long Road to Now, and the Barriers in-between, Naseem Khan

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2. Images on Stage: A Historical Survey of South Asians in British Theatre before 1975, Colin Chambers
3. Two Worlds?: Asian Theatre and Alternative Theatre in Tower Hamlets in the 1980s, Susan Croft
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Bibliography</p>

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CONTRIBUTORS BIOGRAPHIES:

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Graham Ley is professor of Drama and Theory at the University of Exeter and leader for the AHRC project. His work has ranged from antiquity to the present day. He has been a joint editor of the Performance Studies series from its inception; he is also a joint editor of the series Performance Practises for Palgrave.

Dr Sarah Dadswell is the full-time Research Fellow for the AHRC project; she is a cultural historian, with expertise in the twentieth century, notably in Russian and Soviet avant-garde theatre. Dadswell is also joint editor of 'Victory over the Sun' for Artist BookWorks, with Rosamund Bartlett.

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Graham Ley is Professor Emeritus of Drama and Theory at the University of Exeter.

He has taught drama in the Universities of London and Auckland as well as Exeter, and has directed and translated for the theatre. He was dramaturg to John Barton in *Tantalus* directed by Peter Hall (Denver USA, 2000, UK, 2001).

His particular interests lie in comparative performance theory, dramaturgy, performance in the ancient Greek theatre, and British Asian theatre. He held a Leverhulme Fellowship in 2000-2001, and was the award-holder for an AHRC-funded research project on the history of British Asian Theatre, active from October 2004 to March 2009.

In July 2010 he was invited to give a keynote on British Asian Theatre at the conference *Theater und Migration* at the Comedia Theatre in Cologne. In January 2013 he was invited to contribute to one of a series of causeries at the Witte de With Centre for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam, as part of the activity surrounding the preparation of Alexandre Singh's work, *The Humans*. In September 2014 he was asked to compile the timeline on the history of British Asian theatre production in London for the programme of the London revival of *East Is East*, at the Trafalgar Studios which opened in October.

His books include *A Short Introduction to the Ancient Greek Theater* (2nd edition, 2006) and *The Theatricality of Greek Tragedy* (2007). In 2014 he published *Ancient Greek and Contemporary Performance: Collected Essays* and *Acting Greek Tragedy*, a workshop-approach with an associated website at [a](#)



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