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Friday 27 October
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A warm welcome to the Asian Media Awards 2023

Each year the shortlist throws up its fair share of pleasant surprises and people who may never have been honoured for their groundbreaking work if it was not for this event.

We remain committed to engaging with organisations and groups both big and small and celebrate the achievements of those who are at the beginnings of their careers.

We are delighted to be launching two new awards this year. The Outstanding Stage Performance Award celebrates the talents

of those working in the theatre industry and the Diversity in Media Award honours an organisation and individuals who have made a concerted effort to improve content as well as inspire people from all backgrounds into leadership roles.

A huge thank you to our panel, who volunteer their time and have the task of choosing a winner.

We hope you enjoy your evening and we are keen as always to take on board any advice and our team will be more than happy to speak to you after the event.



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excellence
in the media

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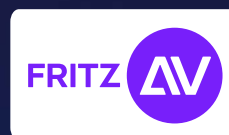
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Your host for the evening

Neev Spencer

Neev is a TV and radio broadcaster best known for her multiple award-winning radio shows. She currently hosts the coveted afternoon show on Magic Radio.

She is an accomplished host and writer and during her 20-year career has toured the world as a DJ at major venues and events supporting the likes of David Guetta and Hardwell.

Neev was the first Asian presenter to have a major show on a commercial national radio and her career has seen her present drive time and breakfast shows including the Kisstory on Kiss FM.

Alongside her Radio work, Neev is frequently seen on television offering her views on various subjects.

Outside of her professional life Neev is a passionate supporter and ambassador for five charities, including The Prince's Trust and

Best Beginnings. From hosting the Teenage Cancer Trust's concert at the Royal Albert Hall to an Iftar Mental Health Fundraiser at Kensington Palace, Neev has championed a wide range of causes.

In 2017, she embarked on a journey of Mental health campaigning appearing as a panellist on BBC 5 Live's 'Mental Health Mum Takeover'.

This International Women's Day, Neev embarked on her biggest charity mission to date by trekking the Annapurna Trek in Nepal in aid of fighting Human Trafficking for charity One Family Global.

She said she spends her days caring for her two daughters 'raising them as strong powerful little women' and values her commitment to self-care, following a routine of mindful moments and fitness'.



Asian Media Awards 2023

Order of the Night

6.00pm - 7.00pm
Arrivals and drinks reception

- Best Blog / Website
- Best Podcast
- Best Stage Production
- Outstanding Stage Performance
- Best Live Event
- Best Video Channel
- Creative Media Award
- Media Agency of the Year
- Best TV Programme / Show
- Best TV Character
- TV Channel of the Year
- Best Newcomer
- Best Radio Show
- Radio Presenter of the Year
- Radio Station of the Year
- Sophiya Haque Services To Film, Television & Theatre Award
- Diversity In Media Award
- Report of the Year
- Regional Journalist of the Year
- Sports Journalist of the Year
- Outstanding Contribution to Media
- Outstanding Young Journalist
- Best Investigation
- Manchester Metropolitan University Journalist of the Year
- Media Personality of the Year

9.30pm
Main meal served

12.00am
Close, have a safe journey home



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Please make a donation tonight...

In December 2020 our colleague and friend Umbreen Ali, who co-founded these awards passed away aged 45. She was keen to support charities and community groups in any way she could. It would be wonderful if you could make a donation, whatever amount, in her memory.

This year a number of international events and disasters have left many people displaced. The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis.

What the DEC says: 'People in life-and-death situations need help and their mission is to save, protect and rebuild lives through effective humanitarian response. 'Pooling our resources to work as one, we are pivotal in co-ordinating the UK public's response to overseas disasters.'

In collaboration with our Rapid Response Network of national media and corporate partners, we raise the alarm to the UK public and set up easy ways to donate.

'And we have immediate impact, getting aid to people who need it, fast.'



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Panel members are not paid to judge categories and their commitment is purely voluntary. Due to the vast and varied range of work submitted some panel members will not judge specific categories. Vidar Hjordeng has not judged any categories where ITV is represented. Talat-Farooq Awan and Tommy Nagra have not judged any entries where the BBC is represented. Anisa Subedar has not judged individual journalism entries. The shortlist is made up of a mix between personal and organisational nominations and defining work that has been, in the past 18-24 months, forwarded or highlighted to the awards.

Panel of Judges 2023



Talat-Farooq Awan Broadcast Journalist & Presenter

Talat-Farooq has been working in Radio and Television for over twenty years. He is currently a Senior Broadcast Journalist for BBC Radio Manchester and BBC Radio Lancashire. He presents the regional news magazine show Indus and produces the award winning North West Late Night Phone-In. In television he has worked on a variety of documentaries for BBC News & Current Affairs, BBC Religion & Ethics, BBC3 and ITN – Channel Four. His radio journalism career started at Essex FM. He then went on to work at the BBC Asian Network. He mentors trainee journalists and also works for charities like Hashim Welfare Hospital and Gateway Schools based in rural Pakistan.



Shelina Begum Journalist and Writer

Journalist Shelina Begum is the former business editor for Manchester Evening News and Greater Manchester Business Week. In August 2020, Shelina left the M.E.N following 21 years with the group to launch a PR and communications agency, Shelina Begum Media. Shelina has an extensive array of experience of working within Asian media. She began her career at Asian News in 1999 at the age of 19 with no formal journalistic training. Within a short time she was promoted to senior reporter. Shelina has been named in the Northern Power Women list of the region's top female role models.



Paul Broster

Associate Dean (Student Experience), University of Salford

Paul's career has spanned Journalism and Higher Education. In his role as an Associate Dean in the University of Salford's School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology, he leads on initiatives to improve student experience, including embedding employability in the curriculum. Before this, Paul worked as a Director, leading key University departments covering media programmes, history and politics. His teaching in journalism included working with industry partners such as the BBC, ITV and national and regional newspaper groups to shape courses and provide experience for students. Before joining the University in 2009, Paul spent 15 years working as staff journalist for local, regional and national newspapers.



Shamim Chowdhury Journalist & broadcaster

Shamim is a journalist, writer, co-author and public speaker. Her vast experience spans more than twenty years. She is the world's first British-Bangladeshi foreign correspondent for a 24-hour international English-language news channel. She was based in Istanbul from 2015 to 2021 when, as a correspondent for TRT World, she covered some of the biggest world events of our times, including the Syrian war from the front line, the Rohingya refugee crisis and the battle against ISIS in the Philippines city of Marawi. She has also reported from Turkey, Mongolia, Iraq, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Jerusalem and across Europe.



Irvine Iqbal Actor

Irvine is a singer, actor and highly experienced voice over artist. Irvine made his West End debut in June 2002. Irvine is the only British South Asian actor to have performed in all three British South Asian musicals in the West End which include Bombay Dreams, The Far Pavilions and Bend it like Beckham. Irvine graduated from Brunel University studying a BA (Hons) and was awarded a place at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music under Professor Mary Hammond.



Andrew Dickinson **Senior Lecturer & Course Leader**

Andy Dickinson is a senior lecturer and course leader of the MA Multimedia Journalism in the School of Journalism and Digital communication at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has nearly 20 years experience in Journalism education, training and consultancy. Andy started in TV as a video editor and director specialising in documentary production. Broadcast clients including Sky, Granada TV, BBC and Discovery Channel. He's a well-known voice in journalism and has appeared on a number of industry lists including Journalism.co.uk's list of leading innovators in journalism.



Vidar Hjordeng MBE **Diversity Consultant**

Vidar is currently the Inclusion and Diversity Consultant with ITV News across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, having previously spent more than twenty-five years working on regional Political, Religious and Social Action programmes in the Midlands – for much of that time as either Editor or Executive Producer. Vidar spent five years as Consultant Producer with the then daytime Political Programme for Channel Four. Vidar also regularly delivers guest lectures to Journalism students and also reviews audio described theatre performances for Connect Radio. Vidar has been an AMA panel member since 2013



Mirage Islam **Digital Strategy Consultant**

A Digital Strategy Consultant that helps business leaders and their organisations gain competitive advantage. Mirage has worked with leading global brands over two decades to ensure their marketing and people deliver. Mirage started his marketing career in Financial Services and then FMCG, before joining one of the UK's largest mobile Internet portals in 2000 – developing online communities and in-game sponsorship opportunities for iconic brands. He then spent 7 years with Sky, launching and leading its first Digital Partnership Programme, before becoming Future Media Lead with Executive sponsorship.



Tony Johnston **MD, Engage Media Training Ltd**

Tony has worked in journalism and media training for more than 20 years. He ran Press Association Training for 11 years until setting up his own training company. This business provided examination and training services to Trinity Mirror and other companies in the UK and the Middle East. He is also Chair of the Board of the United Colleges Group in London. His background is in new journalism in the regional press where he was deputy editor, news editor and reporter for a number of titles before moving into training.



Nazma Noor **Digital Strategist**

Nazma Noor is a marketing professional with over 10 years working in the digital media space. After working for a range of commercial businesses and digital media agencies, she made the move to the Arts and Culture sector and is now a Digital Strategist working with Theatres, Galleries and Museums. She is co-chair of the Board at the youth and family theatre Z-Arts, a member of the People's Forum at Manchester International Festival/Factory International and she co-curated the new South Asia Gallery at Manchester Museum.



Tommy Nagra

Director of Content, BBC Children In Need

Tommy is one of the most respected media professionals in his field. He is an award winning programme maker and creative leader who began his career in the early 90's at BBC heading the pioneering Asian Programmes Unit. Tommy has worked across the broadcasting sector in a number of leading roles including Head of Channel Development & Partnerships for BBC Children's; Head of BBC Birmingham; and Channel Executive for BBC Two.



Nick Nunn **Journalist & Former Assistant Editor**

Nick is a journalist who has worked on many regional daily newspapers for more than four decades. Nick has worked as Assistant Editor at the daily Lancashire Telegraph Newspaper, a senior journalist on the Evening News Edinburgh, Newcastle Chronicle and Journal, Evening Gazette Middlesbrough, Sheffield Star, Melbourne Herald and Sun and the Sunday Times. He is also in charge of editorial training at Newsquest North West Ltd and is a regular assessor at journalism training workshops.



Naren Patel **Media Practitioner & Philanthropist**

Naren joined the media industry in 1991 and under his leadership at Primesight he floated the outdoor advertising business on the London Stock Exchange in 1997, and in 1999 sold Primesight to STV plc. In 2007, Naren completed a management buyout of Primesight and then grew the business through acquisitions and organic development making Primesight one of the leading and most successful brands in the media industry. In September 2018, Naren sold the business to Global Radio and left the business at the end of April 2020. In 2021, Naren launched Geoprove a verification tool for location based mobile advertising. Naren is passionate about improving ethnic diversity in the Media sector. In 2018 he



Tara Prem **Producer & Writer**

Tara was one of the first Asians to be working in mainstream British television. She began working in the media over forty years ago. Tara worked as an actor in the theatre briefly in the early 1970s and then went on to become a trainee script editor at the BBC where she wrote 'A Touch of Eastern Promise' in 1973. This went on to become the first drama on British television to have an entirely Asian cast. Her interest in acting was induced by her father Bakshi Prem who worked for BBC Urdu in the 1930s.



Debre Prinselaar **Director of Film & Broadcast Media**

Debra is a senior Lecturer and Director of Film and Broadcast Media at the University of Salford. Her areas of expertise are as a former broadcast journalist for independent Radio, Executive and Series Producer of documentaries, factual entertainment and current affairs in Television and now Director of Film Production and Film Studies at the University of Salford. She has made TV Shows for the majority of terrestrial channels including BBC1, BBC3, Channel 4, ITV and Channel 5, alongside NatGeo and Discovery in the USA.



Sanjay Shabi **Board Director, EssenceMediaCom**

Sanjay joined MediaCom (now EssenceMediaCom) in 2001 as an Associate Director. Aside from his mainstream media implementational planning and buying responsibilities, he has carved a niche by promoting the value and importance of mainstream advertising to diverse communities. This was spearheaded by the launch of CultureCom near the turn of the millennium. Since then, it has been absorbed into EssenceMediaCom's wider Inclusive Planning initiative which seeks to drive the same ambition across all diverse, marginalised communities. He is a senior judge at the Asian Media Awards and is one of its founding members.



Akanksha Saxena **Editor, Deutsche Welle**

Akanksha Saxena is an award-winning international journalist currently working as an editor with Germany's international broadcaster, Deutsche Welle. She has more than 10 years of experience as a journalist with major broadcasting networks like the BBC and TRT World. In her new assignment with DW, which started in 2021, Akanksha is a presenter and producer of an interview series about women trailblazers from India for DW Hindi. She covers politics, diplomacy, culture, and society for DW Asia as well as breaking news in western Germany.



Anisa Subedar **Senior News Editor, BBC News**

Anisa Subedar was appointed Senior News Editor in 2023 following more than a decade's experience in award winning national and international broadcast journalism. Anisa worked across numerous regional radio and independent production companies on live news output before becoming a senior journalist for BBC World Service and Radio 4. She's also executive producer and director for documentaries on iPlayer and BBC Three.



Mark Wray **Journalist**

Mark is the former Managing Director of PA Training, the training division of the Press Association. Mark's career in journalism, as an indentured trainee reporter for Greater London and Essex Newspapers, began in 1980. Mark's relationship with the NCTJ goes back more than 30 years. More recently he's also been a member of their Qualifications Board. Mark worked at the BBC for 27 years, starting as a local radio producer in Southend and moving on to work in regional television and Radio 5 Live.



Ruby Zaman **Multimedia Journalist**

Ruby is an international multimedia journalist with more than 15 years of experience in news and current affairs. She is currently working as a freelance producer on a globally top-rated podcast alongside a high-profile host and has also taken work with BBC Sounds/BBC World Service and TRT WORLD. This follows her role as a producer for 'The Take' – Al Jazeera Media Network's Washington-based news and current affairs show. Ruby has a profound interest in human stories, those that give a voice to marginalised communities.

Our table sponsors for tonight are



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Table 14

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Table 17

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Table 28

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A full updated guest list is available from our team and posted on the digital screens



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Media Personality of the Year 2023

Tina Daheley

The Asian Media Awards honours a presenter and broadcaster who has challenged the pressures women face in the workplace whilst also celebrating diversity in the media.

Tina Daheley work spans across news, current affairs, sport, and the arts, appealing to a wide range of audiences.

She is the news presenter on The Zoe Ball Breakfast show on BBC Radio 2 and presents the BBC's longest running TV series, Points of View.

Tina also regularly hosts BBC Breakfast and prime-time bulletins on the BBC News at Six and BBC News at Ten.

Tina joined the BBC after completing a first-class honours degree in Computer Science, and a Masters in Broadcast Journalism.

Since then, she has been a familiar face on our TV screens hosting Crimewatch, Crimewatch Roadshow, Panorama, The Woman's Football World Cup, The Royal Wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and the BBC's Coronation coverage of King Charles III.

She has built up an extensive list of radio credits, working on The Radio 1 Breakfast shows with Chris Moyles and Nick Grimshaw.

Tina has also helmed Woman's Hour on BBCR 4, The Cultural Frontline on BBC World Service, Newscast on BBC Sounds, and The Jeremy Vine Show on Radio 2.

Outside of her work she has spoken openly about body image and the perceptions of women in the workplace. Her comments



“**There’s an immense amount of pressure on women in general, but particularly in my industry**”

resonated with people not only in the media but across a wide range of professions.

After returning to work post maternity leave she posted, ‘When presenting BBC Breakfast a few months ago I was alerted (as happens in the online world) to the fact that people were speculating about whether or not I was pregnant again.

‘The answer is no I am not expecting a second child! But I am someone who had a baby, and whose body did not “snap back” immediately. In fact, it may never ‘snap back’ and be the same as it was before childbirth but that’s also normal!’

Tina later wrote in Vogue, “There’s an immense amount of pressure on women in general, but particularly in my industry, around the way they look. Even more so for new mothers. It’s somehow accepted that women should bounce back and look exactly as they did before giving birth.”

She added: “Being in the public eye all of the pressures are even more acute. I do TV news, so I work in an environment where women are, generally, very slender. And that’s no disrespect to them, it’s just the way it’s always been. Men aren’t held to the same standards and aren’t scrutinised in the way that women are.”

Tina has been keen to share her personal experiences on diversity speaking candidly about audiences reactions.

She told the iNews: “I was doing some presenting on The Football League Show, which was a tough environment to be in. Manish Bhasin was presenting too, and I remember thinking what I always think when there’s two brown people on TV at the same time.

“What comments and messages are people going to send us? I would dread to look at the texts people were sending in.

“I think we’ve moved on a bit since then, but I had another situation where I had to swap a Christmas shift and it ended up being me, Naga Munchetty and Reshmin Chowdhury presenting and I thought, ‘What will the audience feel with three women, let alone three brown women, presenting?’, but it was fine and really nice.”

Tina says she is passionate about making news, current affairs, and the arts accessible to everyone.

On TV these have included The EU Referendum, The Final Election Debates, and numerous General Election Campaigns for BBC 1 and BBC News; and on stage these have included the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Duke and Duchess of Sussex’s Royal Foundation.

In 2023, the Asian Media Awards is delighted to be honouring someone who has made an invaluable effort to inspire media professionals of all backgrounds and diverse audiences.



This category is named in tribute to the late Coronation Street and stage actress, who died of cancer aged 41 in 2013



The Sophiya Haque Services to Television, Film & Theatre Award 2023

Meera Syal & Sanjeev Bhaskar

The Asian Media Awards is delighted to be honouring the contributions of two writers and actors who have been an inspiration to British comedy through three decades.

The husband and wife team have been instrumental in shaping British Asian culture through their work and helped in many ways to lay the foundations for others to follow.

Meera Syal was educated at Manchester University where she read English and Drama. She would go on to co-write the script for 'My Sister Wife', a three-part BBC Television series, and wrote the film Bhaji on the Beach for Channel 4.

Sanjeev Bhaskar hails from Ealing and grew up in Heston. After graduating he would go on to work for IBM. But his passion lay in comedy and he teamed with Nitin Swahney to start a musical comedy double act named 'The Secret Asians'.

Later his path would cross with Meera Syal, Nina Wadia and Kulvinder Ghir and the first Goodness Gracious Me episode would air in January 1998, 25 years ago this year.

The programme would go on to create some of the most iconic characters of a generation. It was a watershed moment for British Asian culture which up until then had been sidelined with stereotypical plots and scripts. It was the first time a group of actors and writers had been given the license to use Punjabi and Hindi phrases and also tackle prejudice on mainstream television head on.

Much of the wit and humour has certainly stood the test of time and still resonates with the challenges faced by minority communities today.

The series ran until 2000 with further reprisals and specials in 2014, 2015 and 2018.

Both Meera and Sanjeev were reunited in the Kumar's at Number 42, a chat show which helped redefine the programme.

In January 2005, the couple married.

Sanjeev has appeared in a whole host of sitcoms, dramas and films including, The Guru, Notting Hill (very briefly), and Anita and Me. He also had a cameo in Yash Raj Films' production Jhoom Barabar Jhoom.

He appeared alongside Meera, in Danny Boyle's 'Yesterday', in which they played the parents of Himesh Patel.





In recent years Meera and Sanjeev have appeared in critically acclaimed TV dramas, *Unforgotten* and *Mrs Sidhu Investigates*.

Meera has roles in *Beautiful People* and *Doctor Who* among others.

Both Meera and Sanjeev have had a close association with the theatre world. In 2008 Bhaskar made his musical theatre debut as King Arthur in *Spamalot* at London's Palace Theatre.

And in 2015 Meera's book *Anita and Me* was adapted for a stage play. Alongside this, Meera

has taken on a whole host of roles on stage.

They are also both keen authors. Meera Syal has authored *Anita and Me* (1996), *Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee* (1999) and *The House of Hidden Mothers* (2015).

Sanjeev's first book based on the documentary series, became a Sunday Times bestseller in 2007.

In recent years they have appeared in critically acclaimed TV dramas. Sanjeev played DI Sunil Sunny Khan in ITV's *Unforgotten* and Meera took on the role of a caterer with a taste for solving mysteries in *Mrs Sidhu Investigates*.

Since 2013 the Asian Media Awards set out to inspire the next generation of young media professionals. Ten years on, we are delighted to be recognising the effort of two writers and actors who have ensured Asian culture remains at the heart of modern-day Britain.

Outstanding Contribution to Media 2023

Mihir Bose

Mihir Bose is one of the leading journalists, writers, and authors of a generation.

Mihir broadcasts on social and historical issues and sport for outlets including the BBC, The Guardian, Financial Times, Evening Standard and Irish Times.

During a remarkable career spanning over five decades, he has written for most of the major national newspapers and several business publications, presented programmes for radio and television, and penned 50 books including a history of Bollywood and various books on football, cricket, finance and biographies.

Mihir began his career at LBC Radio, where he was the first cricket correspondent, before writing for the Sunday Times. A qualified accountant, he gave up the profession in 1978 to become a full-time journalist concentrating on business journalism but also delving into sport.

He would go on to become one of the leading investigative reporters of the 1990s, editing the 'Inside Track' column for the Sunday Times. He moved to the Daily Telegraph in 1995 and then joined the BBC as Sports Editor in 2006.

This was a groundbreaking moment as Mihir was the BBC's first sports editor and first non-white editor. He was chief sports news correspondent at the Daily Telegraph, where he started the Inside Sports Column, and worked for the Sunday Times for 20 years.

Mihir has also presented on radio and television, including BBC Radio 4's Financial World Tonight, the South Asia Report on the BBC World Service and What the Papers Say for Channel 4.

Mihir has a keen love and knowledge of cricket and his books have explored the many facets of the sport.



Mihir broadcasts for outlets including the BBC, The Guardian, Financial Times, Evening Standard and Irish Times.

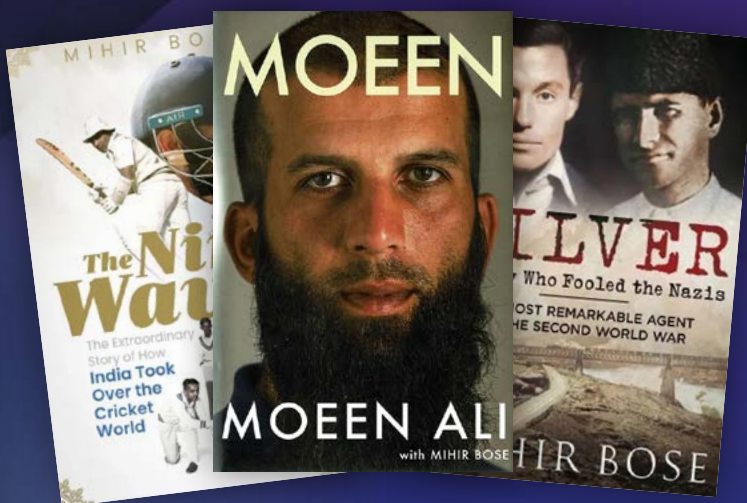
In 2018, he shared the remarkable personal story in the autobiography of England cricketer Moeen Ali. *The Nine Waves* (2022) tells the story of the nine great waves of the game from 1932 to the present day.

He has also looked at exploring the history of South-Asia.

His 2017 book, *From Midnight to Glorious Morning*, looked at the rise of India since Independence and how the nation went on to become a rapidly emerging global power.

His latest book, *'Dreaming the impossible'* (2022) explores how conscious and unconscious racism have blighted the lives of talented black and Asian sportsmen and women, preventing them from fulfilling their potential.

He hosts a podcast 'The Three Old Hacks',



in conversation with fellow journalists David Smith and Nigel Dudley on politics and current affairs.

His honorary doctorate from Loughborough University was awarded for his outstanding contribution to journalism and the promotion of equality. Mihir is a member of the English Heritage Blue Plaques Panel and former chairman of the Reform Club. He and his wife Caroline live in London. He has a daughter, Indira.

In 2023, The Asian Media Awards celebrates the invaluable contribution of a journalist and writer who has inspired people across the profession and helped to blaze a trail for others in the industry to follow.

How a broadband provider is offering free internet to asylum seeker and refugee homes

Connecting all our communities

A broadband provider is running a major campaign across the region to stop 'digital exclusion'.

Opus Broadband has partnered with community groups across the region and is donating 20% of their network for free to a range of causes.

One of those is the Darwen Asylum Refugee Enterprise (DARE) which provides a drop-in service for the refugee and asylum seeker community.

They meet at the Central United Reformed Church.

The plan is to install over 40 free internet connections to homes in the upcoming months.

John East is chair of Darwen Asylum Refugee Enterprise. He said: "We discovered that during lockdown many asylum seekers and refugees and other people, for that matter were stuck in their homes.

"They couldn't go home because of the amount of money they had. They had very low income. They had no way of connecting with college, either remotely or school or their family or friends or lawyers or things like that. So, we started to think about how we were going to do this."

The charity got in touch with 6Gi Internet (Now Opus Broadband) after learning



“ **Connectivity is so important to people's isolation** ”

John East Chair of Darwen Asylum Refugee Enterprise (DARE)

they were connecting the most vulnerable households in the Northwest.

John said: "It's been a bit of a struggle because as I speak there are three installations taking place. It's not easy when you've got people who don't quite understand about installations of Wi-Fi in the houses but we've been working well together.

John added: "Connectivity's so important to people's isolation, especially when they're coming out Covid being able to have a facility that means they can communicate with other people. It is going to be pretty impressive.

"Making sure that they can get the confidence and not being isolation. The whole thing is about eradicating isolation so people will have a facility that will be able to connect up."

Already twelve homes have been connected and more are planned in the coming weeks.

Opus Broadband are proud to support the Asian Media Awards



CONGRATULATIONS
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Wi-Fi 6 router.



Full home Wi-Fi.



Experts in Wi-Fi.

Best Blog / Website



Ananya &
Ananya Ampersand

Ananya Ampersand

The 'Ampersand' aims to explore the feelings of 'not being Indian enough to be Indian' or 'too Indian to be fully British'. The blog and website specialises in helping Asians live life on their own terms so that they can stop hiding from those cultural expectations. Through sharing her own experiences as a multifaceted British-Indian-Bengali and an Intuition and Identity coach, the platforms (podcast, blog and social media content) aim to inspire others to redefine what identity means to them. Ananya encourages her readers and listeners to take bitesize action steps to apply to their own lives.



Binny's Food & Travel

London based writer and blogger, Binny Shah wants to leave a positive impact on this world by changing both human and animal lives. She has a keen interest in wildlife and has worked closely with international conservation organisations to help showcase the plight of animal welfare. She is also passionate about gender equality and women's rights. These subjects and many more feature in her engaging blog where she shares her recipes which are influenced from her upbringing in Kenya and travel tips and stories. Her passion for travel sees her set off on a range of adventures which she shares her wonderous moments on social media and her blog. Some of her impromptu posts have garnered millions of followers and likes.



BizAsiaLive.com

BizAsiaLive is a leading website for South Asian media and entertainment in the UK. The site reports on breaking news stories and exclusive content for a growing audience both here and across the world. In the past year the site has featured interviews with some of the biggest South Asian film and soap stars as well as being the first to cover industry news. The brand backs and reports live from numerous high-profile live events throughout the year, giving audiences a unique behind the scenes look at music, film and cultural shows. The website also attracts major TV and media brands and has the most social media followers of any site of its type.



Continent Hop

These inspiring guides and reviews aim to stimulate readers to 'travel and take time off work to invest it in wellness and self-care'. Curated by Lavina Dsouza, Continent Hop was built to share first-hand adventures with explorers for whom connecting with people and reading stories mattered. The site and blog features stunning photography, in-depth itineraries, quick and easy guides, some quirky like Game of Thrones guides, photo essays, tips to travel fast and efficiently. Lavina has also led a TEDx talk to inspire women to pursue their dreams and worked with multiple brands to help with content creation.



DESiblitZ

DESiblitZ is a popular portal featuring a mix of content that caters to a wide range of interests. The publication is fully produced in-house in terms of editorial, content, design, management and technical support. From entertainment and lifestyle to art, culture, and current affairs, the platform is regularly updated making it one of the most popular Asian websites in the country. In recent years the brand has branched out to host a number of popular events and projects such as the DESiblitZ Truck Art Bus, DESiblitZ Film Fusion and the ever-expanding DESiblitZ Literature Festival. The website is available in seven different languages including Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali, Hindi, Italian and Marathi.



Hyphen

Hyphen is a new unique online destination focussing on issues important to Muslims across the UK and Europe. The stories have shed light on some of the most important issues of the day, including Islamophobia, the cost-of-living crisis, the poor pay and work conditions of UK imams and Muslim voters behind the Red Wall. The site has also published two exclusive research projects, a multimedia series of stories on the attitudes to socio-economic inclusion and another ambitious series of stories about Gen Z Muslims. In less than two years since the launch of the website their stories have been featured in The Times, the Guardian and the BBC.

Best Podcast



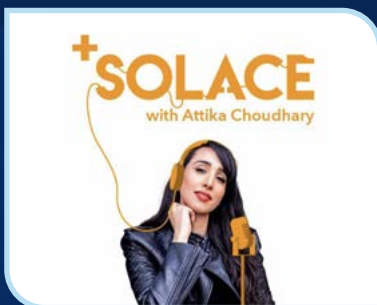
Brown Gal Can't Swim Summaya Mughal

In this engaging and personal journey, we follow Summaya as she takes on a challenge of confronting her lifelong fear of learning to swim as a 27-year-old British-Pakistani woman. She reached out to 4x GB Olympic hero Rebecca Adlington who threw her expertise and encouragement behind Summaya, challenging her to complete a 500m open-water swim within eight weeks. Summaya documented the journey on BBC TV, radio, BBC News online and social media leading to a global online community of BGCS supporters. Summaya shared every step with her followers, bringing to light the challenges adults face when learning to swim and the untold stories of the cultural barriers preventing women like her getting in the pool.



Masala Podcast Soul Sutras

Masala Podcast from Soul Sutras is a platform dedicated to celebrating and supporting South Asian women, while challenging cultural taboos. It is described as a safe space to be ourselves, to celebrate those bits of our culture that serve us and take control of our narratives, as well as our minds and bodies. In the most recent series - season 4, the podcast covered everything from brown mums, sari-wearing skaters, sex and intimacy to more serious themes like motherhood, menopause, sexual abuse, trans activism, grief and strength. It featured two finales with live episodes in Cologne and London. Sangeeta set up Soul Sutras and Masala Podcast so South Asian women could have open discussions on topics, thus removing the shame and trauma often attached to them.



Positive Solace Attika Choudhary

During the lockdown, Attika, wanted to help people who were struggling with the imposed isolation from friends and family. In the latest season the podcast explored the themes of love and healing, and what they mean to different people. The idea for this theme came from host Attika's personal experiences who in-between seasons had experienced several episodes of trauma from contracting Covid-19, being involved in a bicycle accident and the threat of losing her father to illness. Guests were asked to explain how they found healing and shared their stories to bring solace. Guests come from different backgrounds, cultures, experiences and learning with conversations not scripted. The podcast remains self-funded and reliant on a skilled team who volunteer their time.



Two Chickpeas in a Podcast

Nikkita Beghi and Natasha Beghi

From light-hearted conversations about relationships to discussing the latest films this podcast explores what it means to be Asian and British today. Nikkita and Natasha are two sisters from West London who are navigating and exploring their heritage and identity as they question the different issues that affect them being third-generation Asian. Guests often join them to help them on their journey to understanding who they are as British Asians. Their podcast also picks up on more serious topics. In one episode, Natasha shares her experience of undergoing a rhinoplasty in Turkey and the sisters discuss Bollywood and the latest in the world of showbiz, as well therapy, climate change and PCOS (Polycystic ovary syndrome).



The Bainsainye Show

Amrit Singh Saini & Karman Singh Bains

The Bainsainye Show is a weekly show hosted by Amrit and Karman who share their unfiltered opinions about everything and anything. The show has picked up a cult following due to its irreverent humour and takings on everyday life. Their shows have tackled everything from sport to cultural nuances. This has included debating questions such as brown on brown racism, issues relating to relationships and dating and current affairs. The subject matter can range from anything from Christmas to black magic to domestic violence. At times deeply personal, the podcast does not shy away of raising important and well-meaning discussions over men's mental health issues.

Best Stage Production



Bombay Superstar

Phizzical Productions

A dazzling Bollywood style musical set in the 70s which celebrates the stories of leading women who transformed how South Asian women were portrayed on screen. Many film buffs will note how pre 1970s, women played pious heroines i.e. sisters, girlfriends, wives, sisters-in-laws, mothers or they were vamps who are killed in the quest for redemption. The seventies saw actresses such as Zeenat Aman, Parveen Babi, Shabana Azmi and Rekha break the mould and with it the perceptions of what a woman could or could not do in cinema. This production starred a cast of 12 singer/actor/dancers and a live band of six musicians.



Cinder'Aliyah

Abdullah Afzal for Penny Appeal

This pantomime, organised by the international charity Penny Appeal in aid of humanitarian work in Pakistan, aimed to reach audiences from diverse backgrounds who would not normally watch a live stage show. Led by Abdullah Afzal, the team has reimagined the classic Cinderella story with a cultural twist, showcasing the tale of a young Pakistani girl trapped in unfortunate circumstances. The incorporation of British 'halal' humour, familiar singalongs, and characters resonated with many Muslim families. The show's sold-out performances in major cities like London and Birmingham and the cast were featured in numerous TV, radio and online news reports in the run up to Christmas.



Orpheus

Opera North

This groundbreaking performance of Monteverdi's opera Orpheus opened at Leeds Grand Theatre, then toured to The Lowry Salford Quays, Theatre Royal Nottingham and Theatre Royal Newcastle, as well as being filmed in full and made available to stream online on the OperaVision platform. It skilfully brought together western and Indian classical music in a reimagining of one of the earliest surviving operas, Monteverdi's 1607 work L'Orfeo. The opera was sung in Italian and Urdu, with additional sections sung in Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Punjabi and Bengali, and was subtitled in English at all performances. The cast included performers trained in western and Indian classical traditions.



Patel's Millions

Madraj

This wonderfully crafted and enjoyable comedy musical follows a struggling shopkeeper who is desperate to give his family a better life. But when his wishes come true, he faces more than he bargained for. The show explores themes around austerity and aspirations, and how happiness can be found in the simpler things in life. The show was inspired by the current cost of living crisis. The production quickly gained a cult following and productions attracted partners and sponsors. Madraj said they were inspired by the diversity of their cast which included Indians, Pakistanis, British Asians from all regions and backgrounds. Madraj is a British Asian theatre company whose main artistic focus is to create, promote and develop regionally, nationally and internationally.



The Empress

Royal Shakespeare Company

Inspired by a picture of the Hackney Ayah's Home Tanika Gupta wrote *The Empress* to highlight the erased histories of Asians in the Victorian era. It offers a fresh perspective on Britain and its relationship with India and the long-established connections between the two nations. Set in 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the play tells the story of the sixteen-year-old Rani Das, ayah (nursemaid) to an English family, who arrives at Tilbury docks after a long voyage from India, to start a new life in Britain. Spanning a period of 13 years over the so-called 'Golden Era' of Empire (1887-1901), the play re-surfaces the legacies of the Asians in Britain.



The Father and the Assassin

National Theatre

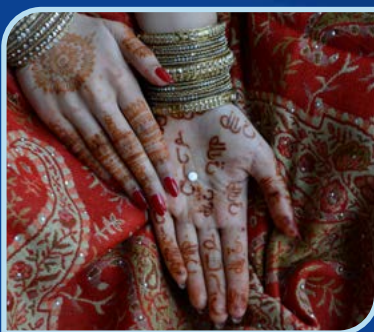
Written by Anupama Chandrasekhar for the National Theatre in a period of development that began while she was NT's Writer in Residence in 2016, and culminated in its opening in the Olivier Theatre (the NT's most epic stage) in May 2022. Much is known of Gandhi's life and many works have been written and documented about him. In contrast, very little is recorded of the life of his assassin, Nathuram Godse. The play takes dramatic license with the timeframe of events, but this play is not a fiction: rather Chandrasekhar uses history as a frame within which to track the trajectories of both Gandhi and Godse. The play became a sell-out hit, which has prompted its return to the Olivier stage this autumn.



The P Word

A Bush Theatre Production

Zafar flees homophobic persecution in Pakistan to seek asylum in the UK. Londoner Bilal (or Billy as he prefers to be known) is ground down by years of and the complexity of being a brown gay man. Their worlds are about to change forever. Moving through casual hook-ups to the UK's hostile environment, Waleed Akhtar's sharp-witted play charts the parallel lives of two gay Pakistani men. A story of who wins in the luck of life's draw, it was premiered at the Bush Theatre, London, in 2022 and directed by Anthony Simpson-Pike. It went on to win Outstanding Achievement in Affiliate Theatre at the 2023 Olivier Awards.



Vitamin D

Sarah Allen Productions

Having moved back in with her parents in suburban North West London after her divorce, Larki played by Saher Shah, is facing friends, family, aunties, 'besties', and the decision between jalebi or gulaab jamun. She is searching for something, she just hasn't quite figured out what yet. With an all female cast, *Vitamin D* looks at the changing relationships between women, complexities of emotional crises, British South Asian culture, the stigma of divorce and everyone's opinion on it all. Larki's journey tries to figure out who she was, is, and will be, moving forward in her life after her divorce. Saher Shah is an Actor, Writer and Poet working across Theatre, VoiceOver, TV and Film.

Outstanding Stage Performance



Nisha Aâliya

as Laila / Bhanumati in *Bombay Superstar*

In her relatively short career, Nisha has already brought to life an array of characters and roles on stage and on screen. In *Bombay Superstar*, she plays Bhanumati, an orphaned, illegitimate schoolgirl who travels to Bombay to search for her father, and ends up becoming Laila, a Bollywood superstar. During the course of the show, she encounters toxic men and changes the way they think about their behaviour and beliefs about women. Nisha unearths an array of emotions that are constantly changing; comedy, tragedy, lust, love, sympathy, heart break and empowerment. The production played to packed houses across the country with South Asian audiences who enthralled by the music and dance that celebrated the golden age of Indian cinema. Nisha has in the past appeared in *Emmerdale* and starred in *Marvel's Secret Invasion*.



Waleed Akhtar

as Bilal in *The P word*

Waleed Akhtar wrote and starred in this sharp-witted production which charts the parallel lives of two gay Pakistani men. Londoner Bilal (or Billy as he prefers to be known) is ground down by years of Grindr and the complexity of being a brown gay man. Zafar flees homophobic persecution in Pakistan to seek asylum in the UK. Their worlds are about to change forever. The contrasting backgrounds, hopes and dreams are played out touching upon a range of emotions and issues. The performances were praised for allowing 'underrepresented and often unheard of viewpoints to take centre stage'. The production was also a winner of an Olivier Award for 'Outstanding Performance in an Affiliate Theatre' and the recipient of a string of 5-star reviews. Waleed is an accomplishing writer whose past credits include the critically acclaimed *Kabul Goes Pop* and *Lost Paradise*.



Irfan Damani

as Patrick Star in *The SpongeBob Musical*

Irfan Damani is currently playing Patrick Star in the UK premiere of *The SpongeBob Musical*. The premise of *The Spongebob Musical* sees *Spongebob Squarepants* and residents of *Bikini Bottom* very existence come under threat with the news a nearby volcano will erupt imminently destroying everything. Over Christmas 2022, Irfan was performing in *The New Musketeers* and *The Aliens That Saved Christmas* at Trinity Theatre, and he has been in the cast of two David Walliams stage adaptations, when he played Raj/Flavio in *Gangsta Granny* for his first tour last year, and he made his West End debut as Raj/Teacher in *Billionaire Boy*. For his first professional job, Irfan was part of *ISHQ the Musical* at Sadler's Wells, and he has screen experience, which has seen him film for *Breeders*, *EastEnders* and Bollywood feature film *Namaste England*.



Blythe Jandoo

as Louise in *Gypsy*

Blythe has appeared in a whole host of national theatre and musical productions. In *Gypsy* she plays the role of Louise. The production is based on the memoir of famous burlesque artist *Gypsy Rose Lee*, and tells the story of ambitious showbiz mother Rose, who travels across America with her daughters, *Baby June* and *Louise*, in search of success with their homemade vaudeville act. Blythe was praised for 'bringing more depth to the role and her crystal clear vocals were described 'effortless and beautiful', by critics. Blythe trained at The Dance School of Scotland and subsequently at The Arts Educational Schools, London. Her long list of theatre credits include playing Liz in 'Sunshine on Leith', Jean Passepartout in 'Around the World in 80 Days' and Maggie in 'The Maggie Wall'. She has also appeared in *Rumi: The Musical* in and *Joseph, The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and *Bend It Like Beckham* and appeared in television, film and audio productions.



Nuwan Hugh Perera

as Samwise Gamgee in *The Lord of the Rings A Musical Tale*

Nuwan Hugh Perera has appeared in a number of major productions including *Life of Pi*, *Amelie* and *Side Show*. In his latest performance he plays Samwise Gamgee in *The Lord of the Rings – Musical*. This production sees us venture into the depths of Middle-earth and features the music of A.R. Rahman, Värttinä and Christopher Nightingale. As the Hobbits celebrate Bilbo Baggins' eleventh-first birthday, he gifts his nephew Frodo his inheritance – including his most precious belonging, a gold ring. The show sees us immersed into the magical landscape of Tolkien with an ensemble cast who go on an epic journey celebrating the power of friendship.



Nikhil Parmar

as Zayan in *Invisible*

Nikhil Parmar who wrote and starred in '*Invisible*' which returned to the Bush Theatre in May of this year, prior to a New York debut. In this one-man show, he plays Zayan, an under-employed actor and over-employed dealer who sees himself as the hapless lead in the sitcom that is his life. The story tracks one man's desperate struggle to be seen as the hero of his own narrative. As Zayan attempts to transition from being neglected to notorious, we see him share details of past oppressions, grief, and the suspicion that he has indeed become 'invisible'. The performance was praised by critics for creating a show that was 'sad, funny and honest'. Nikhil is London-based Manchester-born playwright, screenwriter, and actor who was previously a member of Bush Theatre's Emerging Writers' Group.



Parle Patel

as Jayesh Patel in *Patel's Millions*

Multi-talented Parle Patel has played a range of characters, both male and female, across some of the most successful productions of recent years. In his latest role he plays Jayesh Patel in *Patel's Millions*, a struggling shopkeeper who is desperate to give his family a better life. But when his wishes come true, he faces more than he bargained for. The show explores themes around austerity and aspirations, and how happiness can be found in the simpler things in life. Parle also plays the female character of Bela Patel, Jayesh Patel's sister, and through his roles touches on a variety of issues including patriarchy, materialism, forced marriage and a naive hunger for wealth. A social media star and presenter, Parle has been praised for celebrating South Asian native languages and also for his ability to take on a number of comedic roles within the same production.

Best Live Event



London Eid Festival 2023

Westfield London was transformed into a celebration of food, shopping and entertainment over a bank holiday weekend. Held to celebrate the festival of Eid the event attracted record-breaking numbers to Europe's biggest shopping centre. The free event featured everything from food markets, modest fashion shows to activities for all the family. Music producer Naughty Boy was among the celebrities who enthralled shoppers at the popular cookery demonstrations. The festival helps to showcase Islamic culture and traditions to non-Muslims helping to break down barriers and misconceptions.



Open Iftar 2023

Some of the most iconic venues and spaces in the country became the backdrop for 'Open Iftars,' the sunset meal enjoyed by Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan. From the Royal Albert Hall, Wembley Stadium to Trafalgar Square and Villa Park, the events aimed to encourage people from all backgrounds and cultures to meet and eat. The project has shed light on Muslim traditions and also helped to bring whole communities together, some of whom who would never have an opportunity to engage with one another. Led by the Ramadan Project who have connected over 500,000 people across the country, since 2013.



Request Line

This enthralling exhibition celebrated the invaluable contributions to British Asian culture of Mohammed Ayub who founded the world-famous Oriental Star Agencies in Birmingham in 1970. Before the store had to finally close in 2017, True Form Projects rescued much of the record collection and other artefacts in order to archive them and keep them protected for future generations. The project collected over 3000 records and artefacts, collecting memories of the music and culture contained in these important records. As the new South Asian Gallery launched at Manchester Museum, the new installation opened and included handwritten and personal requests people sent in throughout the 1980s within the vinyl sleeves.



The Offbeat Sari

Never before has there been a major celebration of the contemporary sari in this way. From the simple to the more intricate designs, it showcased the glorious traditions of the outfit and the stories behind them. Curated by Head of Curatorial, Priya Khanchandani, this exhibition unravelled its numerous forms, demonstrating the sari to be a 'metaphor for the layered and complex definitions of India today. It brought together dozens of the finest saris of our time from designers, wearers and craftspeople in India.



Voice of Legends UK Tour 2023

British-Asian singing sensation Navin Kundra's unique extravaganza of live shows paying homage to the Bollywood playback singing legends. The show celebrated the contribution of some of the most famous singers of a generation to which the crowds responded. The earlier tours sold out and in 2023 the show gave fans to relive some of the most iconic tunes from the nineties. It played at Queen's Theatre, the DeMonfort Hall and the Beck Theatre. The enthralling show was a mix of music and dance 'full of energy, colour and culture'.

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Creative Media Award



Changing Perceptions' Campaign Alzheimer's Society

To create an awareness of issues relating to dementia within the Asian community Alzheimer's commissioned this video and campaign. In it, Bhagwant explains how she's been able to change perceptions of dementia in her community. After being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Bhagwant stresses the importance of awareness and education in South Asian communities, and why it's best to seek help if you're worried about dementia. She reveals the challenges she faced during the onset of dementia, how people may feel 'scared' at first and how some may hide their symptoms. The piece has been praised for reaching for its authentic portrayal of experiences and helping to change perceptions within the Asian community.



Kohinoor Basmati 'Heritage' Campaign Fantasia Advertising for Kohinoor

Asked to create a campaign that showcase Kohinoor's premium quality basmati, appeal to both young and older British Asian's Fantasia Advertising came up with the heartwarming 'heritage' campaign. Two Commercials were produced. One for the British Indian Community and one for the British Pakistani Community, with the aim of remaining 'Authentic' to the culture of each community. Both commercials feature a young British Indian/British Pakistani male and female visiting their Ancestral Home. It is the Home of a "khandani family" which represents the importance of holding on to the family history and rich customs and cultures of the sub-continent. The team sourced authentic locations and traditional homes alongside a poetic style script to create something truly remarkable.



Plus Size Campaign: Bold & Beautiful Anisha Vasani Creates for Amretto's World & Nim Boutique

This groundbreaking campaign shared the emotional stories of South Asian women and their experiences of body shaming. The campaign came about after Amrit from Amaretto's World approached Anisha Vasani to change the way fashion is accessed and perceived by women. They then set about wanting to show the world that there is no such thing as the perfect body and fashion is for everyone 'no matter what their shape or size'. The vision was to reach out to women who have felt invisible. The creative campaign, which was featured on the Cover of Celestia Magazine was supported by a range of fashion brands such as Nim's Boutique, Velvet Rani and Human Highness, who all designed special collections for the women.



Ramadan Lights UK Aisha Desai

The installation of 30,000 sustainable lights the first in Europe, illuminated Piccadilly Circus for the month of Ramadan. The initiative was driven by non-profit organisation Ramadan Lights UK, who rallied to set up the display through public donations. Aisha Desai Founder, Ramadan Lights Head of Community, Algbra, said she wanted to bring some of the magic of seeing Christmas lights to her own community and also to share the spirit of the holy Muslim month with others. The journey began three years ago and through generous donors the dream was realised with lights going up in Henley's Corner on the North Circular at the Lions in Trafalgar Square and in 2023, Coventry Street, the road that joins Piccadilly Circus to Leicester Square.

Media Agency of the Year



Curzon PR

Curzon PR has been at the forefront of some of the most dynamic campaigns targeting all communities. Founded in 2009 by Farzana Baduel, Curzon PR describes itself as 'standing as a bridge between cultures, promoting cross-cultural understanding and collaboration'. It has led a number of transformative campaigns and partnerships. In March the agency announced it had been reappointed by The Wave Project, the world's first surf therapy charity, to handle its media relations campaign. The agency also picked up the account of Lifeplus International – a US-based health and wellness company with a presence in several countries around the world this year.



Ethnic Reach

Ethnic Reach is a multicultural media agency with over 23 years' experience in the industry. During the qualifying period the agency has developed campaigns targeting the Ethnic communities of the UK that have raised awareness and increased brand presence for a number of high-profile clients. The team have worked on 174 creative campaigns in one way or another within the past 18 months. The agency has also showcased some of the most iconic brands across melas, festivals and carnivals. Their standout campaigns have included work for Elephant Atta, Rajah Spices, Amira Rice, Vatika (#BeVisible Campaign), Levi Roots, and the NHS.



Fantasia Advertising

Fantasia Advertising aims to guide clients through the advertising process by creating unique, memorable and exclusive concepts to be shared across the most suitable media platform. Celebrating thirty years, in 2023, the agency has led a series of notable campaigns for leading brands. One of their standout campaigns from the past year saw them produce something quite special for Kohinoor Basmati UK. The heartwarming 'Heritage' campaign saw two commercials launched, one for the British Indian Community and one for the British Pakistani Community. The endearing adverts appeared on various Asian digital channels throughout 2023 and were praised for celebrating traditional Asian values.



Oceanic Media

From compelling launches to captivating news features, Oceanic Media has led a number of campaigns for businesses both small and large. Among the highlights within the qualifying period has been their work on product and company launches which have featured in national media. The team managed the launch for GDK (German Donner Kebab) as they unveiled their new product – 'Coco Kiki'. For leading fast food brand Taco Bell, the agency's halal campaign aimed to boost a customer base within the Muslim community. The agency also hosts a range of bespoke services for major brands including, social media management, influencer management and web and graphic design.

University of Salford marks ten years as premier partner of the Asian Media Awards

Since 2013, the University has been in partnership with the national gala, which has helped identify and bring wider attention to the UK's best Asian talents working across the creative industries.

To mark the awards' success of the last decade, the University launched a campaign that celebrates the success of graduates in the creative sectors.

Sam Ingleson, Associate Dean for Engagement and Enterprise & Paul Broster, Associate Dean: Student Experience at the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology said: "We are tremendously proud of our partnership with the Asian Media Awards over the last ten years. The awards are an exceptional example of showcasing the wider diversity amongst the UK's creative sectors and continue to be an inspiration for those both working and seeking to work in these industries.

"We are determined to play our part in inspiring the next generation of Asian talent to consider and pursue a successful career in the creative industries."

Shuiab Khan, from the Asian Media Awards said: "It has been wonderful working with the University of Salford to help shine a light on the varied work being produced within the media industry.

"Through the university's commitment we have been able to highlight ground-breaking investigations, enthralling productions and creativity at all levels.

"Moreover, the university has been keen to support our aims and objectives during the past decade.

"Our focus has been on promoting and showcasing upcoming talent in the hope those involved will go on to reach their full potential.

"We are delighted that our partnerships have

helped in some way to achieve this."

The University of Salford has educated some of the finest young talent to enter the UK's creative industries over the last few decades.

From fronting the social media channels for Manchester United to penning articles for the BBC, the work of Salford graduates has been seen by millions of people around the world.

Here, are just some of the stories that have come through the creative programmes during the ten-year partnership with the Asian Media Awards.

Amber Haque
is an award-winning journalist,
documentary filmmaker and
presenter.



Amber graduated from our MA/PgDip Journalism programme in 2015. Since leaving, Salford, Amber has gone on to become one of the upcoming stars in the UK media, fronting documentaries for both BBC Three and for BBC Panorama in addition to being named a 'One To Watch' by the Edinburgh TV Festival.

Speaking about opportunities for people from Asian backgrounds in journalism Amber said: "In the last five years I've felt like I've seen a seismic shift in terms of representation. I think we focus a lot on new entrants and kind of like new talent breaking in but I've always had a concern at that kind of mid-tier level and leadership roles because that's how culture filters down.

"Actual change happens when it is coming down from the top. It's really difficult to create a culture when we're only kind of doing it from the new entrants but things have got a lot better.

"It is finding those spaces where ideas are going to be embraced like tone is really important because I think sometimes we can

get diverse stories out there but the tone isn't quite right, it's not truly representative."

She added: "Things have got a lot better [but] when I first started there was a lot of people wanting to put me in a box where I just did South Asian stories [and maybe] it was because I might have only been one of the first South Asian female journalists coming to certain spaces.

"For me, diversity is not just doing stories about where people are from, that's not true diversity as it kind of feels a bit box ticking. [We need more stories that represent] diversity of thought."

Kaya Aftab
is a **journalist and producer at the BBC who graduated from our BA Journalism with English programme in 2017.**



Since graduating Kaya has gone on to become a journalist and producer at the BBC, working on prominent national radio stations such as BBC Radio 1xtra and BBC Asian Network.

"I picked Salford because when I came to visit on the open day, I just felt right at home. I found it insightful on what the course would be like by speaking to the lecturers and visiting the campus. I was obviously completely blown away by Media City. I think being right in the hub of Media City felt like the opportunities would be endless - it just felt exciting.

"I've always been a creative person and I really enjoy that. I just think that there is something extremely satisfying seeing an idea or something you've made come to life."

Neha Navekar
is a **freelance sports and entertainment presenter who graduated from in BA Television and Radio Production programme in 2020.**



Since then she has worked as a prominent freelance sports and entertainment presenter, working with Manchester United, Lancashire Cricket Club, TikTok and the BBC.

She spoke about some of her inspirations on screen.

She said: "When I was younger, I sadly didn't

see much representation on my screen or people who looked like me and always thought I'd never be able to pursue a presenting career, as I didn't look like the presenters on my screen. Konnie Huq on Blue Peter changed that and had a big influence on me a child as I saw someone on my screen who looked like me and had similar features to myself. It was the biggest shift for me as a child and essentially a reminder that if she can do it, so can I!

"As I grew older and became interested in sports, Seema Jaswal was my biggest inspiration. Seeing a South Asian woman cover the World Cup and help pave the way for more South Asian women in the game was a huge moment. Due to the Asian Media Awards, I had the opportunity to interview her whilst at University and have been lucky enough to keep in touch through the years - she gives the best advice."

Priya Matharu
is a **radio producer and presenter who graduated from our (BA) Broadcast Journalism programme in 2019.**



Since leaving Salford, she has gone on to forge a career in the radio industry and is now a presenter at Switch Radio in Birmingham and a producer for Free Radio and Signal 1.

She says a career in media was a challenge she wanted to take on

She said: "Something about the media, radio and the creative industries always appealed to me growing up, however, I never knew exactly what career I wanted to pursue.

"When I came across the course, I immediately knew that this was something I wanted to do. Confidence was something I struggled with growing up, and I knew that a course like this would really push me out of my comfort zone and force me to come out of my shell. It worked and since then I have presented a national radio show, hosted events and interviewed a range of people.

"I was also aware that there wasn't as many South Asians pursuing creative careers, so this made me want to give it a try and see where it could take me."



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Best Video Channel 2023

Shabaz Says

Shabaz Ali has built a huge online audience with his witty takedowns of what he himself calls, 'The internet culture of performative perfection'.

His humorous videos, which normally feature him lying in a bed, have amassed 1.8m followers on TikTok and a further 1.6m followers on Instagram with millions of shares and likes. His remarkable rise to fame saw him garner over a million followers in less than a year.

Shabaz's deadpan humour and take on life seem to have inspired a whole generation of young people who see the uncomfortable contrast between our online obsession with luxury and troubled reality.

His commentary has seen him dubbed, among other things, as the 'voice of the cost-of-living crisis' and the 'Robin Hood of TikTok',

as he takes merciless aim at the seemingly spoilt, the weird and the bizarre.

The full-time Chemistry teacher admits to simply saying what is on his mind and does not script the videos to ensure that he can be as candid as possible.

Shabaz's newfound fame has seen him feature on a host of radio programmes and international news shows across the world.

His upcoming book will unmask the truth behind social media and highlight many of the traditions and practices of his family and their approach to a

'healthy, sustainable and cost-effective living'.

Shabaz is about to start a podcast, in talks to host a documentary on the cost-of-living crisis and brought his first stand up live show to the Lowry this summer.



Best Programme / Show



Expelled from Uganda

Reported by Reha Kansara; Produced & Directed by Alvaro Alvarez for BBC News Our World

In 1972, Idi Amin publicly condemned Ugandan Asians as the enemy, enforcing a brutal policy that ordered them to leave the country within 90 days. On the 50th anniversary of the expulsion, reporter Reha Kansara followed her mum and aunt as they returned to Uganda together for the first time. Setting off from the English suburbs, they journey to the sugar plantations of Kakira and to the source of the Nile in Jinja where, shortly before the atrocities began. They are reunited with old friends and discover how the expulsion changed the country they left behind. Reha, on her quest to find her family's origins, dives into archives, visits museums and talks to historians about the migration route from India to East Africa, and the impact the British Empire had on bringing South Asia to the subcontinent. The programme was aired over 40 times across the globe for BBC News TV. The radio documentary 'Finding Home in Uganda' was downloaded internationally over 60,000 times via BBC Sounds.



Count Abdullah

Fudge Park Productions for ITVX

This comedy horror follows the life of Abdullah Khan - a mid-twenties British-Pakistani Muslim doctor stuck in an identity crisis. He is caught between his religious mother and his secular, hedonistic friends. But when Abdullah is bitten by a vampire he suddenly becomes the outsider's outsider. Arian Nik is cast as Abdullah Khan alongside Jaime Winstone as Kathy. The series aired in June and was commended for smashing stereotypes and ridiculing widely held views of Asians and Muslims. The debut episode finds Abdullah's mother keen to show him off at the first Eid since he qualified as a junior doctor; unfortunately the new moon coincides with Halloween, and as a lifetime horror devotee he's desperate to go to his friends' costume party. The six-part series was written by Kaamil Shah and directed by Asim Abbasi (Churails). Count Abdullah was produced by Hussain Casey Ahmed (Afterlife), with executive producer Phil Gilbert (White Gold).



Humza: Forgiving the Unforgivable

Drummer Television for BBC Three

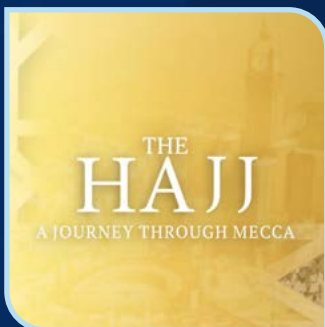
YouTuber, author and comedian Humza Arshad grapples with the decisions he made growing up and it has shaped his life. In this deeply personal programme he poses the question 'what happens when your instincts tell you to seek revenge, but your faith demands that you forgive?' As a teenager, Humza's cousin suffered a brutal and unprovoked attack by a group of young men - an attack which left the family scarred. As the perpetrators have now walked free, Humza is driven to search for ways of containing the anger he feels towards them. He seeks out others who have made the headlines by forgiving their attackers: a father whose sons were killed by rioters in Birmingham, a mother who lost her daughter at the Manchester Arena bombing and an imam who survived a vicious racist knife crime. With the help of his straight-talking mum and kept afloat by his faith and his unique sense of humour, he must confront the past and look for a way forward.



Kaur

Pinder Productions & Flip The Script Network
for ITVX & Britbox

Made exclusively to mark South Asian Heritage Month, Kaur explores identity, faith, racism and female empowerment and was created, written, produced by and stars award-winning filmmaker and full time NHS doctor Parvinder Shergill. It features Nina Wadia and Stephen Uppal and follows Avani (Shergill) and her decision to wear a Sikh turban for the first time. It is a choice that is very much against her father's wishes whilst her mother, played by Nina, is supportive but struggles with the tensions it causes within the family as her husband wrestles with his own faith. Kaur is set to be developed into a full length feature film written by Parvinder, which will introduce five new key characters into the storyline. The programme was co-produced and co-written by Juggy Sohail from Flip the Script Network, in association with Raise Creatives.



The Hajj: A Journey Through Mecca

Reported & Written by Shehab Khan; Written &
Produced by Mark Napier; Field Produced by Yilmaz
Akinci; Filmed by Adeeb Farhat; Edited by Helen
Williams for ITV & ITN ITV News

This groundbreaking documentary offered an immersive experience into a pilgrimage which is completed by millions of Muslims every single year. Shehab shared this deeply emotional and personal journey, participating in the Hajj and allowing viewers to join him in a way that has never been done before on UK television. ITV was given unprecedented access to the event, after more than 18 months of negotiations, to provide on the ground filming and reporting experience from the Hajj, allowing this documentary to offer an intimate look at the pilgrimage. A small team on the ground negotiated extreme heat and the joy and emotion of over 2 million people joined in faith in completing what is so often a lifetime's ambition. The film was edited in under two weeks to ensure it was aired immediately after the Hajj. The programme went out after News at Ten in July and was watched by over half a million people on first transmission.



Bend it Like Bollywood

Clockwork Films for BBC Three

In this engaging and thought-provoking show we meet Vinay a dancer who believes you don't have to dance like a 'man' or a 'woman' but can do it in a non-gendered way. Growing up in Leicester, he felt unable to live his life as a visibly out and queer person, worried what his community and family would think of his sexuality and way of life. This led Vinay to suppress being gay so he could fit in with everyone around him. Feeling rejected by the people of his hometown, Vinay left for the bright lights and freedom of the capital. Three years on he's built a brand-new life in London: openly gay, gender non-conforming, a dazzling collection of sarees in tow and running his own successful dance class, Bollyqueer. This film sees him take a bold step: to return to his hometown of Leicester to launch his Bollyqueer dance classes.

Best TV Character



Arsher Ali

as Elder Samson in *Everyone Else Burns*

Asher Ali stars as Pastor Elder Samson in the critically-acclaimed 'Everybody Else Burns' on Channel 4. The witty and subversive family sitcom centres on a Mancunian family who believe the world is going to end, and the puritanical Christian sect they are devoted to. The six-part series has been described as a funny exploration of what it feels like to balance faith, family and identity in a sinful modern world that could end tomorrow. Arsher has starred across TV and film and has been vocal throughout his career about the challenges faced by British Asian actors in the industry and his continual fight against racial typecasting.



Adam Hussain

as Aadi Alahan in *Coronation Street*

Adam Hussain plays *Coronation Street*'s Aadi Alahan in the much-loved soap. In the past year he has endeared himself to millions of viewers as a funny, sensitive and likeable character who continues to veer away from stereotypes as an original yet relatable teenager. He embarked in a relationship with Kelly Neelan and later threw himself in front of a bullet for Kelly in a thrilling showdown. He has taken part in an extra-marital affair with an older woman as he grapples with being perceived as just another kid. Aadi has also played a crucial role in the saga of Amy Barlow's rape. This storyline around sexual consent was developed in conjunction with the Schools Consent Project, a charity.



Arian Nik

as Abdulla Khan in *Count Abdulla*

Arian takes on this multi-faceted role of a mid-twenties British-Pakistani Muslim doctor stuck in an identity crisis. He is caught between his religious mother and his secular, hedonistic friends. But when Abdulla is bitten by a vampire he suddenly becomes the outsider's outsider. The six-part series was praised for challenging a whole host of misconceptions and prejudices. Arian made his television debut with guest appearances in the BBC spy thriller *Killing Eve* as Jay and has also starred in *Ackley Bridge* and crime drama, *The Bay*. He made his feature film debut in 2020 with roles in the Disney adaptation of *Artemis Fowl* and the Irish comedy-drama *Dating Amber*.



Rebecca Sarker as Dr Manpreet Sharma in Emmerdale

In what has been a tumultuous few years Manpreet, played by Rebecca Sarker has been at the centre of some of the soaps most explosive storylines. Part of this has been thanks to her sister Meena Jutla's (Paige Sandhu) murderous and scheming ways. GP Manpreet Sharma made her first appearance in Emmerdale in 2018 and since then has featured in a range of plotlines. This summer Manpreet was torn between telling the truth and being loyal as she makes a shocking discovery over the death of the Charles Anderson's (Played by Kevin Mathurin) father. Rebecca made her acting debut in the ITV soap opera Coronation Street as Nita Desai in 1999 and also featured in Eastenders and Doctors.



Aaron Thiara as Ravi Gulati in Eastenders

Ravi, played by Aaron arrived on the square with high-impact as a prison-buddy of Phil's, and within a few episodes had murdered his adopted father and let Suki believe she was to blame. Ravi has had a plethora of love-affairs, including with his brother's girlfriend Stacey, Jack's wife Denise, and her daughter Chelsea for the extra collateral before finding himself falling in love with her. Aaron's scenes are the source of Twitter chaos every night with viewers wondering why on earth they want to protect such a force of destruction. The internal struggle between light and dark has brought out nuanced and impressive performance from Aaron Thiara.

TV Channel of the Year



Colors UK

Colors is Viacom18's flagship brand in India and is streamed through a range of avenues in the UK. Colors UK remains one of the popular Hindi TV drama channels in the country airing some of the most watched soaps and entertainment shows. It produces a range of shows including Dance Deewane, Ramachari and Shiv Shakti Tap Tyaag Tandav. It also airs a number of live events, IIFA Awards 2023 which has boosted its ratings. The channel continues air some of the best reality TV shows and recently announced 'Temptation Island'.



Geo TV

Geo TV broadcasts to countries across the world. In the UK the channel is one of the most popular Asian TV channels, watched primarily, but not exclusively by the Pakistani community. The channel offers up range of exclusive dramas, serials, talk shows and morning shows including Zindagi Kitni Haseen Hai and Baylagaam. The dramas have proved to be popular across the continent reaching audiences from different backgrounds and cultures. Over the past year Geo TV has consistently been competing at the top end of the TV ratings.



Hum TV Europe

HUM TV one of Pakistan's premier entertainment channels, providing a range a shows and dramas across the world. The channel has aired a number of popular shows in the past year, including Mere Ban Jao, Fairy Tale, Jhok Sarkar, Khel, Ish Murshid and Nijaat. The dramas are consistently hitting some of the highest ratings. The network also hosts its hugely popular Hum Awards which attract some of the biggest soap and film stars from across the world.



Sony Entertainment Television

Sony Entertainment Television (SET) UK provides a range of family shows which are watched across the world. A dynamic channel that responds to the diverse needs of its viewers and offers a complete spectrum of genres like record breaking reality shows, Kaun Banega Crorepati (The Indian version of Who Wants to be Millionaire?), India's Got Talent and India's Best Dancer. It also boasts dramas like Sapno Ki Chhalaang, the romantic drama Hum Rahein Naa Rahein Hum and the historical drama Punyashlok Ahilyabai.



Utsav Plus

Utsav Plus is part of the Star Network from The Walt Disney Company. Star Network channels are the market leaders in entertainment for the South Asian community, across India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Utsav Plus is the network's flagship channel and is constantly airing some of the most popular dramas and serials. This includes shows such as Anupamaa, Gum Hai Kisikey Pyaar Meiin and 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' which attract huge audiences each day. The channel also boasts a variety of reality, talent, comedy, crime shows and live events such as the Star Parivaar Awards.

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Best Newcomer 2023

Priya Kansara

Priya Kansara has featured in some of the most critically acclaimed films and series of recent times.

Priya trained at The Identity School of Acting, London and landed the lead role in the action-comedy *Polite Society* which has been commended for smashing open stereotypes.

The film, written by Nida Manzoor, debuted at the Sundance Film Festival and has already garnered a burgeoning cult following. In interviews Priya, who plays Ria Khan in the film, a British Pakistani who dreams of being a professional stunt performer, admits to learning a whole variety of new skills during filming itself.

Uniquely, the film does not explore the familiar plotlines that tend to be played out for leading Asian characters and instead focusses on a teenager's determination to

protect her sister, played by Ritu Arya, at any costs.

Priya also comes from a background with no experience in the film industry and worked in the health and pharmaceutical industry. A graduate of University College London (UCL) in Molecular Biology, Priya took up evening acting classes to pursue her interest in film and TV.

Her first major role came in series two of the Netflix hit, *Bridgerton*, where she played Miss Eaton.

She also featured in the new Netflix series *The Bastard Son and the Devil Himself*, a British fantasy drama television series created by Joe Barton

Priya was named one of Screen International Stars of Tomorrow 2022.



Best Radio Show



Gold Breakfast

The Gold Breakfast show on Lyca Gold is hosted by Kajal Sehmi every weekday morning. The show celebrates the very best of the classic Bollywood music and has a dedicated audience of all ages. The morning show is made up of a mix of music and chat and latest updates from around the UK. Kajal has been radio presenter for over 15 years and describes colleagues and listeners as valuable content as her 'second family'. This dedication has been tested in recent times as Kajal shared her own health battles and cancer diagnosis. She chose to be vocal of the illness to raise awareness of health issues which are not discussed enough within the community. She was commended and praised for her brave decision and received a great deal of support and positive feedback from the Lyca Gold team and audiences.



Lyca Breakfast

Within a short space of time, Vallisa Chauhan on Lyca Radio has helped to reinvent the Breakfast Show with her own brand of music and chat. The show said to boast nearly 50,000 listeners weekly, and Vallisa is complimented daily for the choice of music and interactions with listeners as they head to work. The show is focussed towards different audiences with the early morning section dedicated to the older audience. She later plays upbeat Bollywood and Bhangra songs on the school run journey. Vallisa also gives out a wealth of information throughout the show including entertainment news from the world of Bollywood, 60 second headlines taking listeners through the headlines of the day and talking about the top trends of the day. More recently the show was hosted live from Dubai and Abu Dhabi during the IIFA awards.



Mango Masala

Mango Masala is the DAB South Asian show on Manchester's youth-led radio station, Pie Radio, led by presenters GVRNZ, Halima and Simran. Created by Carlos AKA GVRNZ, while Halima, a Cambridge post-graduate, is Mango Masala's self-proclaimed 'Bangladeshi big mouth'. Simran's background in Psychology allows her to break down topics on mental health, typically considered taboo within South Asian communities. The team are keen on driving the narrative that there is no one set way to be South Asian, and that policing others' "brownness" is never something to engage in. More recently, the team have started their own 'Bad Vibes Island' segment, which allows them to delve into more serious British news topics in a way that's engaging and accessible for a wider audience and can also be heard on Spotify following broadcast.



The Drive Time Show with Sonia Dutta

The afternoon Drivetime show on Sunrise Radio is one of the most listened to on the station. As well as music and the latest entertainment news, the show features some of the biggest Asian celebrity interviews. Sonia carries the show with her own inimitable style keeping audiences updated and involved during the afternoon. She interviews a range of music stars, including, filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi and Pakistani singer-songwriter Ali Azmat Butt, best known as the lead singer of rock band Junoon. She also caught up with iconic Canadian musician, Raghav who popped into the studio to speak about his latest release. A talented TV broadcaster and host Sonia is also a celebrated 'Energy Alignment' Coach. Here, she shares her advice on everything from mental health to creating more awareness of dealing with stress, anxiety and depression.



The Bhangra Showdown

The Bhangra Showdown on Sunrise Radio is best described as a 'fusion of past, present, of Panjabi and Bhangra music'. The show aims to champion the vibrancy of Panjabi culture with regular celebrity guests and interviews from the world of Panjabi music and cinema. Ameet Chana showcases the finest in Panjabi and Bhangra music, while hosting insightful talks with some of the biggest names in the industry. The show plays a pivotal role in preserving the rich Panjabi heritage while embracing the global achievements of singers, music producers, filmmakers, and actors. With a unique insight into the history of traditional folk music, Ameet is able to take listeners on a journey and celebrate the wider impact of the music on popular culture. Ameet is an actor, director and presenter and is a passionate supporter of theatre.

Radio Presenter of the Year



Raj Baddhan Lyca Radio

Raj Baddhan is one of the most accomplished presenters in the industry having hosted a range of shows on a number of platforms. He presently hosts Lyca Radio's popular flagship Drivetime Show. The programme brings together an eclectic selection of music, all the latest news from the world of film, television and music. Raj draws on his unique links, in to gain interviews with some of the biggest media personalities in the world including Ranjit Bawa, Shreya Ghoshal, Armaan Malik, Gurdas Maan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Kartik Aaryan. He also gains an exclusive insight in the film and TV industry and attends a range of high-profile events both here and abroad. At the prestigious ITA Awards in Mumbai, he secured backstage footage, studio and set tours, sharing live commentary. As well as his extensive broadcasting and journalistic duties, Raj also manages the station, the brand, and is recognised as a highly established social media influencer in his own right.



Sangita Myska LBC News

Sangita hosts her own talk show on LBC, where she discusses and debates the major news headlines of the day. During her time on the station she has been at the forefront of leading conversations that may be 'dividing' people and sought to bring some common sense to some of the nation's biggest news stories. She has aimed to reach out to people of all backgrounds and cultures, helping to tackle misconceptions and ignorance on all sides. By doing so she has been commended for bringing a sense of perspective to discussions. At times this has led her to being targeted online for challenging listeners for their views. Sangita is one of the UK's leading journalists and presenters and has worked on a wide range of BBC output including News, Current Affairs, General Factual, and Consumer Affairs programmes.



Paul Shah Sunrise Radio

Paul is currently a broadcaster and presenter on the popular morning breakfast show on Sunrise Radio. His shows are a mix of the latest breaking news, music, interviews and chat. The breakfast show is one of the most listened to programmes in the schedule helping people kick start their day. Paul has been instrumental in helping the station reach new heights in recent years and takes on a number of on-air roles to ensure Sunrise remains one of the leading Asian radio stations in the UK. The station regularly gets itself involved with community, charitable and entertainment events. Paul has been keen to support new talent through his role as production and studio manager for Sunrise Radio. He is also an accomplished DJ and hosted some of the biggest meals in the UK and has been called upon to perform at celebrity wedding events.



Sunny and Shay BBC Radio London

Media personalities and broadcasters Sunny and Shay have been presenting together for over a decade. The husband and wife team have aimed to break down barriers and worked primarily on mainstream radio shows reaching out to listeners from all backgrounds on a weekly basis. They host a weekend show which is both informative and entertaining show in London. The look to cover all aspects of culture including fashion, comedy, TV and theatre, and their unique banter is endearing, encouraging people from all walks of life to get involved in the discussion and celebrate what is great about London. They also delve into the importance of the stories and the impact it has on Londoners as well as talking to callers from all parts of London. As well as securing interviews with a variety of celebrities including Gippy Grewal and Kajol, the presenters are keen to highlight their 'Londonness' along with their rich cultural background on their shows.



Yasser Capital Xtra

Yasser can be heard daily on Capital Xtra's afternoon drivetime show between 4pm and 7pm. The popular show features everything from the latest music to chat. For three hours each day listeners are treated to some of the biggest hip-hop and RnB anthems as Yasser winds down the working day. Part of the Global family, Capital Xtra reaches over a million listeners and is broadcast nationally and can be heard on DAB Digital Radio, Freesat, Sky, Virgin Media and Global Player. Yasser joined Global after nine years at the BBC Asian Network where he presented his own new music show. Yasser has also hosted shows on BBC Radio, BBC Radio 1Xtra, The CBBC Playlist, and has hosted the CBBC Chart Show as well as Trending Live on 4 Music. He has also fronted the BBC Introducing Stages at Glastonbury, T in the Park, plus Reading and Leeds Festival. During the past year Yasser has led discussions in wanting to improve diversity within the media industry.

Radio Station of the Year



Asian FX

Asian FX Radio airs a blend of British Asian artists, established and new and those breaking through from South Asia, Canada and the USA. A relatively new station the small team have looked to provide an alternative for young British South Asians. More importantly, the station acts as a platform for artists and voices that represent a vast array of backgrounds. It also produces monthly podcasts, 'AFX sessions' which interviews both existing and new talent.



Awaaz FM Community Radio

The Southampton based station began in 2009 as an online radio and has faced a number of challenges over the years. The management is made up of people from all backgrounds and includes committed and determined volunteers who have been financing the station through their own means. In 2022, the station was awarded the SSDAB licence for Southampton area and also began broadcasting on the Winchester DAB service making it the most listened to Asian and ethnic radio station in Hampshire. It now produces local, national, international news and music for the local population.



Lyca Radio

Lyca Radio has gone from strength to strength in recent years following a change in management. It has featured a hosted a number of live celebrity interviews at the and conducted on-air telephone interviews with superstars such as Aamir Khan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Alia Bhatt. The station has encouraged staff to take part in live transmissions from various locations and from high-profile events. The station says it has seen a 40% rise in its revenue stream, the highest rise ever historically recorded since the inception of the station, in just one year. This has been made possible by helping to attract major brands and new partners.



Sabras Radio

Sabras Radio is a 24-hour commercial radio station, focusing on entertainment, music and news from the Indian subcontinent. It broadcasts to the East Midlands area and nationally on DAB through the Sound Digital multiplex, and via the internet. It is one of the longest running commercial Asian radio stations in the UK and serves a wide range of communities. It has been commended for hosting a number of standout shows including Bollywood, Bhangra, Gujarati, Pakistani Sufi and Indian-Pop genres. Moreover, the station has provided a platform for aspiring musicians and singers, helping to shape and promote the next generation of South Asian talent.



Sunrise Radio

Sunrise Radio is the most listened to commercial Asian radio station in the UK. It has been instrumental in helping to shine a light on British Asians culture and bringing Bollywood, Bhangra, and Asian-inspired music into the mainstream. It has helped to boost the careers of some of the most well-known singers and producers in the country and showcased some of the biggest events in the world, including the IIFA Awards from Abu Dhabi. This year, it launched its first brand extension with 'Sunrise Smooth, dedicated to easy listening Asian music which is available in London on DAB, also on the App.

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In 2023, the Asian Media Awards honours an organisation and newsroom for efforts and campaigns to improve coverage of all communities over a sustained period of time. It rewards a genuine effort to reach out to people of all backgrounds and tackle issues that may not normally be featured on a national news channel. The award also recognises efforts to improve diversity both in front and behind the camera.

Diversity In Media Award 2023

Sky Sports

Sky Sports has been producing a range of reports which have aimed to celebrate the contributions of people from a variety of sports and a variety of different backgrounds.

The channel has produced, what is believed to be the first index page on a mainstream media website dedicated to British South Asians in Football. It has gone on to generate over 20 million page views and social media interactions.

It is the longest-running conversation on the subject and is said to be the biggest accessible database of content and information on South Asians in Football.

The team worked with Layla Banaras to launch her Ramadan plan and brought to life the stories of emerging talents like Zidane Iqbal, Dilan Markanday and Brandon Khela.

Sky Sports worked closely with referee Jarnail Singh to encourage the FA to issue guidance to referees around players wearing head coverings; broke the story of Arjan Raikhy's move to Leicester City, and Sikh-Punjabi midfielder Roop Kaur Bath making history with West Ham United.

The team devised the first-ever partnership between a national sports race equality charity and a major broadcaster, focusing on South Asian women's footballers. The partnership, with Sporting Equals, was against the backdrop of a lack of ethnic diversity in the English game, which was raised during the Euros. It inspired former Lioness Anita Asante to directly intervene.

The partnership has also seen the creation of a first-ever timeline and legacy project documenting the history of South Asian heritage players in the modern women's game. It has been on show at Chelsea FC, Wembley Stadium, Wolves and community hubs across the country.

Sky Sports also created a first-of-its-kind South Asians in Football Team of the Season, which was showcased at Sporting Khalsa after partnering with the FA for a South Asian Heritage Month matchday event ahead of their game with Punjab United.

The platform has played their part in tackling the scourge of Islamophobia in the English





Sky Sports broke the news that Roop Kaur Bath had become the first Sikh-Punjabi girl to play for West Ham.

game, with a series of reports. Sky are members of the Team Pride coalition and have previously been named as Stonewall's top LGBT+ inclusive media company.

They played a significant part in driving the Rainbow Laces campaign across sports and secured high-profile interviews with the likes of Josh Cavallo. Sky Sports were also trusted by Blackpool's Jake Daniels to exclusively tell his story when he came out.

The channel has blazed a trail with its work around Black communities in sport since 2017 when they profiled 31 athletes in 31 days of Black History Month on TV, digital and social channels for the My Icon series, which was later expanded to include LGBT+ and Para-Athletes. In 2020, they produced an acclaimed feature called 100 days on: How sport reacted

to the killing of George Floyd. There was a high-profile addition to the senior leadership team the following year with Yath Gangakumaran joining the business. Sky Sports News also now has two Diversity and Inclusion reporters, who are both from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Early in 2021, the channel said it was committed to recruitment targets of 20% diverse ethnic representation including 5% Black representation. They also launched their Sky Content Academy Ignite schemes, with a number of graduates from these schemes now becoming permanent employees.

Sky Sports continue to support a number of partnerships including with Kick It Out, Stormzy and Merky FC, Lewis Hamilton and Mission 44, the Women's Sports Collective, Badu Sports and Age UK, and they remain a corporate member of Women in Football.



Report of the Year



Kegworth Hotel

Darshna Soni for Channel 4

This piece from the village of Kegworth, deals with one of the most contentious issue of our times, the government's use of hotels to house people seeking asylum. It explores what happened when 200 young men were housed in one of these properties in a remote village in Leicestershire. Darshna speaks to local protestors about why they opposed the asylum seekers, despite never having talked to them. She also challenges the young men themselves about why they had chosen England. Darshna puts the story into context, explaining why so many young men have ended up in hotels, as a result of government policy. She examines the result of political rhetoric on the lives of those affected by it. Darshna kept in touch with the communities of Kegworth and did a series of follow-up reports, relaying the tragic news about how a number of young men in the hotel were feared to have taken their own lives.



Qawwali: Music of the soul

Raees Khan for BBC World Service

This unique look at the much-celebrated devotional music, explores how it became so popular and went on to transcend cultures and religions. The programme features Qawwali singers whose families have belonged to this music lineage for centuries as well as new artists Muslim and non-Muslim who have discovered the art form and have taken it to another level. The documentary explores the contribution of female Qawwali singers who are making a mark in this male dominated genre. Raees Khan looks into the history, influence and enduring legacy of Qawwali music, both within, as well as outside of the Islamic World. From its earliest origins in the writings of Sufi Saints, to its spread throughout South Asia the report looks at how the mystical and devotional artform spread throughout the Indian sub-continent. Along the way, we meet Tahir Qawaal, the lead vocalist in an all-Caucasian Qawwali and members of The Orchestral Qawwali Project.



Sidhu Moose Wala: Mystery Surrounds Killing of Punjabi Rapper A Year on

Ashna Hurynag & Amrit Singh Mann for Sky News

World-famous rapper Sidhu Moose Wala from India who was shot and killed in May 2022, Sky News created a 5-minute special report on Sidhu's one year death anniversary to explore his death. The report featured an exclusive interview with Sidhu's father, Balkaur Singh, who agreed to give the journalists the only sit-down interview to mark his son's one year death anniversary. The piece also featured a close friend of Sidhu and music producer Steel Banglez. Sidhu's family flew over specially for the report. Before Sidhu was tragically shot and killed, he had agreed to work with Sky News on a special documentary style report on his quick rise to success and cultural impact. The piece was created for TV and YouTube. A news lead was written for the Sky News app and website. A digital explainer was made for TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat, and a graphic carousel was posted on Instagram.



The Emerging Muslim Manosphere

Rahil Sheikh; Produced by Nalini Sivathanan for BBC World Service

This engaging radio documentary explores a rise in young Muslim men and how they are turning to more traditional gender values, roles and identity. It was put together over a four month period, delving into one of the most topical issues impacting young people today. It looked at how the words of social media personalities such as Andrew Tate were appealing to some young people. Rahil Sheikh speaks to young Muslims about how social media has shaped their faith. He finds out why these 'divisive' Muslim influencers hold so much sway. It also looks to ask why more traditional Muslim institutions, such as the mosque and imams, fit into this wider narrative. The documentary was broadcast on the BBC World Service, to millions of people around the world, and features as an episode on BBC Sounds, Spotify, Apple Music and other podcast platforms.



The Murder of Fawziyah Javed

**Correspondent: Yasminara Khan; Producer: Jenny Parks;
Camera: Ketih Morris for BBC Newsnight**

This was the first broadcast interview with the mother of Fawziyah Javed, who was murdered by her partner on Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh in September 2021. Yasmin Javed talks about her daughter's killer and tells BBC Newsnight how she believes some of the motives for why her daughter was killed were honour abuse, coercive control, and jealousy. BBC Newsnight obtained secret recordings that Fawziyah had made of her murderer's abusive behaviour, which had previously only ever been heard at the trial. For the first time, the public could hear how the killer tried to control Fawziyah and used cultural notions to dominate her. Ms Javed speaks of the trauma of trying to get her daughter's possessions back from the killer's home, and her feeling that even in death he is still controlling Fawziyah from prison. Yasminara spent months speaking to Ms Javed about her family's ordeal. The report was also covered by other media including, The Times, Daily Mail, local papers, and international press.



Windrush Repatriations

Navtej Johal for BBC News

Navtej's exclusive investigation revealed that the UK government repatriated hundreds of people of the Windrush generation who were mentally ill in the 1960s back to the Caribbean. It prompted them to admit that it was a 'historic injustice'. It was the first time that the scale of the scheme had ever been unveiled and led to the first public acknowledgement of its devastating impact on people, including the families torn apart by the practice. The story took months of research at the National Archives, tracking down children of the repatriates who had never spoken about their family stories before, and, in one astonishing case, revealing to a woman that her father had been repatriated due to mental illness rather than abandoned her, as she had always believed. There are now calls for an inquiry from the families after legal experts questioned whether the practice was lawful. Navtej's investigation featured on all BBC national TV news bulletins, the BBC World Service Radio, a podcast and on the BBC website. It was also reported in The Guardian and Financial Times newspapers.

Regional Journalist of the Year



Lillie Almond

Broadcast Journalist, LBC News & Global

Lillie is both a regional and national Reporter for Global. She broadcasts her stories both live and pre-recorded on national radio stations. These include LBC, LBC News and other Global channels such as Heart regional stations. Lillie covered the killing of Chris Kaba and secured an exclusive sit-down conversation with his parents and continues to work across this landmark case as it develops. She covered national coverage on LBC News about the long-term effects of Covid on Black, Asian and minority ethnic people. Lillie has reported on a range of major news stories including the murder of Sabina Nessa, the murder of Sir David Amess and the Queen's Accession Day. In addition to this, her podcast 'Where you from?' sees her speak with media personalities of all backgrounds to hear about their takes on cultural complexities of today. She was also the voice of the FIFA Women's World Cup Preview series.



Kiran Sajan Senior Reporter, Basingstoke Gazette & Andover Advertiser (Newsquest)

Kiran has written on a range of stories extensively covering the North Hampshire region. Kiran's journalistic journey saw him work across Indian titles, for a decade including the Times of India, before he joined Newsquest in 2020. Here, he has become an integral and valuable part of the team covering everything from council, human interest and political stories, along with sports, education, business, court, inquests, traffic, and law and order reports. He has exposed major planning permissions disputes such as, 'How a charity was under investigation over alleged connections with 'extreme right-wing organisations'. The plight of the retired Gurkhas and their struggles for pension rights and highlighted the achievements of the Basingstoke Filipino Choir who sang at King Charles III's coronation ceremony. He also revealed how a family were posted a death threat along with two live shotgun cartridges.



Andrew Misra Political Correspondent, ITV News Border & ITV News Granada

Over the qualifying period Andrew has established himself as one of the leading journalists for ITV News in Cumbria and the south of Scotland. This summer he took on the role of Political Correspondent for ITV News Granada. He covered every twist and turn of the hugely controversial plans for a coal mine in Whitehaven. He was trusted to report on institutional racism in Scottish cricket and the safeguarding review after a baby was murdered in Cumbria by a woman trying to adopt him. Andrew secured an exclusive first interview with the mother of a one-punch attack victim. During his time in Cumbria, he also single-handedly planned and delivered South Asian Heritage Month coverage for ITV Border in 2022. More recently, he has been following the case of Andrew Malkinson, a victim of miscarriage of justice and has been the securing interviews for the ITV News network team, packaging and reporting live.



Raveena Ghattaura Reporter, ITV News Anglia

Raveena has produced a number of exclusive reports highlighting injustice, malpractice and malfeasance over the past year. Her investigation into racism in cricket became a story covered nationally, which was followed by an internal investigation at Essex County Cricket Club. As the cost-of-living crisis began to hit people, Raveena interviewed a mum faced with the impossible choice of paying extortionate energy bills for her daughter's medical equipment, or not eating. Raveena was one of the first journalists to interview Norfolk MP Liz Truss as she became Prime Minister – and delivered a key question ahead of what became an economic plan doomed to failure. Her interview led national bulletins. As news broke of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Raveena led the coverage locally and nationally at Sandringham, where thousands of mourners descended to pay their wishes.



Mahatir Pasha Reporter, ITV News London

Mahatir has been fronting a range of stories from London. He has been described as ‘skilled in telling stories in an engaging way’ but he is a sharp journalist, determined to be at the forefront of bringing in news lines. He broke the news that 81-year-old Helen Holland, a great grandmother had died after being hit by a police motorbike escorting the Duchess of Edinburgh. He covered the Clapham stabbing which shook the UK’s LGBT+ community. He visited the reopening of a mosque in South London’s Morden after it was tragically burned down in a fire in 2015. He has also covered major sporting moments and on many occasions been crucial in setting the editorial agenda for ITV News London programmes as News Editor. In addition to this he produces content for the Business and Economics team and regularly produces sit-downs with the Chancellor, the Prime Minister and the Governor of the Bank of England.



Rajiv Popat Reporter, ITV News Central

Rajiv has been working in the midlands for decades and regularly uses his expert local knowledge to uncover exclusive stories. During the qualifying period he reported extensively from the disturbances that gripped Leicester. Two weeks into the New Year, Rajiv filmed at a practice in Leicester as GPs bravely opened their doors to allow him to see what life was like there most days. In an exclusive interview Rajiv gave viewers a frightening insight into the world of children who are being groomed into gangs. As part of the UK Asian Film Festival, Rajiv spoke to a recovering alcoholic about his battle with addiction and he produced a special report to mark the 50th anniversary of the expulsion of the Ugandan Asians. Rajiv’s reported live from Praia Du Luz after spending days reporting on the latest investigation in Portugal into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann.



Sophia Seth Reporter, Presenter & Producer, BBC South

Sophia is an experienced BBC South Today journalist who has produced a range of stories affecting all communities across counties including Hampshire, Dorset and Berkshire. Her passion for sharing people’s stories shines through much of her work. In a special report she investigated the plight of a Chinese student at Southampton University who fell victim to a scam and how a Pakistani breast cancer survivor, faced discrimination within her community. She reported on issues relating to ‘stop and search’ and young Black students and the launch of new initiative between schools and the police which aimed to break down barriers. Sophia has regularly looked to share major religious events and celebrations to a wider audience and reported on a Hindu temple’s 50th anniversary. Additionally, she highlighted a fostering initiative about settling in the UK, amplifying the voices of women from the Caribbean, Italy, and Nigeria.

Sports Journalist of the Year



Shekhar Bhatia

Correspondent, Daily Mail & Mail Online

Shekhar is a leading sports and news journalist who has covered some of the biggest sporting events on the planet. During the qualifying period he reported from the World Cup in Qatar from where he broke a number of exclusives. As well as reporting on the on-field performances of the World's best footballers he also shared how the sport was transcending cultures and boundaries. As someone who has reported on a number of World Cups over the past three decades, Shekhar followed England's journey to the last eight and Messi's historic win. He has reported on Cristiano Ronaldo's exploits at his new club Al-Nassr including his long-awaited arrival for his first game in Saudi Arabia. At the West Ham famous cup final win in Prague, Shekhar reported on how security services had clamped down on fans and how players had later celebrated their win.



Isaan Khan

Reporter, Daily Mail & Mail Online

Isaan has broken agenda-setting sport exclusives in a standout year for a young journalist. An undercover investigation as a Wembley Stadium steward resulted in the Football Association (FA) suspending a security firm on eve of FA Cup Final. His investigation came nearly a year after the FA ordered a review of the Euro 2020 final between England and Italy in which 2,000 fans stormed the arena in scenes of national disgrace. He secured a world exclusive interview with billionaire cricket fraudster Allen Stanford from a Florida jail, following a four-month process. Isaan investigated performance enhancing drugs within boxing and a whistleblower revealed how he was aware boxers were circumventing the rules in a bid to take illegal substances and gain an edge against their opponents. He also exposed of a paedophile cricket coach who the England Cricket Board (ECB) had failed to investigate.



Aaron Paul

Reporter, Commentator & Presenter, BBC Radio 5 Live Sport, BBC London Sport & ITV Football

Aaron has been at the forefront of football league coverage in the country. Honing himself as the lead voice for the BBC's EFL coverage, Aaron has worked to build the 72+ EFL show to become the leading Football League programme in the country. He has also been a focal voice for the Premier League and European football output across BBC Radio London. Aaron was ever present as Tottenham Hotspur reached the Round of 16 in the Champions League, whilst constantly being first with the biggest sporting stories for the capital on his Monday night live programme. He has gone on to produce a number of exclusive features for ITV celebrating the work of football clubs. From working with Stoke City on a dementia 'memories' project, to helping out the Dons Local Action Group Foodbank at Wimbledon, to highlighting the work of Blackburn Rovers during Ramadan. Aaron has aimed to open the eyes of the country to what their football clubs offer the local community.



Sanny Rudravajhala

Freelance Sports Journalist

Sanny reports weekly on the biggest games in the Premier League and the football league. In the past year he joined Sky Sports News as a freelance reporter and has been trusted with some of the biggest interviews, including Eddie Howe at Newcastle, Sean Dyche at Everton and Usain Bolt's visit to Manchester United. His question to Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola on incidents of racism in La Liga made worldwide headlines. He has also become a familiar voice across BBC Radio 5 Live with Sports News and also at football grounds across the UK reporting and commentating on the beautiful game. He hosted the opening programmes for the FA's 'Football and Me' series, looking to increase Asian inclusion in Sport and became a regular voice on 'The Guardian Football Weekly' and recently started presenting on BBC World Service. He had a successful stint on BBC Radio 1, where he secured an interview with Luther Burrell on the racism he had suffered in rugby.



Kal Sajad

Boxing Journalist, BBC Sport

Kal is a lead boxing reporter for BBC Sport and established himself as one of the leading boxing journalists in the country. From Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to Guadalajara, Mexico he has reported ringside on blockbuster bouts and interviewed some of the sport's biggest stars for website, TV and radio. He covered the unified heavyweight title fight between Oleksandr Usyk and Daniel Dubois. Last August he was ringside for Ukrainian Usyk's win over Anthony Joshua in Jeddah. He covered the grudge match between Tommy Fury and Jake Paul and travelled to Guadalajara as a multi-platform reporter, interviewing Mexican superstar Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez for all BBC outlets. Kal has also looked to share inspirational grassroots boxing stories such as that of Ramla Ali, a refugee who fled war-torn Somalia as a child and became the first female professional boxer to fight in Saudi Arabia.



Dev Trehan

Reporter & Presenter, Sky Sports

Dev is a football reporter and presenter for Sky Sports who has been instrumental in highlighting the contributions of South Asian sports stars across the country. He spoke to Roop Kaur Bath who made history as she debuted for West Ham United Women. He reported on another major footballing moment after announcing Hamza Choudhury as the first British South Asian to win the FA Cup in modern-day history. Dev also revealed to the world how Zidane Iqbal was the first British South Asian ever to feature at senior level for Manchester United and how Brandon Khela was the first British South Asian to sign a professional contract in the history of Birmingham City Football Club. Through his work he has been keen to expose pressing issues over equality within the game. He reported on the lack of ethnic diversity at the Women's Euros in England over the summer and Sunny Singh Gill becoming the first South Asian to referee an EFL game since his dad Jarnail Singh.

Outstanding Young Journalist



Um-E-Ayemen Babar Sports Journalist, Sky Sports

Um-E-Ayemen's work has aimed to produce work about issues that 'speak to the social and political conscience of the country'. During the Cricket Scotland racism scandal most reporting focussed on male stories. Um-E-Ayemen spoke to two Muslim women cricketers about their experiences of racism, sexism and Islamophobia. At the time it was the only piece that investigated women's experiences of discrimination. When England toured Pakistan for the first time in 17 years, the series was captained by British Pakistani all-rounder Moeen Ali. Before the tour she interviewed Moeen for a BBC Sport piece about his hopes for the tour and why this was a pivotal moment in South Asian cricketing history. For a further BBC Sport piece, she interviewed a 14-year-old boy whose uncle was diagnosed with a rare form of aggressive cancer and died four months later. The story shed light on issues surrounding mental health in young people.



Saywah Mahmood Data Journalist, Sky News

As a data journalist at Sky News in the Data and Forensics team, Saywah has consistently strived to shed light on pressing issues through the lens of data-driven insights. She looks to source and analyse data from a wide array of sources, ranging from open data from the ONS, government records, and NHS to data scraped from diverse platforms. She has covered numerous stories on the Ukraine war providing unique insights into the conflict. One of her most impactful stories was the investigation into the dire situation of GPs in England's most deprived areas with my colleague. Analysis illuminated the challenges that GPs were facing, exposing the strain on primary healthcare services. She also highlighted the dire situation of healthcare in England looking at health inequalities, which exposed glaring disparities faced by individuals in the most deprived areas, emphasising the urgent need for targeted interventions.



Amrit Singh Mann Journalist, Sky News

Amrit works on a range of stories for TV, online and radio, and rotates between various roles from producer, reporter and presenter. Within a space of two years, Amrit has become one of the most trusted Sikh journalists in the country. He produced an exclusive investigation that found that around 60,000 free hot meals are being served by the Sikh community every week in the UK. The article was the 'most read' on the Sky News app and website for two continuous days and garnered over three million views. He has reported on the plight of logger Jagtar Singh Johal, 35, who faces the death penalty over his activism and how coaches fear that a lack of mental health support for players who experience racial abuse could be the cause of greater harm. He also helped to produce a special interview with the father of Sidhu Moose Wala and the investigation into the star's murder.



Raheem Rashid Journalist, ITV News Central

Raheem reports, plans, produces and presents bulletins for ITV News Central covering everything from breaking news to more in-depth pieces. This year he produced a series of exclusives on a family who lost their 12-year-old son in an e-scooter accident. In a follow up exclusive, Raheem held the Mayor to account for safety lapses in the e-scooter trial scheme, eventually reporting on the ending of the scheme until safety improvements could be made. He has used his platform to shed light on under-represented minority voices, most notably on the South Asian LGBTQ+ community. He talked George Mattu, a gay man who trusted Raheem to film him giving blood for the first time, following a relaxation of the donation rules. He recently followed the journey of a Midlands GP who travelled to Pakistan after having raised nearly half a million pounds in aid for flood victims. He followed that up with a piece focusing on women on the frontline of the Turkey earthquake relief effort.



Haleema Saheed

Community Reporter, Telegraph and Argus

Haleema has worked on some of the biggest stories in Bradford, reaching out to communities across the district. She was the only Hijab wearing journalist to have graduated from the Facebook Community Reporter. Her role has seen her report on a breaking story of an honour killing, where she spent six hours at a crime scene, before national news organisations were able to get there. Her ability to understand and translate comments from Urdu and Punjabi into English, assisted greatly with the report. She used data to craft features such as the 'Five most deprived areas of Bradford', reported on the woman who created a hijab specifically for Muslim police officers and covered a story about an eight-year-old boy who died in hospital after he was turned away from A&E. Haleema has also started her own podcast 'Hijabi Culture' which aims to shift the narrative surrounding Hijab in the media.



Megan Samrai

Production Journalist, ITV News Meridian

Multi-skilled journalist, Megan joined ITV News Meridian as a trainee broadcast journalist in January last year. She has now secured a full-time role and has become an integral part of the newsroom taking on a number of demanding and high-profile roles. Megan has been a champion of diversity and proactive in seeking out stories from different communities. She has reported on a range of stories including the plight of a terminally ill man from Kent who had his funeral savings stolen during a break in. Megan encouraged her editors to report on the Bahraini community in Kent for the first time and filmed and edited a story on a group of Dhol drummers as part of South Asian Heritage Month coverage. Megan's work on inclusion and diversity has won her praise and recognition within ITV News and she continues to reach out to groups and organisations in the South East to ensure content represents the communities it serves.



Fahad Tariq

Senior Reporter, Glasgow Live

Fahad has sourced a number of exclusive stories and investigations during the qualifying period. He reported on the historic election of Humza Yousaf becoming the First Minister of Scotland. He has covered breaking news stories including the incident of a suspicious package at Glasgow Airport and former First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's arrest as part of a police investigation into the SNP's finances. He reported on tributes from the family of Glasgow student Suleman Dawood and his dad Shahzada who died on the catastrophic implosion of the Titanic submersible. His reports have highlighted injustices including the plight of Sabreen Elbakri who hit out at a Home Office decision when her mum and sisters' visa application was rejected, after they fled Sudan. He also shared the heartwarming story of Rangers boss Michael Beale who visited Mister Singh's India, where he gifted the restaurant owner, Satty Singh the season 55 winners medal for Christmas.

Best Investigation



'Health Inequalities'

Andrew Gregory for The Guardian

This year-long series exposed the true scale of health inequalities, using statistics and data to shed light on the issue. Gregory used his experience analysing statistics to reveal how Asian and black patients wait longer for a cancer diagnosis than white people in England, with some waiting an extra six weeks. His month-long review of data from a University of Exeter study found that in six of seven cancers analysed, Asian or black patients waited longer for a diagnosis than white patients. His accessible and reporting enabled greater public understanding of the disparities in cancer diagnosis waiting times in England. Some of the differences he uncovered in wait times for specific cancers were incredibly stark. His reporting led health leaders to call for action to understand why black and Asian patients were waiting longer than white patients to be diagnosed with cancer, and urging NHS England and the government to tackle the drivers of inequality.



Manipur Atrocities Revealed

John Ray for ITV News

An exclusive investigation on Manipur in August 2023, revealed and shone a light on hidden atrocities taking place there amidst the ethnic and religious violence. This was thanks to India producer Sanjay Jha who travelled to this northeastern state and filmed and produced this shocking report with a correspondent and producer in London. It took the form of a substantial video news report, reported by senior correspondent John Ray, that was one of the top stories aired on our flagship ITV News at Ten that night, watched by a few million viewers daily. The digital piece including the video report was the lead story on the ITV News website that night and its impact became evident immediately. The investigation involved finding and persuading those impacted and resulted in first hand revelatory and powerful interviews including the young female cousin of a man beheaded and mutilated in a monstrous attack on Manipur's Christian Kuki minority. To ensure the investigation was balanced, Sanjay sought out Hindu Meitei victims to speak to him too.



Sri Lanka's tea estates Investigation

Jeevan Ravindran for The Guardian

From October to February, Jeevan worked intermittently on an investigation into exploitation on Sri Lanka's tea estates, finding horrific living conditions in some plantations, with small children forced to use the river as a toilet. On multiple estates, salaries were unimaginably low, forcing some parents to cut back on their own food intake to feed their children as food prices were so high. She visited more than 10 estates for this piece, travelling herself to remote areas and often pursuing leads that came out of the blue. She admits it was often an intimidating and overwhelming experience, and involved going alone to areas where she knew nobody. Over the following months, Jeevan translated and transcribed the interviews, and did follow-up interviews with politicians. The findings of the report were also republished by multiple other outlets including The Daily Mirror, The Island and Tamil Guardian. Fairtrade and the Ethical Tea Partnership issued statements, and it was included on the website of the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre.



'The Secret World of Trading Nudes'

Monika Plaha for BBC Panorama & BBC News

'The Secret World of Trading Nudes' infiltrated an anonymous online group trading, sharing sexually explicit images of young South Asian women without their consent or knowledge. The documentary led to a change in the law three months after it was aired to better protect women against image-based sexual abuse and make deepfake pornography illegal. The team went undercover to expose a gang of online perpetrators who were sharing, trading and selling nonconsensual explicit images of women and spoke to the brave women who were struggling to get justice. The programme brought to light how perpetrators use explicit images to sexually harass and threaten women and identified the legal loophole in the current law that was failing to protect victims. The documentary culminated in an undercover operation to track down an anonymous user responsible for running an online community sharing non-consensual images of more than one thousand South Asian women.



Sexual Harassment in the Royal Navy

Inderdeep Bains for Daily Mail/Mail Online

Inderdeep Bains' investigation exposing misogyny, bullying, abuse and sexual harassment aboard Britain's nuclear submarine service sent shockwaves through the armed services. The Royal Navy was forced to launch an inquiry into the 'abhorrent' allegations of inappropriate behaviour brought to light for the first time by Bains in a series of explosive articles. The horrific abuse had been taking place within the confines of the secretive submarine service for more than a decade since the branch lifted its ban on female recruits in 2011. Bains was contacted about concerns around the treatment of a woman in the fleet. She spent months gaining the trust of terrified whistleblowers and then painstakingly corroborating their harrowing allegations before taking her investigation to the Royal Navy. Defence chiefs had no choice but to launch an immediate and far-reaching inquiry. The exposé encouraged even more whistleblowers to come forward, to lift the lid on the scandal with shocking detail yet without causing them to be identified.



The Shamima Begum Story

I'm Not A Monster Series Reporter: Josh Baker

At 15, Shamima Begum left London to join the terror group Islamic State. It made global headlines. She and her two friends became known as the Bethnal Green Girls. Four years later, pregnant with her third child, Begum emerged from the ashes of the so-called caliphate, desperate to come home. But she showed little remorse for her time with the group. For the first time, she gave her account of what happened since 2014 who had been following her story since the day she left, trying to understand what really happened. For more than a year, he's retraced her journey, piecing together where she went, who she met and what she did while she was living with IS to try and find out the truth about Shamima Begum's story. In the series Shamima speaks about her hopes for returning to the UK, public perceptions, taking responsibility and remorse.



Snaptrap: Is Your Child Safe?

Reported by Charanpreet Khaira for BBC Wales

For 10 months, Charanpreet Khaira investigated drugs gangs on social media to expose the sophisticated and shocking ways in which they use social media to groom and abuse children. She worked to reveal how this is facilitated by a lack of control and protection on social media apps such as Snapchat. In creating this documentary, she was able to lobby Snapchat to remove the profiles of multiple drug dealers, gang leaders and paedophiles, who she came across using my undercover profile. Charanpreet said she wanted to uncover this issue after coming across some disturbing trends when researching a series on drug abuse in Wales. Early on in the investigation, she got in touch with 'Anna', a young woman who had experienced abuse first hand and had suffered years of sexual abuse. The gang had targeted her on Snapchat, using a pernicious system called the 'boyfriend model.' Snapchat engaged with our criticism, taking down pages that were suggested to be criminal. The Metropolitan Police praised the investigation, admitting their officers find it hard to infiltrate this criminal underworld in this way.

Journalist of the Year



Inderdeep Bains Deputy Chief Reporter, Daily Mail

One of the Mail's most prolific news reporters, Inderdeep has been at the forefront of the newspaper's coverage of big breaking stories from royals to crime to political dramas. In a major investigation she exposed how the mistreatment and abuse of women had been rife in the Royal Navy's Submarine Service for more than a decade. During the qualifying period, she was able to secure an interview with the main victim of Britain's worst rapist former Met Officer David Carrick who faced almost 50 charges including multiple rapes and assault. She has also worked with the Women's Rights Network to help expose dozens of rapes and sexual assaults that take place in British hospitals each week. More recently she exposed a plot to oust the Equalities and Human Rights Commission's chairman in what was described as an 'ideologically motivated witch hunt' over her stance on safe-guarding single sex spaces.



Rohit Kachroo Global Security Editor, ITV News

Rohit has been on the frontline of reporting on breaking world news events as well as investigating the actions of governments. He led his network's coverage of the invasion of Ukraine. During several months in the country, he reported from the frontline in Donbas where, at great risk, he and his team witnessed heavy shelling and massive human suffering and has investigated and exposed war crimes and uncovered atrocities which are being studied by the International Criminal Court. He investigated the funding routes used by Russian neo-Nazi fighters to help fund the war effort. Amongst other stories he has reported from the West Bank, from inside a hospital which was under fire during an Israeli operation in Jenin. In South Africa he investigated the mysterious and unexplained deaths of 32 children who died during a party to celebrate the end of their school exams.



Reha Kansara Reporter, BBC Trending and News

Reha is a global investigative reporter making long-form documentaries as well as breaking news for the BBC. During the past year she reported on the devastating impact of 'Bulli Bai' scandal in India had on prominent Muslim women. Reha travelled to Uganda to produce a deeply personal radio and TV documentary about the 50th anniversary of the Ugandan Asian expulsion. Her most recent investigation exposed the Venezuelan government paying citizens to tweet propaganda. Her exclusive report titled 'Myanmar's digital battleground' investigated how prominent Burmese women, opposed to the military junta, were systematically abused online by pro-military actors on Facebook and Telegram. In the UK she investigated the part social media played in fuelling hostilities in Leicester which dominated headlines late last year.



Shehab Khan Political Reporter, ITV News

In what has been a standout year for Shehab he has covered some of the biggest news stories in the country. He was part of the on-air ITV News team reporting on the death of Queen Elizabeth, the resignation of two different Prime Ministers, the coronation of King Charles and the war in Ukraine. As a Political Correspondent based in Westminster, he regularly appears on the Evening News and the News at 10 for ITV, reporting on the lead story on the biggest events from around the world. His documentary debut 'The Hajj: A journey through Mecca', offered an immersive experience into the pilgrimage which is completed by millions of Muslims every year. It was made possible thanks to Shehab's determination as he negotiated with the Saudi authorities for 18 months, for access to the holy sites.



Sangita Lal Reporter, ITV News

Sangita has played a pivotal role in reporting on significant events throughout the qualifying period. Her coverage of the Lucy Letby trial, Britain's most notorious child serial killer, showcased her profound journalistic insight and dedication to conveying the truth. She went on to speak to those affected and helped shed light on one of the biggest news stories of the year. She travelled to Denmark to report on how thousands of brains had been collected for mental health research and she obtained exclusive CCTV footage that unveiled the tragic moments leading up to the murder of nine-year-old Lilia Valutyte, and investigated access to swimming facilities for marginalised communities underscores. Sangita has also moderated discussions among a panel of terror attack survivors.



Maryam Qaiser Senior Journalist & Features Writer, The Mirror

Maryam has focussed on amplifying different voices and human experiences across Britain. She has helped to shed light on the plight of asylum seekers who were targeted by far-right rioters in a hotel and also highlighted how government policies to house people in barges would have a devastating impact. Her exclusive features have helped to celebrate multi-cultural Britain, speaking to people from all walks of life and sharing untold stories. Alongside two other colleagues, Maryam also helps to lead Mirror's Real Britain which campaigns against government cuts and standing up for ordinary people. These have focussed on those who have been directly affected by policies such parents and the disabled. In addition to this she leads People Move which tells the human stories behind the refugee crisis through striking imagery and descriptions.



Darshna Soni Communities Editor, Channel 4 News

Darshna has focussed on traveling across the country 'lending an ear and giving a voice to communities not often represented in the news'. She reported on the disturbances in Leicester securing exclusive interviews with YouTuber and with a young man accused of being the leader of the RSS. She also highlighted how women had been excluded from many conversations in Leicester. Darshna's was the only journalist to report on incidences of racism amongst refugees and interviewed women who said they did not want to be placed with Muslim hosts or to live in Muslim areas. Her series on the village of Kegworth looked at what happened when 200 people seeking asylum were housed in a hotel. Her investigation into the behaviour of some West Midlands police officers led to a dozen officers being investigated and one being placed under criminal investigation.



Divya Talwar Investigative Journalist, BBC

As an investigative reporter Divya has aimed to hold people and places accountable- through her in depth documentaries and reports. Buying a British Dad was a year-long BBC investigation which uncovered an illegal immigration scam in which pregnant migrant women who are in the UK without a visa are paying British men thousands of pounds to pose as fathers to their children. Crisis Pregnancy Centres Uncovered was a Panorama investigation and revealed evidence that some clinics operating outside the NHS are giving misleading information, and offering counselling that could persuade women not to have abortions. Escaping Anna looks at how a group of women turned to a private specialist eating disorder clinic in Bath hoping they would receive life-changing treatment. Divya also reported on how Black and Asian women were being harmed by racial discrimination in maternity care, following an inquiry.



As a longstanding partner of the Asian Media Awards, Cleartwo is honoured to participate in the eleventh annual award ceremony, and we can't wait to see this year's winners.

While we love a party, these nights are so much more than an excuse to dress up, and we're so happy to see the good they do for our communities and the wider media industry.

It's inspiring to see so many young professionals, creators and celebrities in this room - you've all achieved amazing things, and we can't wait to see what you do next.

For over nine years now, we've supported the Awards with graphic design, video production and tech support, helping to turn Arif & Shuiab's dream into a reality.

We've had a hand in creating everything from the announcement videos to the glossy brochures, helping create the AMA brand and refining the presentation of these prestigious awards.

Although it's a small part of what makes the Asian Media Awards so inspiring, we're proud of the hard work our team have put into the ceremony and publicity materials, as it's a cause that is close to our hearts.

Since we first heard about the awards, we knew it was a cause we wanted to support, as Cleartwo is dedicated to giving back to the community and supporting organisations that make the world a better place.

We've done a lot of work for charitable causes over the years, like the Macmillan coffee morning we hosted on the 29th of September and our ongoing work with mosques and community centres in Greater Manchester.

We've come a long way since our humble beginnings, and our team continues to grow as we recruit more people into the Cleartwo family and take on exciting new projects.

Back in 2013, we never could have imagined that the AMA's would grow so large or that we'd be toasting your success at the Hilton, but we're so happy to be part of your journey.

The Asian Media Awards recognise and celebrate the accomplishments of Asian people in the media industry, from TV presenters to playwrights and activists, who have worked hard to succeed.

But they're more than just a celebration of these (admittedly impressive) achievements,

as the AMAs have boosted the careers of everyone involved, helping people secure roles and opportunities by raising awareness of their work and helping them meet like-minded people in the industry.

Previous winners and nominees alike have all seen their careers boosted by the recognition and prestige of the awards, so whether you're here to network or just have a good time, let's spread the love and help each other out.

As we celebrate your achievements and congratulate each other on all our hard work, let's raise a glass to the amazing accomplishments of the British Asian community!

When the Asian Media Awards started, we had just moved into our office in Shaw Heath, and now we're settling into a brand new office in the centre of Stockport: I guess you could say that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

We're so proud of the work the AMA's do to highlight and honour influential figures in our communities, and we look forward to supporting and attending many more nights like this.

Sathnam Singh
Cleartwo Director



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SCAN ME



Asian Media Awards 2023

Thank You's

Graphic Design & Concept

Mark Lamb

Event Production & Technical

Fritz AV

Events Caterer & Drinks Reception

Payal Events

Website & Video Production

Cleartwo

Photographers

Clive Lawrence Photography and
David Hurst Photography

AMA Interviews By

Alima Nadeem

Technical

Fritz AV

Music By

Tariq Malik

Video Production & Interviews Team

University of Salford School of Arts,
Media and Creative Technology &
Quays TV
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George Icke
Leonie Husselbee
Harry Cohen

Adam Clark

Eleanor Haughton

Daniel Grainger

Callum Ewing

David Evans

Courtney Holder

Joshua Harrison-North

Acknowledgments

Talat-Farooq Awan

Graham Brownhill

Paul Broster

Alima Nadeem

Juel Khan

Kamran Moghul

Omer Riaz

Satnam Singh

Abdulsamad Farhat

Arslaan Asif

Zeenat Asif

Kin Sang Lee

Billy Josiah

Fatema Derbas

Maryam Shabbir

Aalia Naseer

Abbas Hussain

Anisa Kosar

Adam Moseby

Picture/Footage Credits:

BBC, Channel 4, ITV, Sky News, Global, Reach Plc, Coronation Street, Emmerdale, Eastenders, ITVX, ITV Regions, BBC Regions, Tristram Kenton (Orpheus); Ellie Kurtz (The Empress); Craig Fuller (The P Word); Madraj; Phizzical Productions.

Your Menu

Appetiser

Papri Chaat (v)

Indian street food served with chickpeas and potatoes on a bed of papdi in blended spices dressed with tamarind & yoghurt.

Starter

Malai Chicken Tikka

Succulent cubes of chicken breast marinated in spice infused yoghurt.

Vegetable Samosas (v)

Signature Dish - deep fried hand rolled pastry stuffed with potato, peas, fresh coriander, Indian herbs and spices.

Spinach Roll (v)

Hand rolled mini croquettes in a batter of sesame seeds stuffed with spice infused potato, paneer and spinach.

Main Course

Chicken Makhani

Murgh Makhani also known as Butter chicken is a succulent blend of breast and thigh meat slowly cooked in a rich tomato & butter sauce. A crowd favourite.

Saag Aloo (v)

New baby potatoes cooked in light bed of spices and tossed in fresh spinach.

Daal Makhani (v)

Lentils and kidney beans simmered slowly with tomatoes and garlic tempered with chilli and browned onions.

To be served with

Zeera Rice
Raita
Naan
Kachumber Salad

Dessert

Gulab Jamon (v)

Fried sweet dumplings in a light syrup flavoured with saffron.

Triple Chocolate Shooter (v)

Milk, dark and white chocolate mousse.

PAYAL

YOUR EVENT.
OUR PASSION

(v) Suitable for Vegetarians

Some dishes may contain traces of nuts please ask a member of staff if you are not sure.

Gluten Free & Vegan Menus are available to those who have pre-ordered.

For further allergen advice please speak to a member of staff.





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THE PIPELINE

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR THE SCREEN INDUSTRIES

Based in the Northwest of England, The Pipeline is an industry led, UK wide, training facility established with The University of Salford at MediaCity to support and develop the existing and future workforce within the Screen industries across the nations and regions of the UK.

Working closely with Industry specialists and sector funders we draw on the wide ranging expertise of The Pipeline team to design training courses that address current industry skills gaps. All our courses are delivered in partnership with experts from the Screen Industries.

The Pipeline are keen to extend their network of trainers and we are interested in talking with professionals who would like to deliver training alongside their current career. We provide expert training and support to enable industry specialists to pass on their knowledge and experience in an engaging and meaningful way for our learners.

I had never considered delivering professional courses before, but the training I received from The Pipeline enabled me to deliver a 10 day UK wide online course, for Production Coordinators. It was an amazing experience training, and I look forward to delivering the next course.

Helen Stamford, Production Executive, Red Productions
(Lead Trainer for ScreenSkills funded High End TV Step Up to Production Manager training programme)

If you are interested in becoming a trainer or have already some experience of delivery and you would like to work with us, please contact our Creative Director
Chris Pyke: c.pyke@salford.ac.uk

Visit our website: pipelinemedia.salford.ac.uk



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