



art asia

Annual Review
April '08 - March '09

Introduction by the Chair

Art Asia exists to communicate the rich and exciting experience of South Asian arts to the widest possible audience. Its work aspires to be entertaining, surprising and to celebrate the belief that the arts of South Asia are universal in their appeal. This annual review is an overview of some of the excellent achievements and ongoing work of Art Asia.

Once again the major event this year was the Mela, attracting more than 23,000 people. There was over 13 hours of live performances by renowned local, national and international artists, creating a rich accessible artistic experience for all.

Our education work has continued to expand. Due to an increased demand, the number of dance classes in Southampton increased. Our students took part in workshops and performances at the South Asian Youth Dance Platform hosted by Hampshire Dance in Slough.

We co-commissioned leading British Indian dance company Angika's innovative new piece Cypher. Art Asia was very proud to co-host the premiere at the New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth and support the production's UK tour.

Art Asia invited Tabla maestro Sanju Sahai to guest programme a series of concerts at the Turner Sims Concert Hall. The first of these concerts took place March 2009. With Art Asia's support Sanju was able to explore his musical vision and bring together an usual and inspiring combination of musicians.

Vinod Desai and Peter Beadell, director of Panjazz International, went to Kolkata in December 2008 to make connections and develop an Indian branch of the project. Vinod Desai also visited Chayanaut, a well established arts and cultural organisation in Bangladesh to explore future initiatives.

July 2008, Art Asia launched its new website www.artasia.org.uk. We invested in a Content Management System, greatly improving our levels of engagement with audiences.

Work has been ongoing with the Arts Partners on the lottery project to develop and move to new premises in the City Centre. Completion is now expected to be in 2014.

All this exciting work would not have been possible without the dedication of the staff, volunteers and the Board of Art Asia and the continued support of Arts Council, England and Southampton City Council.

Dahlia Jamil, Chair of the Board



Statistics

- 11 Events
- 25,162 Audience (including Southampton Mela Festival)
- 29 Workshops and demonstrations
- 1,137 Participants (excluding Southampton Mela Festival)
- 9 weekly dance and music classes in Southampton and Portsmouth
- 86 Classes attendees

Art Asia's Artistic Statement

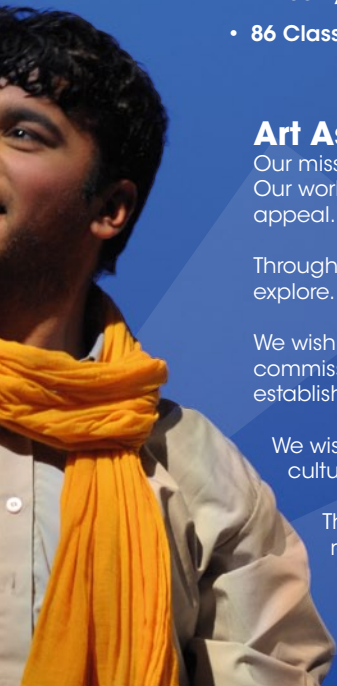
Our mission is to communicate the rich and exciting experience of South Asian Arts to the widest possible audience. Our work aspires to be entertaining, surprising and to celebrate our belief that the Arts of South Asia are universal in their appeal.

Throughout our history we have risen to many challenges, and as a thriving organisation we continue to learn and explore.

We wish to develop the traditional, contemporary and experimental practice of artists in the UK and abroad by commissioning and showcasing the best, the unexpected and the unknown. We will create the spaces in which established and emerging artists may test themselves and their art and pursue new ideas and new partnerships.

We wish to create a supportive environment for participants in which transformational experiences and exciting inter-cultural exchanges can take place.

Through our links with arts organisations, venues and other creative professionals we will challenge assumptions, raise awareness and prepare the platform on which our artists can bring their work to diverse audiences.



Southampton Mela Festival

"Our mission is to communicate the rich and exciting experience of South Asian Arts to the widest possible audience. Our work aspires to be entertaining, surprising and to celebrate our belief that the Arts of South Asia are universal in their appeal"



The Southampton Mela Festival 2008 saw record breaking numbers, with 23,000 people filling Hoglands Park.

Over 13 hours of live performances from renowned artists and companies including FIPA, Angika Dance Company and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

8 ½ hours of workshops and demonstration including make and take workshops and dance demonstrations in Bollywood, Bharata Natyam and Odissi.

2008 welcomed two new guest zones; the K2 Festival Youth Zone and a Health Zone hosted by Southampton City Primary Care trust and Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust. Both were very successful at drawing new audiences to the Mela.

Organisational Development

"Throughout our history we have risen to many challenges, and as a thriving organisation we continue to learn and explore"

Exploring national and international opportunities Chief Executive, Vinod Desai MBE travelled to South Africa & India as part of Art Asia's commitment to the International Panjazz Project. Vinod also made several new connections whilst at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Lucy Jenner, a visual artist, joined Art Asia as the new Education Development Officer. Lucy has worked extensively with local schools and her art is inspired by her travels through South Asia.

Art Asia launched its new website www.artasia.org.uk. We invested in a Content Management System, greatly improving our levels of engagement with audiences. The site has proved very popular and has received lots of positive feedback. In the 10 months since its launch there were 5,396 visitors.



Events

Cypher

Angika

New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth

Art Asia co-commissioned leading British Indian dance company Angika's innovative new piece Cypher. The full length piece explores the multi-layered relationship between Bharata Natyam, mathematics and geometry. Sections were supported only by the dancers voices and different sounds created by the foot.

"Angika's 'Cypher' is absolutely cutting edge South Asian contemporary dance".

Kali Dass - audience member and Artist in Residence at Kadam

"We wish to develop the traditional, contemporary and experimental practice of artists in the UK and abroad by commissioning and showcasing the best, the unexpected and the unknown"





Bollywood Nite

Art Asia

Nuffield Theatre, Southampton

The sell-out show was a vivacious mix of live Bollywood music and dance by leading UK singers, dancers and musicians.

"Really enjoyed the show, it was lively and vibrant and I'm inspired"

Audience member

Free Booze & Til Death Do Us Part

Hathi productions

Newtown Youth Club

A new partnership between Art Asia, Hathi Productions and Newtown Youth Club. Actors Vinay Trivedi and Rakhee Thakarar performed Free Booze, supported with two workshops aimed at young inner-city people exploring the issues of binge-drinking. In the evening the cast did a public performance of Til Death Do Us Part - an Asian twist on the Alf Garnett character.

Golmaal

Art Asia & Asian Cultural Society, Southampton University

Southampton University

This annual event encouraged students and local up and coming performers to showcase their talent. The evening included fashion shows, original comedy sketches, bands and dance performances.

Events

"We will create the spaces in which established and emerging artists may test themselves and their art and pursue new ideas and new partnerships"

Indian Classical Recital

Art Asia

Tour - New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth; West Wing, Slough and The Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton

International artists Rajeeb Chakraborty (sarod) and Reena Shrivastav (sitar) teamed up with tabla maestro Sanju Sahai for a captivating and atmospheric Indian classical concert. For the second half of the Turner Sims' performance the artists were joined by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Quintet, fusing Indian & Western classic instruments and performing in a variety of musical genres. The BSO returned for another joint performance at the Southampton Mela Festival.



'Musicians have been exchanging knowledge across national boundaries for as long as there has been contact between cultures. GLOBAL RHYTHMS come about through my experiences and travel as a musician. In programming the series I have been fortunate enough to bring together a wonderfully talented group of individuals for three exciting and special concerts. I am most grateful to Art Asia and the Turner Sims for enabling me to bring this series together'

Sanju Sahai

Global Rhythms

Art Asia

Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton

Art Asia invited Sanju Sahai to guest programme a series of concerts. Inspired by his life in music and travels, Global Rhythms explores the universal language of music. In a trio of concerts, nine International musicians from different disciplines and styles collaborated. The first concert Raga Jazz had percussionist Pete Lockett, electric guitarist Amit Chatterjee and Sanju Sahai.



Participation

"We wish to create a supportive environment for participants in which transformational experiences and exciting inter-cultural exchanges can take place"

Visual Arts Workshops

Participants designed their own T Shirts using Mehndi designs, embellishing them with embroidery and beading.

A bright Art Asia themed mural now inspires users of the Art Asia Activity Centre thanks to the participants of the February half term 2009 workshop.

A Ceramics Artist worked with a group of local women to create Treasure Boxes, using South Asian culture and architecture as inspiration.



Master Class

Rajeeb Chakraborty inspired Art Asia tutors and tabla students in his Ragas & Talas (musical scales and rhythms) master class.

Fusion Youth Orchestra

Building on the success from the 2007 project, 85 students from Bitterne Park Secondary School and Bevois Town Primary School returned to the Mela. The students worked for over 12 weeks with professional musicians on a specially-composed piece by Dr Rajeeb Chakraborty. Mount Pleasant Junior School added vibrancy and glamour to the ensemble with a dance performance and fashion show.



Participation

"We wish to create a supportive environment for participants in which transformational experiences and exciting inter-cultural exchanges can take place"



Music and Dance Classes

Art Asia and Southampton Music Services co-hosted free Bollywood and Folk singing workshops to test the demand for regular Saturday morning singing classes.

Art Asia added four new classes to its growing education programme; Bharata Natyam Dance based in Portsmouth, a Children's Beginners Bharata Natyam, an Adult's Beginners Bharata Natyam and Beginner's Kathak Dance.

South Asian Dance Platform

Bharata Natyam and Bollywood students took part in workshops and performances at the South Asian Youth Dance Platform hosted by Hampshire Dance in Slough. This event was to help further Hampshire Dance's knowledge of the current providers of South Asian Dance in the South with the long-term aim of setting up a new South Asian Youth Dance Group.



International Women's Evening

International Women's Evening is a popular annual event providing a evening of performances, workshops and craft activities aimed at hard-to-reach women in the heart of Southampton's Asian community.



Activity Centre

Art Asia's Activity Centre has had a face lift improving the space for all its many users, including new storage and artwork by the board of directors!

Events

"Through our links with arts organisations, venues and other creative professionals we will challenge assumptions, raise awareness and prepare the platform on which our artists can bring their work to diverse audiences"

Tasher Desh

FIPA

Nuffield Theatre, Southampton

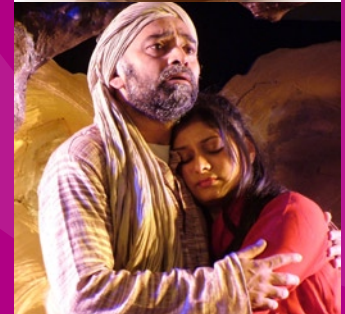
Tasher Desh was one of Tagore's most famous dance operas, a unique genre he developed that was influenced by Western opera. It was inspired by Alice in Wonderland and is a satire on the rigidity of the class systems of the British Raj and India.

Zameen

Kali Theatre

Nuffield Theatre, Southampton

This beautifully written and moving new play told of the disastrous environmental damage and the devastating effect on real human lives triggered when the forces of nature, tradition and globalisation collide.



Shades of Brown

Rasa

The Point, Eastleigh

A comic, bold and profound one-woman show from Rani Moorthy. From a South African albino to a skin-bleaching Indian bride, Rani with her celebrated mix of warm and powerful story telling, transforms into funny and poignant characters who share an ironic kinship through the one thing they cannot hide or hide from - their skin.

Push 4 Culture

Art Asia students performed at the PUSH 4 Culture/Find your Talent launch in Portsmouth. Art Asia will be a key delivery partner for this exciting new education initiative which is being piloted in this region.

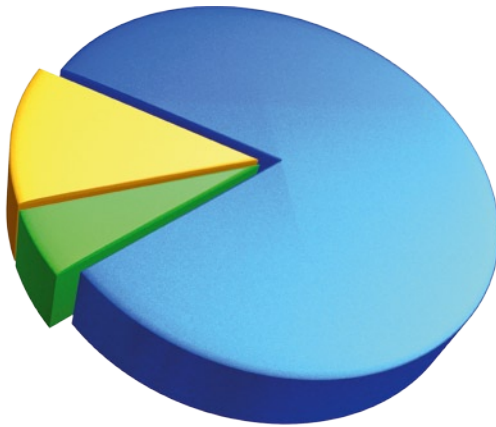
Cultural Olympiad

As part of the Cultural Olympiad launch weekend art Asia promoted Southampton celebrations, including film screening of 'Before Midnight' (archive footage of pre-partition India) and ran 'Bhangra Beats' workshops with Gurcharan Mall of the Dhol Blasters at Turner Sims Concert Hall.



Income and Expenditure 2008/09

Total Income £267,067



- Grants and donations 83%
- Fundraising and advertising 5%
- Earned income 12%

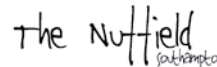
Total Expenditure £274,754



- Artistic Programming 43%
- Education Activities 16%
- Administration and overheads 30%
- Marketing and publicity 10%
- New building project 1%

Partnerships, Sponsors and Supporters

Partnerships



Southampton Mela Festival 2008 Sponsors & Supporters



Board of Directors

Dahlia Jamil (Chair)

Extensive experience in Community and Adult Education, currently works for Workers Educational Association (WEA) in Southampton. Former consultant to UNICEF on gender issues in Bangladesh.

Geeta Uppal (Vice Chair)

Is currently the Community and Adult Learning Co-ordinator at Southampton Solent University. Her role is to encourage under represented groups into higher education. This is carried out by working closely with schools, further education colleges and community groups.

Arvind Pandit, MBA, FCA (Treasurer)

Chartered Accountant with over twenty years' experience in business, as Finance & Operations Director for a PLC. Has also worked in public accountancy and advisory roles. Now works in Local Government Finance.

Forkanul Quader

Works with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as Nautical Policy Lead/Marine Surveyor at its Southampton Head Quarters. Over twenty years experience in senior roles at maritime sector. Long association with Rotary clubs and Lion International. He is a member of Regional Audience Council of BBC South and a member of Southampton Cultural Diversity Advisory Group to the Media.

Michelle Nand

Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, currently working for an international luxury brand as a Marketing and PR Executive. Has a long history of association with Art Asia.

Arzoo Iqbal

Bilingual Assistant for schools, ESOL and basic skills tutor at Southampton City College since 1990. Executive member of Alnissa (Muslim women's group), member of Urdu Women's Group and a member of IFL (Institute For Learning).

Jaya Gunatillaka

Chartered engineer for an international company. Formed the Hampshire Sri Lankan Cultural Society (HSCS) in 1997 and chaired it for two years. Enthusiasm for the promotion of culture.

Peter Knight

Over twenty years experience of working in Information Technology and Logistics. Member of the Council of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors. Broad spectrum of experience in the voluntary sector, both on the committee of the Southampton Federation of Resident's Association and in the scouting movement. Co-editor of Community Connecting Magazine.

Meena Vashisht

Works for Southampton City Council and has extensive experience and knowledge in Local Taxation and Health and Safety at work. Meena also works in Community Development for children and families and has passion for Indian music and art.

Staff and Tutors

Staff

Chief Executive	Vinod Desai MBE
Operations Manager	Helen Keall
Arts Administrator	Emma Price (to April 2008) Siobhan Balfour (from June 2008)
Education Development Officer	Hannah Cowburn (to August 2008) Lucy Jenner (from September 2008)
Marketing Officer	Lucy-Jane Attrill

Education tutors and artists

Vidya Thirunarayan (Bharata Natyam dance)
Iqbal Pathan (Tabla)
Mayuri Boonham (Bharata Natyam dance)
Sanju Sahai (Tabla)
Surjit Singh Hassanpuri (Tabla)
Rakhi Sood (Bollywood Dance)
Lucy McLoughlin (Visual Arts)
Theresa Darvil (Belly dance)
Anusha Kedhar (Bharata Natyam dance)
Tarun Jasani (Sarod)
Rahi Bains (Singing)
Pooja Angra (Singing)
Sue Riley (Visual Arts)
Vinay Trivedi (Acting)
Rakhee Thakrar (Acting)
Gurchanran Mall (Dhol)

Mela Co-ordinator Paul McKenna
Accountant Bob Anthony

Thank you to all volunteers for their time and support.

Art Asia Trust Ltd.

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