

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER



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FOUNDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1986:

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Mrs Pushpa Rao
Mr Bhavesh Jani
Mr Dharambir Singh
Mr Ajit Singh Virdi
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Mr Masud Ahmad
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Mr Najeeb Nazir
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Mrs Ratna Patel
Hon Treasurer
Mrs S Mohindra MBE
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Chair of Policy & Strategy
Mr Davinder Singh Virdi

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CO-OPTees (2011 – 2013):

Mr. Safdar Azam Mirza
Mrs. Jai Verma
Mr. Ilyas Aziz
Mrs. Hetvi Parekh

Welcome from the Chairman, Rajesh Sharma

Welcome to March – Yes, already...time seems to be "Marching" way too quick!!!

A very Happy Belated New Year to every one I hope 2012 brings good health and wealth to everyone and with your support may the NAAC grow from strength to strength.

Last year, the NAAC started with no confirmed grant income, other than the support from the City Council. However, with your support, it still managed to deliver a wide range of events and celebrated its 25th Anniversary! And now, it has just secured a major two year grant from the Arts Council England. Details of forthcoming master classes, workshops, events, free community performances and other initiatives that are currently being planned will be publicised in the near future, so do keep in touch through our website www.asianarts.org.uk.

The NAAC has been established for 25 years and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all current and previous: members of staff; trustees; Office bearers; volunteers and funders. It would be impossible to personally name everyone and I would not like to offend anyone by omitting their name. However, we have looked at our records and list the details of the Inaugural NAAC Committee that established the NAAC in 1986. I would also thank each and every one of our supporter and service user because without you the NAAC would not have a role to fulfil!

Back in the day!, Back in the eighties, the NAAC was (amongst other activities) organising Indian film shows and events that were shown to packed housefuls – the films have now become the forte of mainstream cinemas as they generate a profit, but the performing arts and musical events have been neglected. I guess this is because they are not profitable and also because the audiences prefer to stay at home and watch the ever growing number of Asian soaps and reality shows on the TV. So we need your support to attend our events and keep the arts alive!

Also back in the early days, the NAAC organised concerts that would be sold out – In fact NAAC has brought to you many International and National artists to name a few..

Mehndi Hassan • Jagit Singh • Asha Bhosle • Kumar Sanu • Sonu Nigam • Atif Aslam • Alka Yagnik • Najma Akthar • Alaap • Heera • Achanak • Kuljit Bhamra • Jazzy B • Praful Dave
Falguni Pathak • Pandit Jasraj Reshma • Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan • Rahat Fateh Ali Khan • Bhishum Joshi

The list goes on and on and on and on.....

Nowadays all venues and promoters struggle to attract audiences even to popular shows – e.g. the last Bollywood megastar concert in Leicester (where there are potentially huge audiences) was only 50% sold. Again, I guess this is because of high ticket costs, the recession and also the vast choices that people have.

So how can we survive under these circumstances – Firstly, NAAC is building strong partnerships with local venues such as the Royal Concert Hall, Playhouse, Lakeside, Djanogly, Bonnington Theatre and many local community venues such as the ICCA, Hindu Cultural Centre and Pakistan Centre. This makes it cost effective and also enables our partners to meet their individual objectives. Secondly, we are engaging with and reaching more diverse audiences and most importantly counting on your support.

Incidentally, the next two NAAC events will be PagraV Dance Company production at the Playhouse on the 31 March 2012, and Bollywood Brass Band at Lakeside on 9 May 2012.

It would be fantastic to see all of you there!

Back to the old days! In the eighties people would be glued to the one hour weekly radio programme to listen to and copy their favourite songs. I still have 100's of cassettes and vinyl records that I have in storage in the attic because I can now tune in to a radio station at anytime and or listen to any piece of music imaginable on the internet! It will be interesting to see what the future holds – apparently we will be able to talk to hardware and request selected music to be played!!!!

However some things have not changed – the NAAC is still facilitating workshops in music and drama that are attended by children and young people - these workshops provide: life skills; opportunities for children and young people to learn Asian arts, and also a unique opportunity to perform to hundreds of people at a prestigious venue for the annual Diwali Gala.

The NAAC has in the last 25 years delivered hundreds of events and festivals – I'd like to mention just a few:

- Nottingham Mela, BBC Music Live, SAAF, Concerts by International artists
- Dussera Mela – when we build huge effigies of the Lord Ravana – some of the largest outside India, and my best memory is of the one built by volunteers and school children and it towered over the Castle making it a temporary Nottingham landmark – what is your favourite memory?
- Anyone remember the Rangoli pattern created on the Market Square – Nottingham held the Guinness World Record for a short time!
- Drama workshops leading to stage plays on the Ramayana and Taj Mahal – which also toured outside Nottingham and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival!

Some of these memories are captured on the NAAC 2012 calendar and copies are available from the NAAC office.

Finally, heartfelt thank you to Bhavesh Jani and Nina Virdi, our staff who work tirelessly to bring you the very best in Asian arts and events. If you are interested in Asian Arts and would like to volunteer your services, then please contact Bhavesh or Nina at our office.

Please make the effort to attend ALL the free events that are planned for the year as well as some of the paid events - your attendance helps boost our record of service delivery that most funders take into account!



NEW YEAR!! NEW YOU!! ...or will the 'old you' do?

Be who you are because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind...

Flashback...the year that was...

NAAC delivered some top quality events last year with high calibre artists. All of these would not have been possible without your help and support. To recap some of these were: Haveli Sangeet; 150th Anniversary of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore; Vedic Scholars; Gujarati Comedy Trio; Nottingham Mela 2011; Dances of Asia; Diwali Gala @ Royal Concert Hall and the NAAC 25th Anniversary Civic Reception.

In addition to these, we also had regular poetry events in various South Asian languages as well as supporting and promoting events organised or held by other organisations.

Dates for your Diary...

21-23 June Night Of Festivals City Centre

A visually stunning event in the wonderful Old Market Square, featuring installations and a spectacular carnival procession.

21 July Splendour Wollaton Park

Nottingham's premier annual music festival brings you Splendour - a day of outdoor music at its best, in the beautiful grounds of Wollaton Park. An event the whole family can enjoy.

3-5 August Riverside Festival Victoria Embankment

Nottingham's largest outdoor festival returns with live music, street theatre, global crafts and food stalls, Children's Zone and street fair plus Saturday night's spectacular fireworks.

For full details of 2012 events visit: www.mynottingham.gov.uk/whatson

Interested In Advertising?

Would you like to advertise your business in the NAAC Newsletter?

If so, please email the details to nina.virdi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

The costs of advertising are:

Full Page: £500.00

Half Page: £250.00

Quarter Page: £125.00

NAAC Membership

Individual Membership

Membership Fee for
2 Years: £5.00

Life Membership:

£50.00 *Individuals*

£80.00 *Couples*

£25.00 *Over 60's*

Organisation

Membership

Membership Fee for 2
Years: £10.00

Corporate

Membership:

£1000.00

Please renew your membership as soon as possible.

25th Civic Reception Celebrations at the Council House

The Nottingham City Council recognised the excellent work of the NAAC and hosted a Civic Reception to honour the landmark achievement. The Reception was enjoyed by 200 guests. The Sheriff of Nottingham and the Chief Executive praised the work of the NAAC not only in providing an exceptional Asian arts and events service, but also in promoting community cohesion. Many guests commented on the excellent evening and entertainment. A heartfelt thank you to the sponsors: Mirch Masala (Food); Asiana Cash & Carry (Drinks); and Saffron Moon (photography). And finally a huge thanks to all the guests who helped to raise over £230 for the Lord Mayor's Charity.





I, within & Anant – Endless, 31st March 2012

at Nottingham Playhouse, Wellington Circus, Nottingham NG1 5AF

Pagrav Dance presents a new double bill I, within & Anant – Endless in an evening of contemporary and classical Indian dance, taking bold new steps in Kathak choreography.

Anant - Endless is a personal journey that reveals Urja Desai Thakore's artistic journey from India to the UK, using the classical Kathak style. This is a solo performance presented in a traditional context and explores the different complex rhythmic patterns of Kathak.

I, Within is a contemporary dance production which puts a twist on traditional Kathak vocabulary. Performed as a duet, it explores the inner conflict of Mind and heart of modern women using expressive abstract movements and facial expressions. The piece takes a bold step in creating a new movement vocabulary.

For more details please see enclosed leaflet or visit www.pagravdance.com
And for tickets call Playhouse Box Office on 0115 9419419 or visit www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk



Sunday 15th April 2012 Ranjana Gauhar's Chitrangada

at Djanogly City Academy Theatre, Sherwood

New dance production based on the work of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Chitrangada – Through her dance production, Ranjana, recounts the tale of Princess Chitrangada, a brilliant and brave character mentioned in the great Indian epic Mahabharata, was a warrior princess of Manipur, who fell in love with the mighty Arjuna. This special presentation will be in association with the Nehru Centre and the High Commission of India.



28th April 2012 – NAAC 25th Anniversary Dinner & Dance at The Britannia Hotel, Nottingham Albany Suite from 6.30pm till late

4 course veg and non veg meal including canapes, waiter table service; musical entertainment by World Groove Orchestra and DJ, Special VIP Guests
Tickets from NAAC £25 (Non Members), £20 Members and £15 (Children under 12)

BOLLYWOOD BRASS BAND

Wednesday 9 May 8pm

**Lakeside Arts Centre
Nottingham | NG7 2RD
Box Office: 0115 846 7777**



New single by **Sareni**
Now available to download on iTunes

Seth's

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Contact

Kumar on 07949 220 154 Pradeep on 07790 248 110

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visit www.asianarts.org.uk for all the latest happenings in and around Nottingham and Nottinghamshire... till next time...

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