

DHOOM DHAMAKA 2008

WELCOME

Reading's sixth annual celebration of Asian arts is taking place between 28 June - 20 July 2008.

This collaborative event offers opportunities to experience or discover the variety and wealth of Asian arts and culture as presented in the UK today.

It brings together a spectacular array of traditional and contemporary music, dance, visual arts, and craft to celebrate the excitement and diversity of Reading's culture, and promote dialogue between its communities.

LISTINGS

Friday, 20 June - Tuesday, 8 July

If Shiva can wear lipstick, why can't I?

An exhibition of Queer Asian life

Global café at RISC

Tuesday - Saturdays

10am - 11.30pm

This exhibition provides the viewer with a glimpse into the experiences and documented history of Asian Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transsexual communities. The show includes work that is a historical journey into Asian LGBT identities, such as Poloumi Desai's book 'Red Threads', a photographic journey taken over 10 years documenting Asian queer life in the UK, and Maya Chowdhry's and Vijay Patel's investigation of the sexuality and sensuality of Indian deities.

Present day narratives are explored through Chowdhry's visual poetry and Patel's drawings. Documentation taken from a project between Manchester based artists Sphere and a local LGBT group, in which members individually created their own bed installations; each expressing their own personal histories through sound, visual art and projection continue the dialogue. The exhibition poses the question; how 'invisible' or hidden are these communities that have historically been an integral part of the diversity of Indian culture?

Saturday, 28 June

Shiva Night

Global Café at RISC

9pm

Join RISC for an evening of live music and performance with Manchester based Bengali hip hop collective Ajar, and Maya Chowdhry's performance poetry. All set to a kaleidoscopic backdrop of experimental projections and films.

A free event

Naach Gana

The Hexagon

7pm - 11pm

The Indian Community Association presents a family friendly evening of live music and dance offering spectacular displays of bhangra and Bollywood dance, the dynamic beats of the dhol, and the grace of classical music and dance, plus a special presentation of gatka.

Tickets £7 (including snacks)

Under 5s free

To book contact Reading Arts Box Office: 0118 960 6060;

www.readingarts.com

Monday, 30 June - Monday, 14 July

Asia Exchange

The Art Junction Café at Resource

Mon - Fri **9.30am-4.30pm**

An exhibition of interior design work inspired by the theme of contemporary Asian culture, including furniture, cushions, sculpture and paintings designed by artists living with mental health difficulties who work from Resource

- For further information contact Lisa-Marie Gibbs: 0118 958 0722

Tuesday, 1 July

Asian Arts Day

Redlands Primary School

A celebration of Dhoom Dhamaka with a programme of Indian dance activities for all year groups.

A closed event

Bhangra aerobics for Women and Girls

Bridge Hall

6.30pm

Get fit and have fun at this class that combines bhangra moves with aerobic exercise routines. No previous experience required. Participants should wear loose clothing and suitable footwear.

- £1.50. Women and girls only

For further information contact Kate Wood: 0118 939 0714

Wednesday, 2 July

Wandering Minstrels

Town Centre

Look out for impromptu performances by tabla players Indi Notta and Govind Bachu

Thursday, 3 July

Asian Arts Day

Newtown Primary School

A series of dance workshops for all year groups to explore Asian culture through classical and folk Indian dance.

- A closed event

Saturday, 5 July

Global Voices Vocal Workshop

South Street Arts Centre

11am - 4pm, Saturday 5 July and Sunday 6 July

2 day weekend community choir workshop, culminating in a performance, exploring vocal traditions including Indian voice led by Shaheen Khan.

£20 for the weekend, including participating in the performance

To book a place contact Reading Arts Box Office: 0118 960 6060;

www.readingarts.com

Rani Singh Puppet Show

Indian Community Centre

2-4pm

Stories told through assorted puppets, involving songs in Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati and English, drawn from a rich variety of ethnic traditions.

A free event

Suitable for children 3-11 yrs old

To book a place contact Veera Gupta: 0118 966 7262

Best of Both Worlds

Palmer Park Library

4pm for 4.15-5.30pm

Stories and games for children while parents listen to speakers Keya Ashraf on growing up between two cultures and the journey which led her to found Chadpur Press, an innovative new publisher of dual text stories and CDs; and Sara Iqbal from Reading Borough Council's Equality Services who will give parents practical advice on encouraging their children to become bilingual.

Kavi Darbar

(Indo-Pak poetry symposium)

Indian Community Centre

7pm

A forum for local and national poets to recite and critically appraise their work. Presented by the Progressive Writers Association and Indian Workers Association.

A free event

To book a place contact

Mr Santokh: 0118 966 7137

Mr Bal: 0118 966 2000

Sunday, 6 July

Bite Size Bhangra Workshop

Indian Community Centre

Midday - 1pm

A workshop for adults led by Rajeev Gupta, introducing some of the energetic and fun routines of this traditional Punjabi folk dance. No previous experience required. Participants should wear loose clothes and suitable footwear.

£3. Places are limited.

To book a place contact: Veera Gupta: 0118 966 7262

Global Voices Performance

South Street Arts Centre

7.30pm

Premier of a vocal performance melding three vocal traditions - Indian, South African, and Bosnian - to create a melodic and dynamic new musical work. Performed by three leading vocalists, including Shaheen Khan (India), and a community choir drawn from local Reading people.

Tickets £9, concessions £7

To book a ticket contact Reading Arts Box Office: 0118 960 6060;

www.readingarts.com

Friday, 11 July

Mehndi

Indian Community Centre

11am - 2pm

An invitation to experience the beautiful and delicate art of mehndi or henna handpainting

£3 per design

Saturday, 12 July

Chamak Damak at The Oracle

Oracle Performance Space at The Riverside

12.30 - 4pm

A programme of live music and dance offering a taste of the diversity and brilliance of Asian culture in the UK today. Opening with a community programme from the Pakistan Community Association and the Indian Community Association, featuring Bollywood, Kathak and Bharatnatyam dance, and songs from Lollywood and Bollywood, the afternoon includes magnificent qawwali music and singing by Ustad Haji Ameer Khan and brothers, as well as energetic percussion from Taala, a four piece troupe led by the legendary bhangra producer and composer Kuljit Bhamra, and spectacular dance displays from the Bollywood Dreams Dancers and the Vasda Punjab Bhangra Dancers.

Monday, 14 - Friday, 19 July

Dhoom Dhamaka Week

The Hill Primary School

A series of participatory workshops for all children to explore different aspects of Asian culture, including henna hand painting, bhangra drumming and dance, Kathak dance, ancient Islamic bindings and costume. The event will be inaugurated with rangoli in the school playground and culminate with a Dhoom Dhamaka school assembly.

A closed event organised by Parents at the Hill School

Tuesday, 15 July

Mela

By Tajinder Singh Hayer

A South Street & Hydroponic presentation of a West Yorkshire Playhouse production

South Street Arts Centre

8pm

It's summer and the Mela is hotting up. The whole town is there - Troy, Ranjit, Sajjad & Mariam. A brand new play following a group of friends and even older enemies as events throw them explosively together.

Tickets £12, concessions £10

To book a ticket contact Reading Arts Box Office: 0118 960 6060;

www.readingarts.com

Wednesday, 16 July

Mela

By Tajinder Singh Hayer

A South Street & Hydroponic presentation of a West Yorkshire Playhouse production

South Street Arts Centre

8pm

It's summer and the Mela is hotting up. The whole town is there - Troy, Ranjit, Sajjad & Mariam. A brand new play following a group of friends and even older enemies as events throw them explosively together.

Tickets £12, concessions £10

To book a ticket contact Reading Arts Box Office: 0118 960 6060;

www.readingarts.com

Thursday, 17 July

Lunchtime book group

Palmer Park Library

Midday - 1pm

Would you like to talk about books and authors with other book lovers? In English or any of the other languages the Library lends (Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Urdu)? Come along and discuss the options for setting up a regular book group. (If you are interested but cannot make this time, please email: elaine.bradshaw@reading.gov.uk)

Saturday, 19 July

Dhoom Dhamaka Fun Day

Museum of Reading

10am - 3.30pm

Explore and celebrate Asian culture by joining in a variety of arts and crafts from Reading's Asian communities, including rangoli pattern making and storytelling through mime and gesture

A free, drop in event

Suitable for all ages

Sunday, 20 July

Rhythm World

Forbury Gardens Bandstand

3-4.30pm

A UK based group of musicians, that includes a family from Reading, offers up a cocktail of traditional and groundbreaking ethnic sounds, with a real flavour of the underground: Punjabi folk, Indian ragas, British Drum and Bass, African and Latino rhythm patterns, and Arabic vocal influences. The bandstand will be festooned with brightly coloured garlands and decorations made by artist Shehnoor Ahmed and members of Mother Tongue.

- A free event

Venues

Bridge Hall
Oxford Road
Reading RG1 7PN

Museum of Reading
Town Hall
Blagrove Street
Reading RG1 1QH

Global Café
RISC
35 London Street
Reading RG1 4PS

Indian Community Centre
2 Norris Road
Reading RG6 1NJ

The Art Junction Gallery
4 Waylen Street
Reading RG1 7UR

Palmer Park Library
St Bartholomew's Road
Reading RG1 3QB

South Street Arts Centre
21 South Street
Reading RG1 4QU

The Hexagon
Queen's Walk
Reading Rg1 3BQ

For further information on these events or advice on developing your own activities, please contact Kate Wood at Arts Development: 0118 939 0714; kate.wood@reading.gov.uk

For updated listings see: www.readingarts.com

The Dhoom Dhamaka partnership gratefully acknowledges the support of Shehnai Banqueting Suites

Every effort has been made to ensure that all details in this listing are correct at time of going to press.