

The Finborough Theatre is now fully heated and air conditioned

FINBOROUGH | THEATRE

Winter 2012 Season | October to December 2012

Esther Nissard for B29 Productions in association with Neil McPherson for the Finborough Theatre presents

A world premiere by a new playwright

KHADIJA IS 18

by Shamser Sinha.

Directed by Tim Stark. Designed by Fly Davis. Lighting by Dani Bish. Costumes by Sarah Dicks. Sound by Mark Dunne.
Cast: Victor Alli. Damson Idris. Sioned Jones. Aysha Kala. Katherine Rose Morley.

The world premiere of ***Khadija is 18***, the first play by new British Asian dramatist **Shamser Sinha**, will open at the Finborough Theatre on Tuesday, 30 October 2012 (**Press Night: Thursday, 1 November 2012**) for a strictly limited four week run.

Khadija is 18 is a story from the frontline of multicultural Britain, and explores the lives of two teenage refugee girls in London's East End. Liza needs Khadija and Khadija needs Liza. When Khadija links up with Ade, things begin to unravel. Does Khadija care about Liza anymore? And what is Ade doing having sex with a ref girl? All the while the immigration clock is ticking down. Giving voice to the dispossessed and capturing the hopes and heartbreak of our young, Shamser Sinha is an exciting new voice in playwriting.

Originally discovered via ANGLE Theatre's 'Call for Plays' campaign in East London, ***Khadija is 18*** was among 100 submissions they received from new writers. 50 of these plays were from first time writers, with 40 playwrights coming from a BAME background, and a remarkable 4 entries from non-English speakers. Shamser's play was one of five winners, and along with two other writers his script received a production-without-decor as part of *Triangle* at Hackney Empire. ANGLE won the 2009 Peter Brook Empty Space Award for their new writing work and for producing *Triangle* (Hackney Empire).

Playwright **Shamser Sinha** has been a writer on attachment at the Royal Court Theatre where he wrote *Storm*, and was commissioned by ANGLE as writer in residence to write *Chicken N'Chips*. He works as a lecturer in Sociology and Youth Studies, and has spent the past ten years doing research and youth work with young asylum seekers and vulnerable teenagers in London. This production of ***Khadija is 18*** is his full-length professional debut.

Director **Tim Stark** is a winner of the John S. Cohen Directors Bursary at the National Theatre Studio and English Touring Theatre, a founding member of B29 Productions and Artistic Associate of ANGLE Theatre from 2009 to 2011. Tim was a Regional Director for National Theatre Connections, producing *Blackout* in the Olivier Theatre as part of National Theatre Connections. Other directing includes *Once and Future Plays*, five short new plays by Philip Ridley, Mark Ravenhill, Dominic Francis, Judith Johnson and Nick Drake (Cactus Productions – Site Specific), *Kurt and Sid* which was nominated for the *WhatsOnStage* award for Best Off-West End Production (Trafalgar Studios), *The Last Pilgrim* which was shortlisted for the OffWestEnd Award for Best New Play (White Bear Theatre), *Road* (Royal and Derngate Theatre, Northampton) *Rafts and Dreams* and *Mayhem* (Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester), *Festen* (Birmingham Rep and National Tour), *Edward Bond's Lear* (National Theatre Studio and Teatro Due International Theatre Festival), *Shadow Language* (Theatre 503), *Twisted* (Oval House) *Romeo and Juliet* (English Touring Theatre and Hong Kong Arts Festival) *The Boy Who Fell into a Book* (English Touring Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (Teatro Due International Theatre Festival and Verona Shakespeare Festival), *Cardiff East*, *Over Gardens Out*, *In the Blue* (Teatro Due International Theatre Festival), *Five Kinds of Silence*, *Bombing People* and *Signing Off* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *The Lunatic Queen* (Riverside Studios) and *Thick as Thieves* (Chelsea Centre).

The cast is:

118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED Telephone 020 7244 7439

e-mail admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk Artistic Director Neil McPherson

Victor Alli | Ade

Trained at the Identity Drama School and the Brit School.

Theatre includes *Fugee* (National Theatre New Connections) and *Blackout* (Watford Palace Theatre).

Film includes *Gone Too Far* and *Ghost Class*.

Damson Idris | Sam

Trained at the Identity Drama School.

Theatre includes *Pandora's Box* (Arcola Theatre)

Film includes *Attack The Block*, *51 Degrees* and *My Brother The Devil*.

Television includes *Miranda*.

Aysha Kala | Khadija

Trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Theatre includes *Much Ado About Nothing* (Royal Shakespeare Company and West End).

Film includes *Jadoo*.

Television includes playing series regular, Sita, in *Shameless*.

Katherine Rose Morley | Liza

Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Theatre whilst training included *Chaplin*, *Lysistrata*, *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, *Jenufa*, *Think Only This of Me*, *The Women*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Lucky Stiff*, *Agamemnon*, *The False Count*, *The Permanent Way*, *Three Sisters* and *The Country*.

Sioned Jones | Joanna

At the Finborough Theatre, Sioned appeared in *The Illustrious Corpse* (2004).

Trained at Exeter University and the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art.

Theatre: *13*, *Women Beware Women*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Oedipus* and *Never So Good* (National Theatre), *Tolstoy* (Aldwych Theatre and National Tour), *Glorious!* (Duchess Theatre), *The Letter* (Wyndhams Theatre and National Tour), *Shadowlands* (Wyndham's and Novello Theatres and National Tour), *Love on the Tracks* (Watermill Theatre, Newbury), *The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me* (Birmingham Old Rep), *Monumental* (Grid Iron at the Citizens Theatre, Glasgow), *Twelfth Night* (Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea, and Cambridge Arts Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (National Tour), *The Wild Party*, *The Windmill*, *The Cheeky Chappie*, *Big Voice Cabaret*, *Pippin*, *Have a Nice Life!* and *Pub* (Union Theatre), *Wolf!* (New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich), *Golden Opportunities* (Croydon Warehouse), *People Show 104*, *Vision of Pride* (Theatre 503), *Conor Mitchell's Anthology* (St Paul's) and *Old 100th* (Drury Lane Salon). Other Theatre includes producing *Mme Charlotte-Ann Arcati's Christmas Presence*, *Gypsy – Once in a Blue Moon* and *Be My Baby* (Union Theatre), directing *Lie Back In Anger* (Union Theatre) and *Basket* (Edinburgh Festival), and writing *The Juror* and *Christmas Presence* (Union Theatre), co-writing a musical, *Ovid's Transformations* (Waterfront Hall, Belfast) and a new play *Stoned* which is currently in development.

Film includes *Happy Now? Flamenco Fever* and *Cleanskins and Madharasapattinam*.

Television includes *Cadfael*, *The Bill* and *Family Affairs*.

Sioned is also an exhibited oil painter.

The Press on director Tim Stark

On *Rafts and Dreams*

"There's a stage poetry and magnificence about these plays that is strangely humbling." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Lynne Walker, *The Independent*

"There are gleaming performances, a play of desperate optimism and desperate despair." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*

"Darkly comic and immensely powerful." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Jim Burke, *Metro*

"Tim Stark's fine production." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*

"Tim Stark directs with style and boldness." ★★★★★ Four Stars, James Woodall, *Financial Times* on *Mayhem*

On *Kurt and Sid*

"Tim Stark directs a short, sharp production that finds all the play's wit and humanity." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Charles Spencer, *The Telegraph*

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Press Information

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"It takes just two stunning actors, Shaun Evans and Danny Dyer, to bring back two rock legends." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Mark Shenton, *Sunday Express*

"Tim Stark's fine production, which reeks of testosterone and aggression." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Nicholas de Jongh, *Evening Standard* on *Twisted*

"A gripping interrogation of idealism, pragmatism and demagoguery, replete with enough sassy one-liners to fuel an entire series of *Mad Men*." ★★★★★ Four Stars, Andrzej Lukowski, *Time Out* on *The Last Pilgrim*

ENDS

For further information, images and press night tickets please contact James Lever at Target Live:
(e) james.lever@target-live.co.uk (t) 020 3372 0956

Or for Finborough Theatre information contact Neil McPherson
(e) admin@finboroughtheatre.co.uk (t) 07977 173135

Download press releases and images at <http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk/press-resources.php>

LISTINGS INFORMATION

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2012 AT 7.30PM

PHOTOCALL: TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2012 AT 1.00PM-1.30PM

Finborough Theatre, The Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, London SW10 9ED
Box Office 0844 847 1652 Book online at www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk

Tuesday, 30 October – Saturday, 24 November 2012

Tuesday to Saturday Evenings at 7.30pm. Sunday Matinees at 3.00pm. Saturday matinees at 3.00pm (from 10 November 2012).

Prices for Weeks One and Two (30 October–11 November 2012) – Tickets £14, £10 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £10 all seats, and Saturday evenings £14 all seats. Previews (30 and 31 October) £9 all seats.

£6 tickets for Under 30's for performances from Tuesday to Sunday of the first week when booked online only.

£10 tickets for residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Saturday, 3 November 2012 when booked online.

Prices for Weeks Three and Four (13–24 November 2012) – Tickets £16, £12 concessions, except Tuesday Evenings £12 all seats, and Saturday evenings £16 all seats.

Performance Length: Approximately one hour and ten minutes.

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