

November 2010 Newsletter

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First of all - Wishing you all the very best seasonal greeting – may you rejoice and celebrate this season of festivities and goodwill in the company of your loved ones. Forget the doom and gloom of the cold, dark winter days and participate in one of the many bright and colourful events lined up for you – after all, it is the season of lights, dance, drama, and celebration! Belated greetings and best wishes to all those who have recently celebrated: Eid, Navratri, Dusshera, Diwali, and the forthcoming Guru Nanak Devji's birthday. Thank you for supporting the NAAC over the last year and we look forward to your company in the future. We start the Asian New Year with Meera, the Diwali Civic Reception, Diwali Gala, and the New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance.

Thank you too for all the positive comments

We want to thank our dedicated staff – Bhavesh Jani and Nina Viridi for their hard work, and also all the volunteers that make so many events happen throughout the year. We want to thank our funders – Arts Council England and Nottingham City Council for supporting the NAAC. Unfortunately the NAAC has

lost its regular funded status with ACE, and their regular grant support will come to an end in March 2011. The impact of this loss of grant is given within the newsletter.

Please visit our website www.asianarts.org.uk that includes details of Asian arts and events happening not only in Nottingham but across the region. Please do let us know if you want the NAAC to provide any specific workshops and or events – within reason and resources allowing, we will try to oblige.

Once again thank you for your support.

NAAC Full Council

Forthcoming Events.....



Meera, Saturday 27 November 2010, 7.30pm — Djanogly City Academy. Meera is a spectacular dance drama which charts the history of legendary Meerabhai, a Rajput Princess, Poet and Devotee of Lord Krishna. Featuring a caste of over 50 performers and an extravagant array of glittering costumes, the colourful acts will bring endearing characters from the mythological archives alive and cast a spell of rare classical charm. **The wonderful music by Ashit Desai is infectious in its capacity to offer spiritual upliftment.** Tickets £8 and £6 (concessions) for NAAC members and children. See enclosed leaflet for details.

Diwali Civic Reception, Tuesday 30 November 2010 — Council House. Nottingham Asian Arts Council, Panjabi Community Centre & Nottingham City Council cordially invite you to come and celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. More than 200 members and volunteers will attend the reception in the Council House's Ballroom. Come and enjoy an evening of music, light refreshments and the opportunity to network with other honoured guests. **FREE tickets will be allocated on a 'first come first serve' basis so book early to avoid disappointment as only a MAXIMUM of TWO TICKETS per household will be issued. (Please note that priority given to NAAC members).** When booking your tickets, please provide full contact details so that tickets are posted out to the correct address. For more information please contact NAAC (0115 915 8608 / 915 8613) during normal office hours or email bhavesh.jani@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or nina.virdi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Matthew Barley (Cello) & Sanju Sahai (Tabla), Thursday 2 December 7.30pm

Djanogly Recital Hall, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park Nottingham. Cellist Matthew Barley first met tabla player Sanju Sahai on stage at the WOMAD festival in 2004, performing with Sarod legend Amjad Ali Khan. They have since developed a duo programme based around pieces that they have collected on their travels around the world, including some wonderful Balkan pieces in very unusual time signatures. None of these pieces would

have been written with a cello in mind - but a cello can sing, and a tabla can dance, so together they can make music... Tickets: £15 (£12 NAAC members & concession), call 0115 8467777 or book online: www.lakesidearts.org.uk



EVENTS DIARY

Diwali Gala – Saturday 11th December 2010 at the Royal Concert Hall, 5.00 — 9.00pm
Tickets – £6.00 (NAAC members & concessions) £8.00 (Non members)



The lighting of the Diva (Lamp) at the Royal Concert Hall marks the start of NAAC's highlight event of the year — Diwali Gala . Preparations are now in the final stage for this prestigious event, the showcase of all our workshops, hard work of the directors, choreographers and of course all the talented youngsters and older people!! It gives our youngsters from the local voluntary and community organisations a chance to show to us what they have been learning all year, and for the parents it is a satisfaction that all the running around after school – ferrying the children to and fro classes – has not gone to waste! The participants in the first half of the show have been nurtured and trained by NAAC supported workshops run by our affiliated organisations and we only allow the very best to perform at this showcase event!



This year, the second half of the Gala is slightly different...rather than have just one group performance, we have decided, based on feedback from our members, to have a slightly different second half with different performances.



One of these is commissioned by Surtal comprising of four local artists from the Midlands region to create a new percussion piece 'Rhythm of the World'. It will be a fusion piece of Indian dhol/tabla (artist - Anil Banga), Latin American - Samba (Beth de Lange), African - djembe (Adam Gallagher) and Chinese - Taiko/other war drum (Jaing Li). The piece will be artistically directed by Sandeep Raval. "Rhythm of the World", is a specially commissioned drumming performance, taking the audience on a musical journey around the world...



We also have a short drama/play performed by the Sai Dham team and folk dancers.

And a performance by the Maher Raas Group made up of 12 players. They will perform Cultural Dances ("Raas") which includes Maniyaro Raas, Dhal Talvar Raas, Ashiyad Raas, Gowar Raas & Athingo Raas. Dandia Raas of Maher community is very popular and has won many awards for their performances. They have won three times in a row at De Montfort Hall UK competitions in Leicester. They have also performed at World Gujarat Conference in New Jersey organized by AIANA in 2006 & 2008. The dance of Maher's attracts great attention due to their stout spirit and physical appearance and their fighting spirit that is reflected in their dance. The movement of their feet is very fast and takes strong steps, like the soldiers marching in the battlefield. They apply a considerable force when striking the sticks and swords, similar to using swords against the enemy in the battlefield.

And finally – a message from the **Diwali Gala Sub-Committee Chair – Shailesh Thakrar**: "This Years variety Diwali show is one not to be missed.....Various performers have come forward to stage their items as well as items from our usual and enthusiastic youth. The variety programme in the second half includes some light entertainment from Sandeep Raval and group, a short drama/play from the Sai Dham Team and a team of Folk Dancers — Maher Raas Group. The residents of Nottinghamshire and its neighbours have benefited from this Annual event with the support of our partners - Nottingham City Council, Royal Concert Hall, Arts Council of England. We once again request your support by attending and informing all your friends and families to be there. Finally, I would personally like to thank all the workshops coordinators/volunteers in their efforts and hard work in putting together such fantastic and high class items. I would also like to thank all the parents for encouraging their children to take part in this event. Once again we hope you will all be attending the Diwali Gala showcase. As per the enclosed leaflet EVERYBODY IS WELCOME, so see you all there."

A festival of lights...A festival of hope! A victory of good over evil!
May this Diwali bring in lots of peace, prosperity & happiness into your lives...

New Years Eve Dinner & Dance — Thursday 31st December At The Indian Community Centre Association (ICCA), 99 Hucknall Road, Carrington. Join NAAC, ICCA and Nottingham West Lions Club to bid farewell to 2010 and see in the New Year – 2011 – at the ICCA. The evening of celebrations will include a three course vegetarian and non-vegetarian meal, live music by **Man From Africa (Hitesh & Rama—www.manfromafrica.co.uk)** and **DJ Amrit (www.drn-ent.com)** to get you on the dance floor — an excellent and great event in all.....

Tickets (£25 non members, £22.50 (members of Lions, ICCA and NAAC), and £15 (children under 12)) will be sold on a first come first serve basis with prior payment only. Call NAAC (0115-9158608 / 9158613) for more information.

Rejoice as the New Year unfolds with a basketful of hopes, dreams, and aspirations and begin your year with renewed vitality and optimism — the much needed ingredients to a successful start.

Come celebrate with us — What better way to see in 2011

"Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right...." Oprah Winfrey

MORE EVENTS



Ek Yaad Rafi Ke Baad, Sunday 21st November 7.00pm at De Montfort Hall, Leicester (Granville Road, Leicester LE1 7RU) - After the success of his fund-raising event for the Special Olympics 2009, **Bankim Pathak**, the versatile singer from India is back this year with his orchestra and accompanied by the famous co-singer **Daksha Gohil**. Bankim's melodious voice is similar to that of the legendary Mohammed Rafi, and he will take you down memory lane of Hindi film music. For connoisseurs of Hindi film songs this evening is a real treat and one definitely not to be missed. Tickets £10 £12.50 £15 and VIP tickets available. Tickets from De Montfort Hall Box Office 0116 233

3111, Radia's 0116 266 9409, Mr B 07860 280 655, Duka Ya Tambu 0116 266 1062.

Zindagi Ka Safar, Sunday 12th December 7.00pm at Ramgarhia Community Centre, Ulverscroft Road, Leicester LE4 6BY — Pankaj Sodha proudly presents for the first time in the UK, **Amit Kumar & Sumeet Kumar** live in concert...a tribute to their father, the legendary Kishore Kumar.

Tickets £15, £20, £25 and VIP tickets available. For further information, tickets and group bookings please call Vasant Bhakta (MRB) on 07860 280655.



NAAC Funding Update...

As most readers will be aware the NAAC is the only Nottinghamshire based organisation that has a specific remit and provides a diverse range of Asian arts in the city and county. Our core work includes: organising and delivering a range of performances in music, dance, drama, art exhibitions, festivals, film shows and other arts related work; provision of a range of workshops that are delivered in partnership at various local venues; and working in partnership with other local venues such as Djanogly, Lakeside, and Royal Concert Hall. Our work is funded by the Arts Council England (ACE) and Nottingham City Council (NCC). The grant from ACE covers the costs of our core work, whilst the NCC grant primarily contributes towards artist provision at public festivals (normally free public events) and running costs.

Following a review, ACE has decided not to renew our status as an ACE regular funded organisation after the current agreement and funding comes to an end on the 31 March 2011. The withdrawal of this funding will have a significant impact on the services that we can offer and unfortunately many of the workshops we currently support will also end on the 31 March 2011. There will also be an impact of the range of events that we are able to deliver. The NAAC is fully committed to maintaining the services it provides and to develop a programme of cutting edge arts that appeal to audiences from all walks of life. With this in mind the NAAC is currently identifying and making grant applications to various funders.

The NAAC is also looking for sponsors to support our work and their support (if they so wish) will be acknowledged through various means including publicity on our website, newsletters, and at public events. If you want to sponsor us please contact our office.

NAAC Workshops

- ◆ Music workshops (Vocal, Harmonium, Tabla) and Dance workshops are held at Radford Unity Complex, Radford Road on Wednesday from 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. for children and adults. **For more information please call Mrs Chandri Vora at 0115-9750275 / 07779185644.**
- ◆ Adult Aerobic classes run every week at Radford Youth club between 7.00pm to 8.00pm and the cost is £1.00 only. It is open to all ladies & off course gentlemen as well. **Please contact Chandri Vora on 07779 185644 or Preety Devani on 0115 9138598.**
- ◆ The Sikh Temple holds a Harmonium/Vocal Workshop on Wednesday evenings at 5.15 to 7.45 p.m. and a Tabla Workshop held on Wednesday evenings at 5.45 to 7.15 p.m. at the Sikh Temple, 26 Nottingham Road, Nottingham. **For more information please contact Balraj Johal on 0115 9622132 or 07966538241.**
- ◆ The Kala Niketan Hindi School holds Kathak Dance Workshops for Beginners/Intermediate and Advanced on Monday evenings 6.00 to 8.30pm at The New Art Exchange, 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham. **For more information, please call Vina Ladwa on 07957938043 or Mrs S. Mohindra on 0115-9131426.**

NEWS

A very successful Charity Ball event was organised on Saturday 21st August 2010 with attendance of over 380 members. Also in attendance was The Lord Mayor who was overwhelmed and thoroughly enjoyed the event. Over £6000.00 was raised for the following charities UNISEF, CHILDREN WITH LUKEMIA and SEWA INTERNATIONAL FOR THE ORPHANGE IN INDIA. The Charity Ball committee would like to Thank all the sponsors, various cash donors, raffle donors, Milan Dosa express for the catering and Sewa International for their contribution towards the hall. We would also like to thank Vina Ladwa from Manushi and Anika Thakrar for their contribution towards making the event a success. This was a unique event and I thank the whole committee for their hard work & efforts...

(Chandri Vora Charity Ball Events Co-ordinator)

Help is at hand to switch to digital TV

In 2011 the traditional TV signal will be switched off in the Central region and replaced with a digital TV signal. This is not a concern for most people but some may find it harder to make the switch than others.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up by the Government and is run by the BBC. Its purpose is to make digital TV easy for older and disabled people by converting one of their televisions to digital in the run-up to digital TV switchover in their region.

What does the Help Scheme do?

The Switchover Help Scheme aims to reach out to all eligible people, and ensure that those who need our help get it, so that no-one eligible need be left behind without access to television after switchover.

People are eligible for help if they are:

- aged 75 or over,
- have lived in a care home for six months or more,
- get or could get, disability living allowance,
- attendance or constant attendance allowance, or mobility supplement,
- Or if they are registered blind or partially sighted.



What's next?

In the run-up to switchover, every eligible person receives a Switchover Help Scheme information pack explaining the options for switching to digital. Most people will be asked to contribute £40 towards the help. The service is free for people who are eligible and also get pension credit, income support, income-based jobseekers allowance or employment and support allowance.

In the meantime, if you want more information for yourself or someone you know, please log onto www.helpscheme.co.uk or call free on 0800 40 87 654.

Where can I get face-to-face advice on switchover?

Digital UK has been working closely with charities to organise local advice points during switchover. These will be staffed by trained volunteers and are open to everyone. There are also Digital UK roadshows in the region. To find out where your local advice point or roadshow will be, visit www.digitaluk.co.uk

Now as the excitement and momentum for Christmas and the New Year continues to build, 'tis the season, after all..., we here at NAAC would like to thank you and you and you... and everyone who contributed to making 2010 and all our events such a success. It's hard to believe, but those lazy days of summer, when we could all be out soaking the sunshine (or getting soaked in the rain?????) are gone. Don't worry, lets all look forward to Summer 2011!!!

Finally, NAAC staff and executive committee would like to wish all of our members and newsletter readers a Safe and Happy Holiday Season . Best wishes for a Successful and Prosperous New Year.

**Please Renew your Membership and log onto www.asianarts.org.uk for all the latest events as it is not always possible to send out hard copies in time for the events.
...Till next time...Enjoy...**

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow...

Albert Einstein