

ROUTES TO
FREEDOM

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2007

the**drum**

Theatre
Spoken Word
Exhibition

Dance
Performance
Film

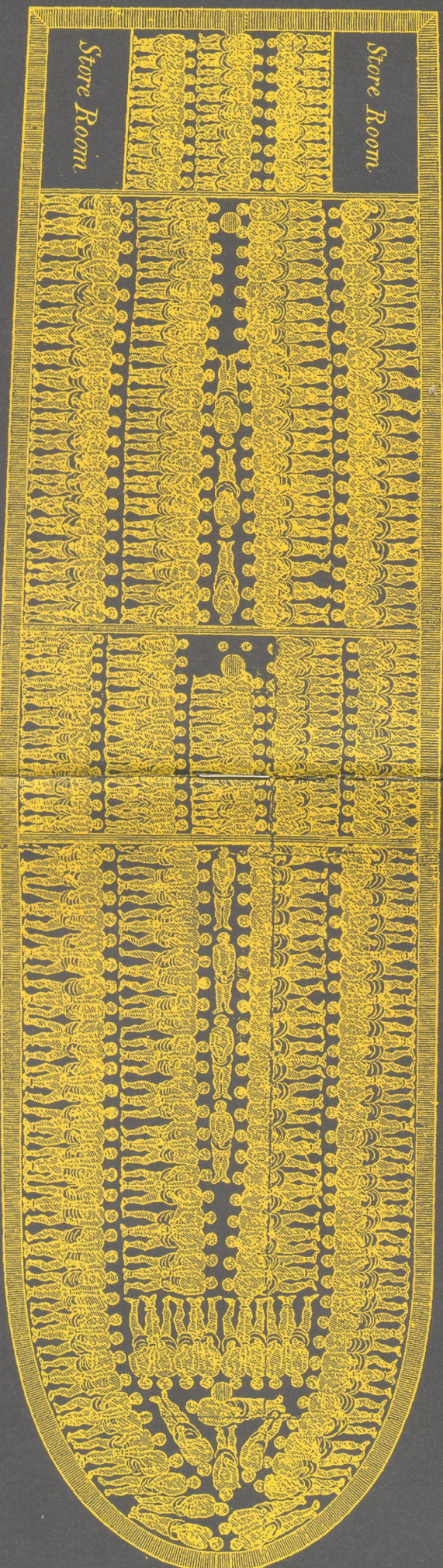
BOX OFFICE www.the-drum.org.uk

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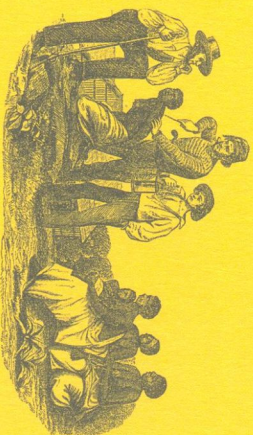
The Drum
144 Potters Lane
Aston
Birmingham
B6 4UU



Information contained in this brochure is correct at the time of going to print.
Please note: latecomers will be admitted at The Drum's discretion and will have
to wait for the interval or a suitable break in the performance.



ROUTES TO FREEDOM



We recall historic dates for more than ritualistic purposes. The year 2007 marks the Bi-Centenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, the 60th anniversary of the independence and associated partition of the Indian subcontinent, and the 50th anniversary of Ghanaian independence. These commemorations represent significant milestones in histories of continuing struggle. The **Routes to Freedom** season of events celebrates the connectedness of these different strands of struggle, historical and contemporary. These struggles were epitomised in the anti-discrimination campaigns in post-World War Two Britain, which were waged jointly by peoples originating in the Caribbean, Indian subcontinent and African arenas. Remarkably, although from different parts of the global imperialised experience where 'race' had been used as a tool designed by racists to divide and dominate them, these ex-colonised peoples fought against exclusion and injustice under the broad banner of Black struggle. In doing so they made Black something more than mere skin-colour and racist labelling. Using the arts and culture as tools of their political campaigns, they placed anti-racism squarely on the agenda of the state. We should register that this constituted and constitutes a seminal social intervention of the late 20th century, announcing the reconfiguring of British culture.

COLIN PRESCOD

Founding-Chair of The Drum (1993–1998)
Chair, Institute of Race Relations

EXHIBITION

Mon 3 Sep–Fri 28 Sep
Launch/Wed 12 Sep/6.30pm

INDIA AND INDEPENDENCE

by Sunil Janah

An exhibition of photographs by distinguished photographer Sunil Janah, about the struggle for the independence of India from the British, a movement which Janah himself was a part of. Looking at political activity against the backdrop of the people of India, the economy and the history of the continent, the exhibition features a unique collection of photographs taken over the course of 35 years from 1943 onwards.

The exhibition was commissioned in 1987 by Light House and Wolverhampton Art Gallery and is brought to The Drum in collaboration with Light House, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and South Asian Alliance.



SPOKEN WORD

Sat 8 Sep/7.30pm/£9 (£7)

AN AUDIENCE WITH MUTABARUKA

Jamaican-born, internationally recognised, African conscious, poet, actor, radio host, activist and reggae artist Mutabaruka gave voice to a nation through his poetry and helped forge an entirely new genre of music, dub poetry. Revolutionary, fiery, scathing and stinging, his words are as potent on paper as they are performed live. Hosted by Birmingham's leading poet Martin Glyn, this event will give you the opportunity to hear about Mutabaruka's career, ask questions and enjoy a special performance as Muta takes to the stage.

Suitable for age **16+**



FILM

Wed 12 Sep/8.15pm/£2

MADE IN INDIA

A diverse programme of eight new short films from Indian filmmakers on the theme of Indian Independence followed by a panel discussion. Featuring *The House Remembers*, *The Talking Camera*, *The Life of a Bada Sahib*, *Body British*, *Heart Hindustani*, *English and I*, *The Broken Land*, *Jugalbandi* and *Ms. Hemalatha*.

Commissioned by the Documentary Film Group. 24mins. (Cert TBC)

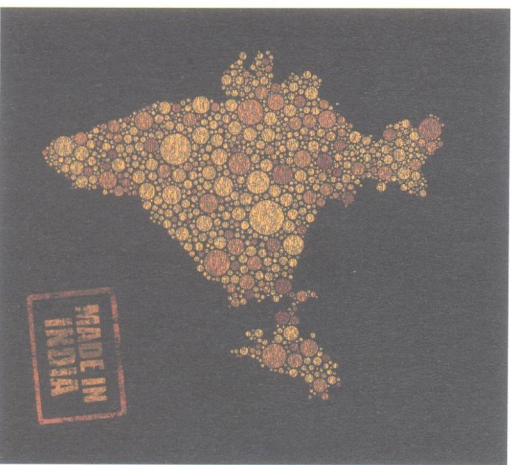
FILM

Tue 18 Sep/7.30pm/£4 (£3)

SANKOFA

The story of Mona, a Black American model, on a shoot in Ghana who finds herself transported back in time, to become Shola, a plantation slave in the US. With no memory of the present, or of freedom, Shola/Mona must learn, from the newly-arrived Africans who still remember, the importance of liberty and rebellion.

Dir: Halle Gerima, 2hrs 4mins.



PERFORMANCE

Tue 18 Sep/1pm/£6

£3.50 for school groups

samp'd in association with Tara Arts presents

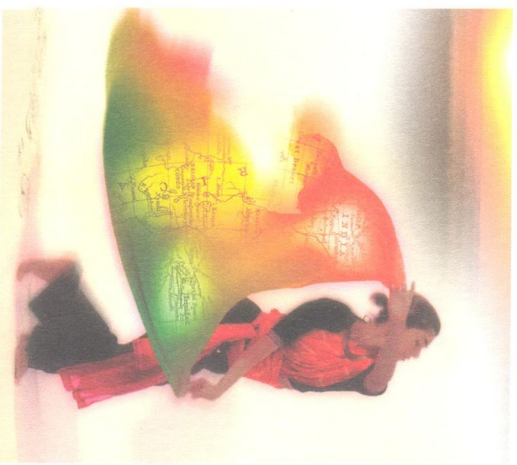
MOTHERLAND

Vibrant dance, live music and lyrical poetry come together to create *Motherland* – a compelling story of love, conflict, revenge and resolution set in a world of slavery and forced migration. An international cast unites on stage to create the sounds, rhythms and movements of India, Africa, the Caribbean and the UK in a celebration of the power of the human spirit.

The performance will be followed by a post-show discussion led by *Motherland*'s Creative Director Eugene Skeef.

Specially commissioned to commemorate the Bi-Centenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

Suitable for age **12+**



EVENT

Sat 29 Sep/7.30pm/Invitation only

The Drum in partnership with
Black History Foundation presents

ROUTES TO FREEDOM LAUNCH

The official launch of Routes to Freedom, a season of events exploring the struggle for social justice and equality in relation to African, Asian and Caribbean communities. The season will mark two key historical events and their impact today: The Bi-Centenary of the Abolition of Slave Trade Act and the 60th Anniversary of the Partition of the Indian subcontinent. Local artists and DJs will join a panel of speakers to present a special evening marking the trials, tribulations and triumphs of Black peoples.

Admission by invitation only. Contact BHF on 0121 212 9911.

THEATRE

Tue 25–Sat 29 Sep/7.30pm/£10 (£8)

Matinee/Wed 26 Sep/1pm

£3.50 for school groups

Kirk Krak Productions presents

NOBODY KNOWS

A powerful new production that pulls no punches, *Nobody Knows* uses drama, dance, music and images to explore the history of the slave trade and its legacy today. Told through the eyes of Equiano, a former slave who wrote a best-selling autobiography based on his experiences, *Nobody Knows* celebrates the dignity, pride and spirit of Black people as they fought for their own emancipation.

Written and directed by Meryn Weir.

Suitable for age **12+**

EXHIBITION

Mon 1 Oct–Fri 2 Nov

Exhibitions open Mon–Fri/10am–6pm

Admission free

Launch/Wed 3 Oct/6.30pm

ROUTES TO FREEDOM EXHIBITIONS

Three separate exhibitions focussing on different aspects of slavery curated as part of the Routes to Freedom season.



INTERWOVEN FREEDOM

by SCAWDI and English Heritage

An exhibition of textiles, text panels and an audio documentary created by Sparkbrook African and Caribbean Women's Development Initiative (SCAWDI) in a project to highlight the role of women in the abolitionist movement. The exhibition will also contain photographs documenting the project by Vanley Burke.

RECOVERED HISTORIES

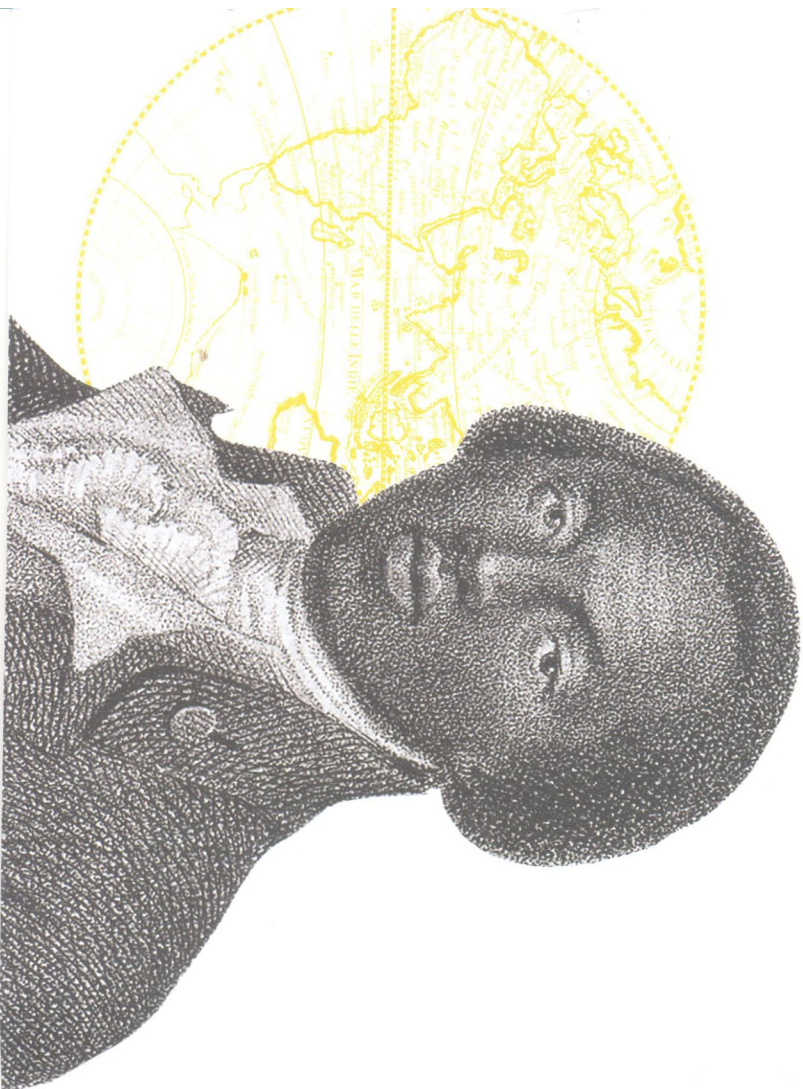
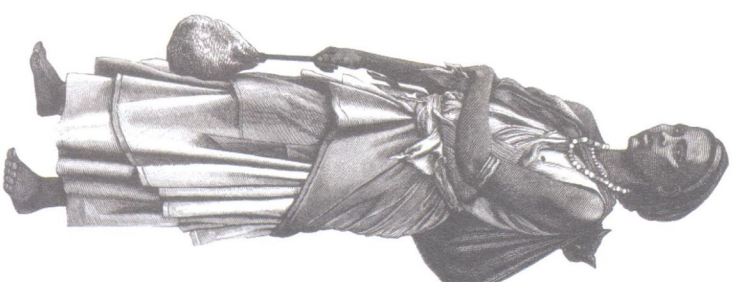
by Anti-Slavery International

A historical exhibition that reawakens the narratives of slavery, resistance and the fight for freedom. Featuring testimonies and pictures from Africans subjected to slavery, those participating in the enslavement and those who fought against it.

FORGOTTEN BUT NOT GONE

by Pete Pattison

On 25 March 1807 Britain officially abolished the slave trade. 200 years later at least 12 million people worldwide remain in forms of slavery. Photojournalist Pete Pattison looks at slavery and resistance 200 years after abolition including the exploitation and enslavement of men, women and children in India, Haiti, Ghana, Burma, Ireland and the UK. This powerful and moving exhibition is a compelling reminder that slavery may be forgotten but has not gone.



FILM

Wed 3 Oct/8.15pm /£4 (£3)

SLAVERY TODAY

A special screening of three short films focusing on modern day slavery, followed by a panel discussion. Featuring *The Silent Revolution*, the story of people held in slavery in the stone quarries of northern India; *Dreams Die Hard* which profiles people trapped in domestic slavery in the US and *Freedom and Beyond*, a story of hope and promise looking at child slaves who are now free.

1hr 20mins. (Cert TBC).

Films courtesy of Free the Slaves www.freetheslaves.net

PERFORMANCE

Thu 4 Oct/7.30pm/£3.50 (£2.50)

Birmingham and Solihull Connexions and Aston Pride presents

CONNEXIONS:

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

As part of the 2007 Bi-Centenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, 20 young people from the Aston area have worked on a commemorative project exploring the impact that this Act has had on the African, Caribbean and Asian communities in the UK and the major contributions these communities have made to the nation since then. This performance will showcase poetry, singing and dance by the young people to mark this special occasion.

DANCE

Thu 11 Oct/7.30pm/£8 (£6)

Koromanti Arts presents

THE COTTON TREE

PASSAGE

A cutting-edge dance theatre production depicting the 'spiritual journey' from Africa through the passage of slavery to the Caribbean and the UK. A collaboration between 'H' Patten and renowned dance, music, film and visual artists, this dynamic, thought provoking piece combines multimedia techniques and contemporary African, Caribbean and urban dance, including African hip-life and Jamaican dancehall.



FILM/TALK

Sun 14 Oct/4pm screening

7pm seminar /£5 (£13 family ticket*)

The Drum, Asian Rationalist Society and Indian Workers Association presents

SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH: CENTENARY OF A LEGEND

A screening and seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of Indian activist Bhagat Singh looking at his life and legacy as an inspiration for activists and freedom fighters today. Bhagat Singh, who was hanged by the British authorities in India in 1931, was a major figure in India's struggle for independence and one of the founders of Indian socialism. This event will include a screening of *The Legend of Bhagat Singh* (PG) starring Ajay Devgan.

Dir: Rajkumar Santoshi, 2hrs 35mins. BBFC advice: contains mild language and moderate violence.

Followed by a Seminar discussion with Professor Jagmohan Singh (Bhagat Singh's nephew) and Dr Varinder Singh (University of Manchester).

*up to four tickets, at least one child under-12 and one adult.



TALK

Thu 18 Oct/7.30pm/£5 (£3)

The Drum in partnership with

Bangladeshi Youth Forum presents

AN AUDIENCE WITH TAHMINA ANAM

Born in Bangladesh, brought up in Paris, Bangkok, New York City and now living in London, Tahmina Anam comes from a family of gifted writers and thinkers. Her debut novel, *A Golden Age* unfolds against the backdrop of Bangladesh's war of independence, informed by interviews with ex-freedom fighters, military officers, students, and survivors of the 1971 war combined with her own family history.

Tahmina will be discussing her life and work with Aftab Rehman (BYF), answering audience questions and reading extracts from her novel.



THEATRE

Fri 26 Oct/2pm and 7.30pm

£8 (£6)/£3.50 for school groups

Tara Arts presents

SLAVERY

The UK premiere of this phenomenal one act play by Jonathan Payne. Slavery brings the consequences of the slave trade to life through the actual testimonials of American slaves, their music and passion. Drawn from interviews with former slaves this powerful drama combines personal testimony with Negro spirituals to create a remarkable sense of this dark time in history.

Suitable for age **14+**

'Slavery is the past reaching into the future and reminding the world from where it came.'
Jonathan Payne



PERFORMANCE

Sat 3 Nov/7.30pm/£6 (£4)

CETTIE presents

SPLENDID NUMMER

An evocative one-man show focussing on Ira Aldridge, the groundbreaking 19th century actor who overcame racism and prejudice to break away from stereotypical comedy roles and become one of the first Black Shakespearean actors. A tribute to the talent and perseverance of a man who fought to change perceptions of the Black persona and endow it with the dignity it had been denied for centuries.

Directed by Malcolm Frederick and starring Shango Baku.

See opposite for associated exhibition.



EXHIBITION

Mon 5 Nov - Fri 30 Nov

Launch/Wed 7 Nov/7.30pm

IRA ALDRIDGE

A fascinating exhibition commemorating the life and times of Ira Aldridge (1807-1867), the groundbreaking Black actor who overcame prejudice to become one of the greatest Shakespearean actors of his time.

Curated by Positive Steps.

See opposite for associated performance.



FILM

Wed 7 Nov/2pm and 7pm/£4 (£3)

BELOVED **15**

A powerful and gripping adaptation of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer prize-winning novel exploring the physical and emotional horrors of slavery and the legacy it leaves behind.

Starring Oprah Winfrey as Sethe, an escaped slave haunted by memory and the spirit of her dead daughter. Also starring Danny Glover and Thandie Newton.

Dir: Jonathon Demme, 2hrs 52mins. BBFC advice: contains brief strong moments of horror, violence and nudity.



THEATRE

Thu 8 and Fri 9 Nov / 7.30pm / £8 (£6)

The National Theatre of Ghana and Border Crossings presents

DILEMMA OF A GHOST

The UK premiere of Ghanaian Ama Ata Aidoo's seminal play about the legacy of the slave trade to commemorate 50 years since Ghana's Independence and the Bi-Centenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

When Ato returns to Ghana from his studies in the US, he brings with him a sophisticated Black American wife. But their hopes of a happy marriage are soon confounded by both African and Western responses to the shared inheritance of the slave trade.

FILM

**Sun 11 Nov / 6pm and Wed 14 Nov / 2pm
£4 (£3)**

THE CLAYBIRD **PG**

Set against the backdrop of the turbulent period in the late 1960s leading up to Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan, *The Clay Bird* tells the story of a family torn apart by religion and war. Told through the eyes of Anu, a shy young boy torn between the Hindu and Muslim religions.

Dir: Tareque Masud, 1hr 38 mins, Bengali with subtitles.

BFfC advice: contains mild emotional intensity and language.

CONFERENCE

**Sat 17 Nov / £5 / Seminar 11am-5pm
Performances 5pm-10pm**

The Equiano Society in partnership with The Drum presents

EQUIANO: LIFE & TIMES

A conference exploring the life and times of Olaudah Equiano. A former slave, successful business man, and campaigner against slavery, Equiano's best-selling autobiography was the most important British anti-slavery text of the late 18th century and played a crucial role in the abolitionist movement in the UK.

This event will bring together national and international scholars, students, and community activists to debate and discuss Equiano's legacy followed by an evening of poetry, dance and performances.

FILM

Tue 20 Nov / 7.30pm / £4 (£3)

C.S.A. CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA **12A**

A funny but frightening fake documentary that imagines America as it would be today if the South had won the civil war and slavery had continued. With slavery encouraged by tax breaks, runaway slaves as the subject of reality TV shows, widespread prejudice and racist products C.S.A. mixes fabricated movie segments, with real TV footage and advertising to launch a sharp satirical attack.

Dir: Kevin Willmott, US, 1hr 29mins. BFfC advice: contains racist references.

PERFORMANCE

Thu 22 Nov / 7.30pm / £6 (£4)

Ming Media Productions presents

FIELD SLAVE NUMBER 139

Two exceptional poets Roy McFarlane and Sue Brown bring to life a love story between a dark skinned field slave and a Mulatto house servant on a plantation in America's Deep South.

A powerful and moving story incorporating music and drama, written and produced by Ava Ming to commemorate the Bi-Centenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

Suitable for age **12+**

EVENT

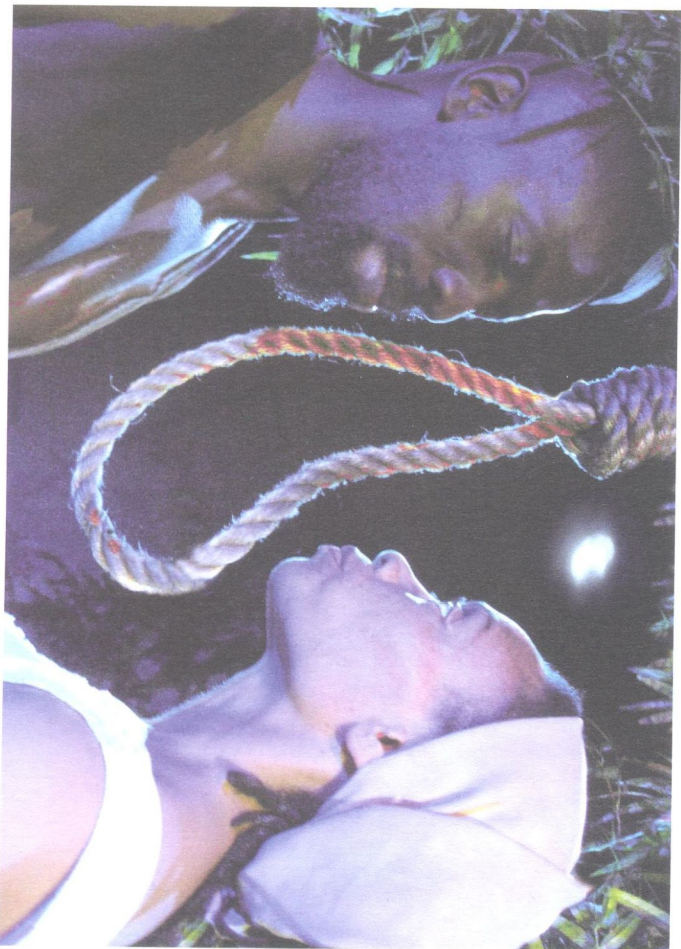
Fri 23 Nov / 7.30pm

COOLIES OF THE CARIBBEAN

An event revealing the hidden history of the forced migration of over a million Indians to the Caribbean and other parts of the Empire after the official abolition of the slave trade.

Hosted by Trinidadian-born Bob Ramdhanie with guests Guyanese writer and academic Professor David Dabydeen and Birmingham-based Jamaican Indian Mahadev Singh who will trace family stories of the epic voyages from India and the Caribbean to the streets of Britain.

Followed by an after party with Caribbean Indian cuisine and DJs playing the very best in Caribbean Indian mixes including Chutney Soca, Calypso and Reggae.



THEATRE

Sun 25 Nov/7.30pm/£7 (£5)

Five Rivers in association with Harvinder Sohal presents

**BHAGAT SINGH
FREEDOM FIGHTER**

An exhilarating theatre production focussing on the life of Indian revolutionary Bhagat Singh and the part he played in the anti-colonial movement. A figure of great courage, bravery and vision, Bhagat Singh sacrificed his life for the cause at the age of just 30 and became a symbol of heroism and inspiration for generations to come.

FILM

Tue 11 Dec/7.30pm and

Wed 12 Dec/2pm/£4 (£3)

THE AMAZING GRACE PG

The story of British slave trader John Newton's voyage to West Africa and the events that inspired him to write the world's most popular hymn, *Amazing Grace*. Putting the African experience at the centre of the story *The Amazing Grace* is a sharp contrast to other films that have been criticised for overlooking the part that enslaved Africans played in the fight for their own freedom.

Dir: Jete Amata, 1hr 32mins. BFFC advice: contains moderate violence and scenes of slave trading



DIARY OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- India and Independence Exhibition Mon 3 Sep–Fri 28 Sep
- An Audience with Mutabaruka Spoken Word Sat 8 Sep
- Made in India Film Wed 12 Sep
- Sankofa Film Tue 18 Sep
- Motherland Performance Tue 18 Sep
- Nobody Knows Theatre Tue 25–Sat 29 Sep
- Routes to Freedom Launch Event Sat 29 Sep

OCTOBER

- Forgotten But Not Gone Exhibition Mon 1 Oct–Fri 2 Nov
- Interwoven Freedom Exhibition Mon 1 Oct–Fri 2 Nov
- Recovered Histories Exhibition Mon 1 Oct–Fri 2 Nov
- Slavery Today Film Wed 3 Oct
- Connexions: History in the Making Performance Thu 4 Oct
- The Cotton Tree Passage Dance Thu 11 Oct
- Shahid Bhagat Singh: Centenary of a Legend Film/Talk Sun 14 Oct
- An Audience with Tahmima Anam Talk Thu 18 Oct
- Slavery Theatre Fri 26 Oct

NOVEMBER

- Splendid Mummer Performance Sat 3 Nov
- Ira Aldridge Exhibition Mon 5 Nov–Fri 30 Nov
- Beloved Film Wed 7 Nov
- Dilemma of a Ghost Theatre Thu 8–Fri 9 Nov
- The Claybird Film Sun 11 Nov and Wed 14 Nov
- Equiano: Life and Times Conference Sat 17 Nov
- C.S.A. Confederate States of America Film Tue 20 Nov
- Field Slave Number 139 Performance Thu 22 Nov
- Coolies of the Caribbean Event Fri 23 Nov
- Bhagat Singh Freedom Fighter Theatre Sun 25 Nov

DECEMBER

- The Amazing Grace Film Tue 11 Dec and Wed 12 Dec

