

CONTENTS

About PCS

Reach Out 2010

Past Event—WAQT

From Our Archive

Mahfil - A Network of Poets & Writers

Motherland

Faith and Global Peace Conference

SAMA 07

Upcoming Events

THE newsletter

Volume 1 · Issue 1 · July 2007

About US

The *Pakistan Cultural Society (PCS)* was founded in 1993 with the aim of providing an intercultural forum that would promote South Asian traditional and contemporary arts and cultures. The Society is supported by a strong board, made up of extremely committed, skilled and knowledgeable individuals who are the driving source for the organisation. The board is supported by highly professional staff members and volunteers.

Over the years, PCS has managed to bring together diverse audiences that has helped to break down the conventional boundaries and cultural barriers.

PCS offer platforms for cross – racial, cross cultural and cross social creative dialogues in the field of arts and education. It also promotes itself as an effective tool for positive social development and continues to

contribute to and provide initiatives by organising international partnerships and exchange programmes.

The Society has worked on a diverse range of activities with various mainstream organisations regionally, nationally and internationally to build up strong relationships aimed to develop and promote cultural awareness. PCS promotes South Asian arts by offering mixed programme of professional performances to the people of North East of England.

This has been achieved by delivering art workshops to Schools, Universities, and to the general public and with the ongoing outreach work, PCS intentions are to reach a wider community in the future.

"Our investment in the arts reap rich dividends of a promising culture."

Sajjad Shah, PCS Chairperson

Reach Out 2010

Rising Star project was initiated during 2006-07 as a pilot project under PCS educational programme with future aim of setting up long term educational programme in the name of "Reach Out 2010".

After the success of *Rising Star*, the Society decided to extend the course of this project until 2010 as part of its Educational Programme. An opportunity to engage young people to develop their artistic skills through innovative workshops and training sessions.

As part of this programme, PCS has successfully identified key areas of development through discussions, consultations with younger generation groups to encourage their interest and focus to participate in dramatics and literature aided projects.

Over the past one year, through substantial amount of interaction and development work that PCS has undertaken, it will help identify the information gaps that exists in understanding defined areas of arts development from British Asian perspective with emphasis on South Asian arts.



Other than its literature aspect, the programme will also focus on classical and contemporary music and dance workshops that could be designed to suit group participants need. For more participatory information on this project, kindly contact the PCS office directly.



She has also appeared as a choreographer and performer in most of the major venues in India and the UK.

Gauri's recent work includes:

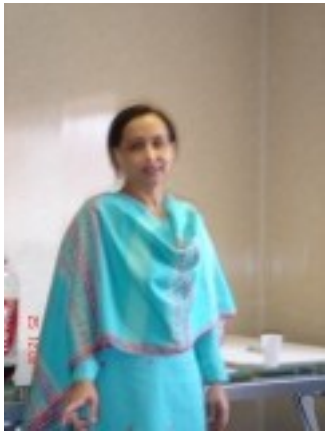
- Choreographing and developing Mahabharata
- Assisting to choreographing West End musical *Far Pavilions*.

On the 25th May PCS was honoured in presenting *Waqt* in association with Gem Arts at Dance City. With such prestigious performer performing there was a turn out of about 175 people who thoroughly enjoyed this dancer at what she is known best at.

Past Event: WAQT

Waqt is a new dance production choreographed and directed by Gauri Sharma Tripathi. One of the world's leading exponents of Kathak. Gauri has studied folk styles in India. She has incorporated other dance influences within her classic framework. She has appeared as choreographer and performer in Munich Biennale, Royal Festival Hall, Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace. Trained in the traditions of the Kathak dance Gauri has given her own joyous personality, creating a style of her own. Gauri has made various dance festivals performing in India, Europe, UK, and North America.

Sahelian ~ Well-being project



On the 25th April 2007 the Pakistan Cultural society officially launched its new project *Sahelian* (meaning Friends) dedicated to the well being of woman through informative awareness of health and artistic agendas.

The launch took place at the new PCS hall where exclusively large group of about 70 women turned out to join the inauguration event. The main purposes of the launch was to find out interests, ideas and aspirations and to bring together women from various different ethnic backgrounds and

enlighten them with information.

Sahelian project was officially flagged off with a warm hearted speech from Mrs. Shammi, Board member of PCS welcoming the women and giving an outline about PCS and its objectives for Sahelian and informing those who were not familiar with its purpose and programmes.

Dr. Bansal of Sangini – BME Women's Lead organisation-Sunderland shared their experiences on behalf of Sangini to give an overview about their successful journey during the past five years as a case study which could inspire this new group.

The project will promote awareness of women related health issues i.e., Diabetes, Arthritis and other specific women related illnesses by inviting distinguished medical professionals to give preventive measures and treatment advices for physical and mental wellbeing of women.



Apart from the medical awareness issues, the project will also organise activities like Yoga, Dance, Singing, Poetry, Cookery and even Dramatics, which should bring about more participation and expression of their individual specialities they would like to share and learn from others.



The project is themed to create a fusion of activities utilizing arts and health awareness with target end results beneficial to women in a package.

Anyone interested or need more information, can please contact the PCS office.



pictures



From the archive

Before It Happened

Before it happened,
I was safe,
I was innocent,
I was happy.

Eyes were sparkling,
Mouths turned up,
Hearts were open,
All were united.

Before it happened,
I was vibrant,
And excited,
Innocent, secure and welcome.

I have a collection
Of lots of scarves,
Colours of the rainbow,
The patterns are unique.

I was impatient for the day
When I could wear them,
And feel quite grown up like.
It was all before it happened.

Now after that building col-
lapsed...

We are accused,
Scarves misused,
People hurt,
Lives desert,
All are crying,
So many dying
Because it happened!

By Mariam Gitti

What a Change!

When she is my friend
She is cheery, friendly and
happy.
She will listen to whatever I
have to say,
She will follow me about
wherever I go.
I love her!

But when she is not my friend,
She has a nasty, sarcastic look
on her face.
She has a vicious attitude.
Ignore me completely.
She is sly and vindictive,
I know when she whispers;
it's all about me.
I hate her!

By Sophy Javed

Mahfil

a network of poets and writers

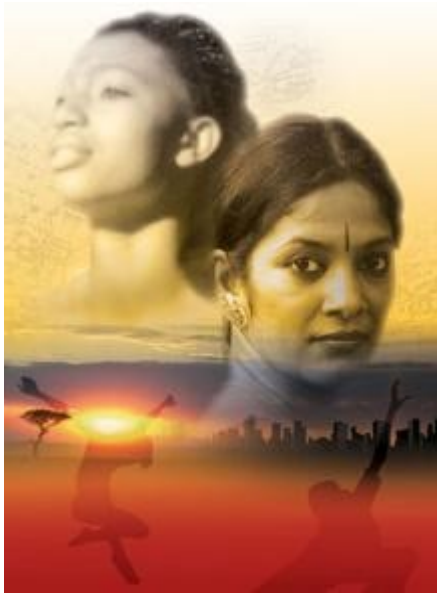


Mahfil is an inspirational ongoing project that has been organised to create opportunities for the professional and amateur poets & writers from diverse cultural backgrounds within the region. The participants meet up once a month to share their own work with other members of the group.

These sessions are informal and expression-friendly where participants can share their work and learn from each others experiences and thoughts. A novel opportunity for poets/writers from all background to engage within the cross cultural interactive poetic sessions that helps construct the bridge between realising the positive impact of cultural differences through their work and to learn about and understand other cultures as well. This project aids to open the intricate gateway knowledge to different cultures in real sense through diverse literature expressions.

Mahfil—encourages young talented amateur writer/poets to learn new techniques and build their skills and confidence to become professionals. It will also serve as a platform for the beginners to present their work within an informal and encouraging setting to help recognise their efforts and be guided appreciatively for their work.

MOTHERLAND



Motherland is a specially commissioned new production to remember the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. It tells human stories of slavery, indentured labour and migration set against an epic historical backdrop. The production brings together international artists from India, Africa, the Caribbean and the UK in a spectacular combination of music, dance, theatre and visuals. *Motherland* will premiere at the Birmingham Rep on September 8th 2007, before embarking on a four week, nationwide

Pakistan Cultural Society will present "Motherland" in association with Sampad (www.sampad.org.uk) and Arc (www.arconline.co.uk) in Stockton on the 22nd September 2007.

PARTICIPATORY PROGRAMME OF MOTHERLAND

We can offer a range of flexible activities that can be adapted to the age and ability of the participants. Please contact us to discuss your requirements. Examples of the different type of activity we can offer are:

WORKSHOPS

Ranging from 2 hours to a full day, working in drama, music, dance or storytelling. Workshops will begin with a short demonstration, leading into a practical session where participants will work with the artists to develop techniques. We can also offer open workshops suitable for community groups as part of venue audience development programmes, 2 hour sessions or longer depending on group.

MASTERCLASSES AND CREATIVE LABS

Suitable for more experienced participants, 2 - 3 days working with professional artists to develop techniques and skills in performance, composition or choreography. This will lead to the creation of a short piece, with possibilities to perform at a PCS event.

Faith & Global Peace Conference 2007

Saturday Aug 18th – Sunday Aug 19th 2007

Venue: The Gala Theater, Millennium Place, Durham DH1 1WA

This is a multicultural and multifaith conference & seminar organised by the International Gita Foundation Trust along with Kalapremi (UK).

The International Gita Foundation Trust is a registered organisation with a support network in UK.

The aim of this trust is to promote the awareness of the need for "Peace" within oneself and in the society, especially to the young people today.

Kalapremi (UK) is a registered arts charity in UK with the aim of celebrating, encouraging and empowering south-Asian arts in the northeast of UK.

The aim of the proposed conference is to bring the leaders of different faiths and denominations to a common platform and let the public listen to their message on "Peace and Harmony" in a multicultural society. There will also be opportunity for audience participation and discussion.

Upcoming Events

Mushira - Evening with Poets

4th August

Little Theatre, Saltwell Park,
Gateshead

Pakistan Day Celebration

11th August

Peoples Theatre, Heaton,
Newcastle Upon Tyne

Reem Kelani—Music Concert

26th August

Newcastle Mela,
Newcastle Upon Tyne

SAMA 07

South Asian Music & Arts Festival

Sama 07 is a vibrant and eclectic culturally diverse arts festival celebrating South Asian art, music and culture in the North East, which will take place between 17th and 23rd September 2007. Organised by GemArts, Kalapremi and Pakistan Cultural Society the week long festival will include an exciting programme of events and festivities including stunning performances by some of the finest musicians, DJs, artists, and dancers from across the UK and South Asia. Sama07 will also include amazing workshops, exhibitions, a South Asian Performing Arts Conference, food festival, arts and crafts from the Indian Subcontinent and a spectacular outdoor event on the Quayside.

Main attractions :

Friday 21st September

Simply Bollywood a night with **Sonu Nigam** at Newcastle City Hall



Saturday 22nd September

Sama 07 - an Evening of South Asian Dance at Dance City Asian Dub Foundation, Time TBC, Price TBC, Venue Northumbria University

Asian Dub Foundation, Time TBC, Price TBC, Venue Northumbria University

SAMA '07 Finale

Sunday 23rd September @ NewcastleGateshead Quayside – 12pm to 6pm

FREE EVENT for all the family!!!



Pakistan Cultural Society
24 Cedar Road, Fenham
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE4 9XX

Phone— +44 (0) 191 274 3030

Fax - +44 (0) 191 274 3131

E-mail - pakistanculturalsociety@btconnect.com

