



# THE MOONWATCHER



A world of cotton mill chimneys, talking birds, Asian twists and tales  
Shamshad Khan  
and  
Bob Frith



**The Moonwatcher** is a theatre show that combines poet **Shamshad Khan's** insightful and thoughtful poetry with **Horse + Bamboo's** trademark use of powerful narrative and imagery, using masks, puppetry, film and music.

We meet a young girl who came from Pakistan to join her husband in England. We are led through a surreal landscape to witness one family's fate on our fast spinning planet. The Moonwatcher tells a story of global travel and the residues of settling. A second generation daughter and determined truth-seeker brightens our hearts with questions.

A piece written by poet **Shamshad Khan** and **Bob Frith**, founder of Horse + Bamboo, with music by **Arun Ghosh**, clarinetist, composer and music educator. The production is based on stories and research undertaken by Shamshad and Bob as part of the Different Moons project, in which they interviewed and recorded the stories of first generation immigrants to Rossendale from South Asia, specifically Pakistan and Bangladesh.

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## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

The show is expected to be suitable for anyone over 9.

## **TECHNICAL AND SHOW INFORMATION**

The Moonwatcher will be a three-hander with one performer also acting as stage manager. It will be built for studio theatres and rural touring networks.

We expect to work towards a get-in of less than 3 hours and a running time of approximately one hour.

Stage dimensions (provisional) will be:

Min width – 5.50 m

Min depth – 5.00 m

Min height – 2.50 m

Lighting and sound will be self-contained within the show. The show will benefit greatly from blackout or where blackout is not possible there will need to be additional get-in time to allow for time to darken the space.

## **THE COMPANY**

Horse + Bamboo Theatre Company have been making and touring high quality visual theatre for over 30 years. To sustain the company for this long we have had to remain responsive and keep our work fresh whilst also still retaining Horse + Bamboo's distinctive visual impact. Our aesthetic is based around beautifully carved puppets, handmade masks and music. In this piece these traditional forms will be set against innovative use of projection and film. We use these forms to make theatre that is playful, moving and inspiring, reaching audiences through touring and at the Boo, our home in Pennine Lancashire which also acts as a hub for presenting other well known puppetry companies and story-tellers.

## **DIFFERENT MOONS**

Different Moons has been a 3 year project, led by Bob Frith and Shamshad Khan working with the South Asian heritage population of Haslingden, a rural town in Pennine Lancashire. Interviews with the elder generation have been used as a starting point to engage with the communities and - amongst other outcomes - introduce them to the ongoing programme of events at our venue, The Boo.

*"Compelling and eloquent... An unforgettable theatrical experience... The inventive Horse + Bamboo touch a chord the West End wouldn't know existed... A theatrical spell, which is quite unique... And accessible to everyone." The Guardian "A leading force in accessible visual theatre."*

**Manchester Evening News**

*"Such creative story telling with just the right mixture of lightness + darkness – the kids I sat with had never visited the theatre before and were completely entranced and I sat there with a smile on my face throughout."*

**Audience member**