

Context Theatre presents

Sunay'ha (Invitation): *the launch*

...introducing the Sunay'ha Theatre Festival

To launch **Sunay'ha**, Context Theatre invite you to the screening of two films about Pakistani Theatre, followed by discussion to explore the context of making theatre in Pakistan, and launch the development process for the Sunay'ha Theatre festival, scheduled at Oxford House in Spring 2005. Supported by the Arts Council.

Date: 6 October

Venue: oh!art Oxford House, Derbyshire Road, Bethnal Green, E2 6HG – Bethnal Green tube 5 mins walk.

Documentary: British Premiere>

Laatoo (90 minutes, In English, 2002)

6 pm

Directed by Faizaan Peerzada and Alix Phillippon

**'Exposing the contradiction in society towards dance'
(The Daily Times)**

Laatoo explores the state of classical dance in Pakistan, unfolding the trials and tribulations in the lives of a handful of professional dancers, including Naheed Siddiqui, Sheema Kirmani, Tehreema Mitha, Indu Mitha and Fasihur Rehman. Laatoo explores the classical forms such as Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Orissy against the Mujras (commercialized dancers), fashion shows, dance parties and a host of political issues and religious perspectives, unveiling the hypocrisy of Pakistani society in which so many forms of dance prevail.

Director Faizaan Peerzada is the son of Pakistan's pioneering playwright Rafi Peer, and is now artistic director of the Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop. Peerzada is also a painter, lighting designer and puppeteer, for which he received the President's medal for Pride of Performance. *Laatoo* is his first documentary.

Launch event for the Sunay'ha festival

7.30 pm

The Sunay'ha Film Festival in October is a launching pad for the *Sunay'ha Theatre Festival* Spring 2005, which present dance performances, dramatised play readings by visiting Pakistani artists, with pieces workshopped in the UK with British theatre makers. The weekend's events will also include music, poetry, film screenings, discussions and debates about the theatrical medium in Pakistan- the art, the sociology and the politics. **Sarmad Sehbai will be present to discuss his theatre and film.**

Drama: World Premiere>

Fankar Gali (90 minutes, In Urdu with English Subtitles, 1990)

9 pm

Directed by Sarmad Sehbai

**'Scintillating cuts that fit into reality's fuzzy frame like windows of a passing train.'
(The Daily Nation)**

Fankar Gali is based upon an actual market in the cosmopolitan city of Karachi which comes to life at night when performance artists are picked up by clients. The film tells the story of Salome, a small time theatre actress and Sanwal, a stand up comedian who hide behind postures and fictitious worlds in their struggle for success. A dark portrayal of artists in the streets of Karachi, exposing the backstage of theatre culture in Pakistan.

Fankar Gali was banned from PTV, an edited version was first shown on NTM Pakistan and London TV Asia. Context Theatre presents the uncensored version for its first public screening.

Director Sarmad Sehbai is a poet, playwright and theatre and film director. Sehbai is known in Pakistan for his unorthodox approach to art and culture. His work has been published and performed in English, Punjabi and Urdu. Publications include four collections of poems and stage plays. Many of his highly visual productions have received national and international awards. Currently he is working on a novel in the English language.

For more information or press tickets

Email: sunayhapress@contexttheatre.co.uk

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