



art asia
25 YEARS 1981-2006

Annual Review

April 2006 – March 2007

Art Asia Trust Ltd
Suite 3
Fairways House
Mount Pleasant Road
Southampton
SO14 0QB

Tel: 023 8022 6212
Fax: 023 8022 0491
Email: admin@artasia.org.uk
Website: www.artasia.org.uk

Registered in England & Wales
Company Number: 2964315
Charity Number: 1070019
VAT Number: 717 6959 87

Mission Statement

To promote and develop high quality performance of South Asian arts, music and dance, enhanced by educational activities to provide a rich and satisfying experience for all.

Business Plan Objectives for 2006-2007

- Building loyalty and participation of a diverse group of users
- Developing a regional impact and national profile
- Raising awareness and understanding of South Asian arts
- Ongoing organisational development programme
- Raising funds to ensure we can carry out the above objectives
- Continuing work towards creating Southampton's New Arts Complex

Our activities include:

- Annual Southampton Mela Festival
- Concerts, dance and drama performances by local, national and international artists
- Education service offering workshops, demonstrations, tutoring and performances
- Music and dance classes
- Well-equipped, sound-proof music studio available for rehearsal or recording
- Free information and advice service



2006 was a very special year for Art Asia. It has completed 25 years of successful existence. To celebrate this

momentous occasion Art Asia organised workshops, performances and events throughout the year, engaging a diverse range of audience and encouraging everyone to explore and experience South Asian arts in various forms.

We were also awarded £17,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to look back at 25 years of Art Asia in the local community in Southampton. Working with City Eye, Mount Pleasant Media Workshop and the Oral History Unit of Southampton City Council, a documentary DVD and exhibition were produced and interviews were conducted to capture an aspect of the South Asian heritage in Southampton. In recognition of this historic milestone Southampton City Council marked the occasion with an award which was presented at the Mayor's Parlour.

At the same time, plans for Southampton's New Arts Complex were unanimously approved by the City Council and all partners are working closely to realise this exciting opportunity to make arts accessible to all.

We have continued with our education and outreach work and reached out to more than 3,900 participants across 28 schools in the southern region. The Thornden School Music Residency proved to be a huge success offering

opportunities for GCSE music students to work with world-class Asian musicians and to be inspired by Indian ragas played on Western instruments.

Whether it was to work with Creative Partnerships and the IWC Arts Unit Carnival Truck producing giant carnival decorations, creating traditional Pipli lanterns or producing textile banners, young people were encouraged to experiment and use their imagination to create original ideas while being inspired by traditional Asian arts and history.

Our concerts and performances organised jointly with our partners drew in audiences of more than 2,500 people across the region. Alpana Sengupta's work with local school children and community groups and the subsequent performance at the Nuffield Theatre exploring the four seasons through dance was an inspiring experience for all.

All this work would not have been possible without the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of all the staff of Art Asia, tutors, volunteers, and the Directors who played an important strategic role in the organisation.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our many partners and sponsors and in particular our two main funders, Arts Council England and Southampton City Council for their continual support in ensuring that Art Asia is a robust organisation delivering an exciting and stimulating arts programme for everyone to enjoy.

Dahlia Jamil Chair, Art Asia

Review of Activities

Over the past year we have promoted 13 high quality concerts and events attracting a total audience of around 2,600. The 4th Southampton Mela Festival was a huge success with around 20,000 people attending.

Music & Dance Events

Southampton Mela Festival



An action-packed day with live South Asian music, dance and activities. Featuring entertainment by professional national and international artists, with styles ranging from Bollywood, Bhangra, Qawwali, Indian Classical, Asian Fusion and World Music. Stalls featured henna, arts and crafts, ethnic clothing, accessories, information and a wide range of Asian cuisine.

RED – Sonia Sabri Dance Performance

The Point Dance and Arts Centre. A captivating new production by Sonia Sabri Company.



Indian Classical Music Concert with Purbayan Chatterjee

Turner Sims Concert Hall. An mesmerising sitar and tabla recital from Purbayan Chatterjee and Samir Chatterjee.



Bollywood Nite

The Nuffield Theatre.
A variety show with
Bollywood band
Saathiya, Rakhi Sood and
TMC dancers, and vocal
percussionist Nimesh
Jani.



Sangeet Yatra (A Musical Journey)

Turner Sims Concert Hall.
An unforgettable evening
with musicians Arun
Ghosh, Kiranpal Singh,
Steve Bingham, Jason
Carter, Sanju Sahai and
R N Prakash.



Celebrity Sitar Recital UK tour



Turner Sims Concert Hall, New Theatre Royal
Portsmouth, Wiltshire Music Centre, and South
Street Reading. Enchanting sitar and tabla recitals
with Gaurav Mazumdar and Sanju Sahai.

Saathiya (Friends) – Cultural Show



The Nuffield Theatre. A colourful showcase of
South Asian culture featuring music and dance
performances, drama sketches, and a fashion show.

Other Events

International Women's Day Event

Mount Pleasant Junior School. Workshops and performances in Bollywood, Kathak and Belly Dance, in partnership with the Workers Education Association (WEa).

Bhangra Boat Party

Ocean Village. A night with the hottest 'Desi Bhangra' and R'n'B tunes, presented by some of the UK's finest Urban/Fusion DJs.

Southampton Live

Southampton City Centre. Art Asia facilitated Asian music and dance performances and workshops at this free Street Festival of the Arts.



Drama and Comedy Events

Meri Christmas (My Christmas)

The Nuffield Theatre. A humorous, thought-provoking play by Rifco Arts.



Education

Art Asia constantly strives to ensure the provision of a stimulating Education and Outreach Service in Southampton and across the Southern Region, with long-standing artists maintaining high quality work. A wide sector of the community has been introduced to and experienced Asian rhythms and movements. New artists have also commenced work with Art Asia, including those in Bollywood Dance and Visual Arts.



- 24 school workshops in music and dance as part of schools' curriculum in arts.
- 3900 participants aged 5–18.
- Workshops linked to concerts with visiting artists including Purbayan Chatterjee and Gaurav Mazumdar.

Outreach

Musicians and dancers supplied to 11 outreach projects in local communities, including:

- Music and dance demonstrations and workshops at the Mela Festival 2006
- Music workshops and demonstrations with Purbayan Chatterjee at the Band Stand, Southampton City Centre.

- 3-day half-term Bollywood dance workshop at Bitterne Park School.
- Dance workshops and demonstrations by Kala Arts at the Deaf World Exhibition.



Art Asia Activities Centre



- Weekly Bharata Natyam dance, Bollywood dance and tabla classes, 56 students
 - 20 music studio and rehearsal space bookings
 - 6 performances by class attendees at events including the Mela Festival 2006, Southampton EAT Festival, and the Saathiya Cultural Show
 - Bollywood dance class featured on Meridian Tonight
- Bharata Natyam dance class took dance exams with the ISTD Examination Board

Thornden School Music Residency



- A successful week-long residency in partnership with Thornden School
- Over 600 pupils from primary and secondary schools attended Indian Classical Music concerts
- Fusion music workshops with tabla maestro Sanju Sahai and clarinetist/ composer Arun Ghosh
- Finalé concert with over 50 students performing alongside Sanju Sahai, Arun Ghosh, and santoor maestro Kiranpal Singh



Seasons of India



- Alpana Sengupta Dance Company ran workshops at 2 schools and in the community, culminating in a performance at the Nuffield Theatre.

Arts and Kids

- The Turner Sims Concert Hall was awarded a grant from the Prince's Trust scheme 'Arts and Kids'. The aim of the project was to give children an understanding of organising concerts and events. Art Asia ran workshops with 3 schools and the children also attended the Sangeet Yatra concert.

Creative Partnerships Mela Project



- A Creative Partnerships grant enabled Art Asia to work with St Mary's CE Primary School to deliver a series of Asian-themed visual arts workshops where pupils created site decorations for the Mela Festival 2006.



25th Anniversary

In 2006 Art Asia celebrated its 25th Anniversary, an important and exceptional milestone for a 'community' organisation to achieve.

To mark the anniversary we looked back at our action-packed history in the local community as part of a Heritage Lottery funded project.

Interviews and quotes

were gathered from a wide range of people in the community.

Q. Can you think of one main highlight of Art Asia's history?

A. "The many concerts where Art Asia has invited international and world-renowned artists to Southampton".

Geeta Uppal



Anuradha Paudwal performs at the Southampton Guildhall

A DVD was created from Art Asia's footage of concerts and events over the years.



City Eye research Art Asia's film archive.

An exhibition was produced from Art Asia's extensive collection of photographs.



1980s: Vinod Desai, Chief Executive teaching harmonium.



2001: Sanju Sahai (tabla) and Dharambir Singh (sitar) perform for the Prince of Wales at Osborne House, Isle of Wight.

Fun educational media workshops were run



Mount Pleasant Media Workshop at the Workers Educational Association (WEA)

Materials within the collection can be viewed on our website www.artasia.org.uk or by contacting the Art Asia office.

Photo credits: Parvenah Farid (L'Atelier Papillon), Judy Harrison

Project Partners



CITY EYE





Southampton's New Arts Complex

Art Asia is one of four arts organisations who will be moving into a spectacular new arts complex in the heart of the city in 2012. Along with City Eye, the John Hansard Gallery, and a new branch of The Nuffield Theatre, we will be offering a fantastic range of programmes and events catering for all ages and interests.

Southampton's New Arts Complex is funded by Southampton City Council and the National Lottery through Arts Council England.



City of Southampton Award

Art Asia was presented with an award from the Mayor of Southampton in recognition of its 25 year anniversary.

Partnerships

Turner Sims Concert Hall

regular music concerts



varied programme of drama events



varied programme of dance events

newtheatreroyal

Celebrity Sitar Recital



regular music concerts



regular music concerts



International Women's Day Event

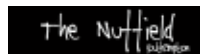


Southampton University Students Union Asian Cultural Society – joint promotion of the Saathiya Cultural Show and Bhangra Boat Party

Southampton's New Arts Complex building project (see page 11)



John Hansard Gallery



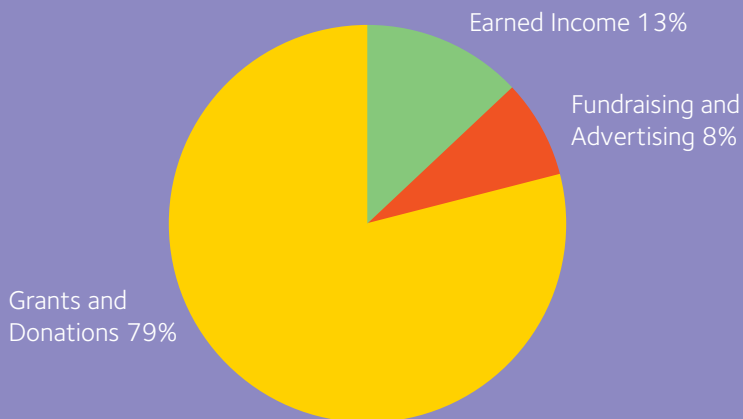
25th Anniversary Heritage Lottery Project, (see page 10)



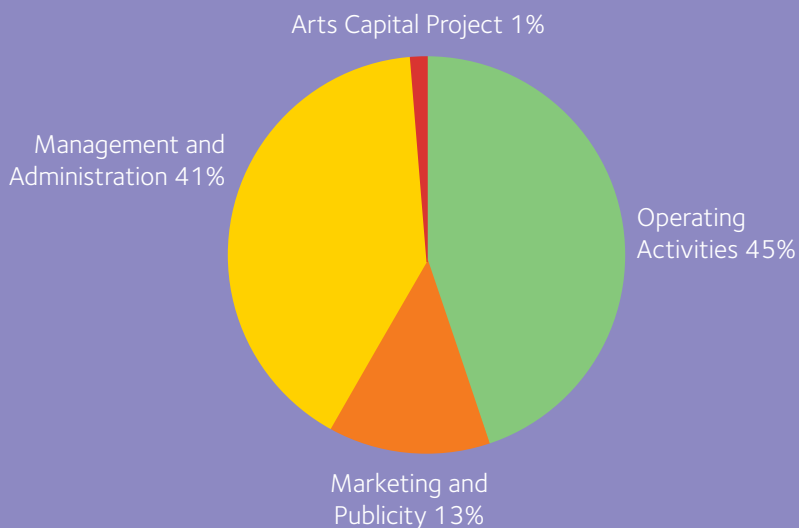
SOUTHAMPTON
CITY COUNCIL Oral
History Unit

Accounts

Total Income 2006/07 £234,404



Total Expenditure 2006/07 £242,851



Board of Directors as of September 2006

From left: Peter Knight, Forkanul Quader, Meena Vashisht, Jaya Gunatillaka, Geeta Uppal, Arvind Pandit, Arzoo Iqbal, Dahlia Jamil, Rajinder Singh. Michelle Nand not present.



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

Treasurer

Chartered Accountant with over twenty years' experience in business, most recently as Finance & Operations Director for a publisher and distributor. Now runs his own Accountancy and business advisory practice. A past Honorary Treasurer of Harrow Round Table.

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.

Arzoo Iqbal

Bilingual Assistant for schools, ESOL and basic skills tutor at Southampton City College and WEa. Executive member of Alnissa (Muslim women's group), member of Urdu Women's Group.

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. Has extensive experience and knowledge in Local Taxation and Health and Safety at work. Also works in Community Development for children and families. Has passion for Indian music and Art.

Michelle Nand

A graduate in Sociology with a long history of association with Art Asia. Works in PR/ Marketing.

Rajinder Singh

Works as a Mechanical and Electrical quantity surveyor for Faithful and Gould. Work involves financial management of projects, including feasibility studies, preparation of tender documents, post contracts cost control and final accounts. Enthusiasm for Indian classical music and dance.

Forkanul Quader

Works with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency as an Examiner of Master and Mates at MCA's Southampton Head Quarters. Long association with Rotary clubs and Lion International. One of the vice presidents of Southampton 'Cultural Diversity Advisory Group to the Media'.

Staff

Chief Executive Vinod Desai MBE

Operations Manager Helen Keall

Arts Administrator Emma Price

Education Development Officer Hannah Cowburn

Marketing Assistant Rehana Amin

Education – Tutors and Artists

Vidya Thirunarayan (Bharata Natyam dance)

Iqbal Pathan (Tabla)

Mayuri Boonham (Bharata Natyam dance)

Sanju Sahai (Tabla)

Surjit Singh Hasanpuri (Tabla)

Ranbir Kaur (Visual Arts)

Alpana Sengupta (Classical Indian Dance)

Rakhi Sood (Bollywood Dance)

Lakshmi Raju (Bollywood Dance)

Devina Kanani (Bollywood Dance)

Arun Ghosh (Thornden Residency)

Lucy Willemse (Visual Arts)

Isle of Wight Arts Unit Carnival Team (Visual Arts)

Surinder Sandhu (Bollywood Brass Band)

Purbayan Chatterjee (Sitar)

Samir Chatterjee (Tabla)

Kiranpal Singh (Santoor)

Gaurav Mazumdar (Sitar)

Sonia Sabri (Kathak dance)

Theresa Darvil (Belly dance)

Crishna (Katak dance)

Camilita (Katak dance)

Mela 2006 – Thanks to:



Southampton City College

Omi's Restaurant

Lifestyles

Saints Hospitality

Choice Support

Norris & Fisher

Thanks to Paul McKenna, Bob Anthony and Ann Wardle for giving their time and expertise throughout the year.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their time and support.

A large print version of this Review is available from Art Asia.