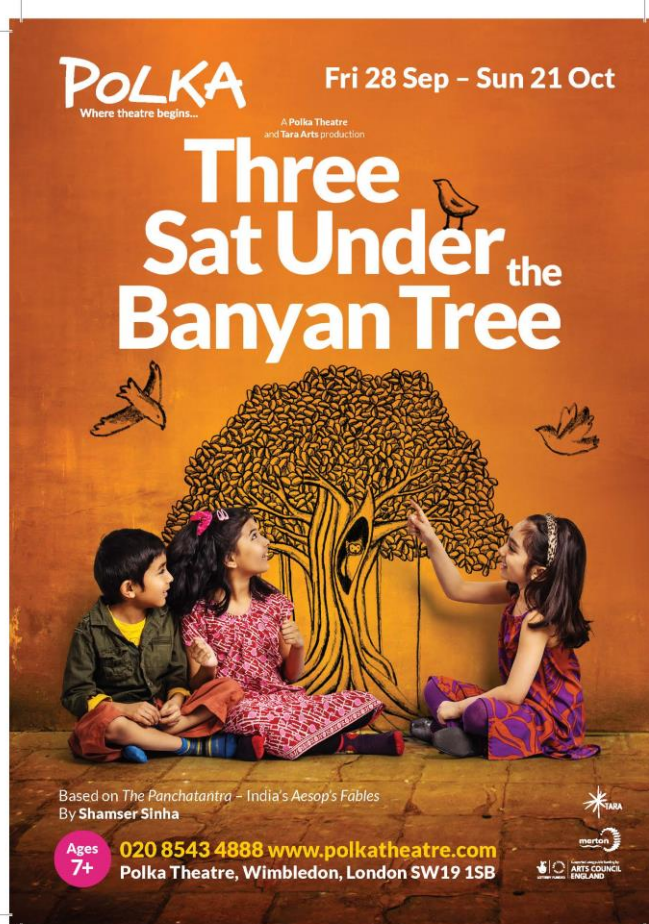


Tara Arts & Polka Theatre present
THREE SAT UNDER THE BANYAN TREE
by **Shamser Sinha**

Based on *The Panchatantra*, India's Aesop's Fables,
for ages 7 - 12 years



**UK Tour September – October 2018
& re-touring January to March 2019**

Following a 4-week London season at Polka Theatre

Contact Jonathan Kennedy jonathan@tara-arts.com
+44 (0)20 8333 4457 or +44 (0)792 971 6512 www.tara-arts.com

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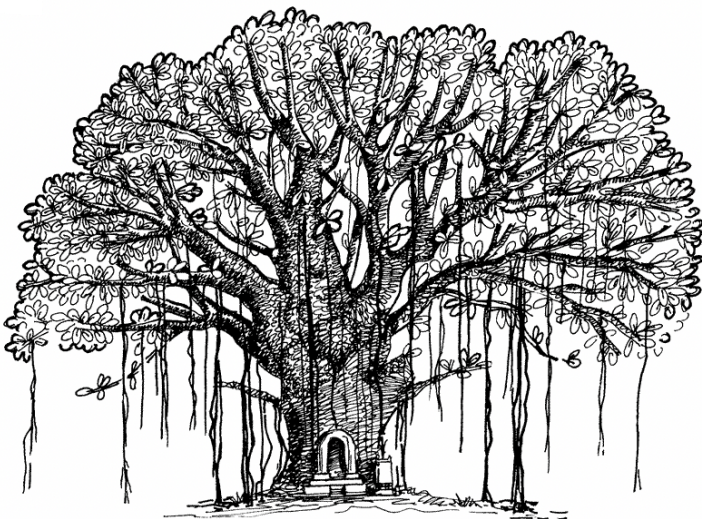
Based on *The Panchatantra*, India's Aesop's Fables by Shamser Sinha If kindness is not shown to friends in pain.

Near the foothills of the Himalayas, three orphans open a magical book under a Banyan tree. They were told the book wouldn't give them answers but they'd learn from it, they stir a pot of milk and three stories of the forest rise from its pages. Stories of headstrong crows, old lions and devious jackals come vibrantly to life, with masks, movement and music.

Running time 1 hour, 30 minutes (including a 20 minute interval)

What use in life, what gain?

How can three ignorant princes learn to rule wisely?
How did a crow, a mouse, a turtle and a deer become inseparable friends?
And how did the jackal fool the lion?



For the first time ever, Shamser Sinha brings India's extraordinary collection of fables, *The Panchatantra* - India's most frequently translated literary work - to the stage. A cast of 3 explore the good life through a range of fabulous animal characters.

Director Jatinder Verma
Designer Claudia Mayer



Sita's Story by Jatinder Verma & Claudia Mayer (2013 tour)

UK touring October to December 2018

TARGET AUDIENCES

- Young people aged 7 – 12 years
- Junior schools
- Families
- Bollywood & Indian film audiences
- Previous audiences for children's theatre

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

- small-scale / studio theatres
- 100 to 200 audience capacity
- 4 on tour: Cast 3 + 1 Stage Management
- Tour supported by national wrap-around campaign including:
- Post-show Q&A
- Free Education Resource Pack for Key Stage 2

TECH SPEC

- Minimum playing area 5 by 5 by 5 metres
- Vehicle on tour (small van)
- 4-hour get-in (with lighting pre-rigged where available)
- Running time circa 90mins including interval

FEES

- Single & Multiple Performance fees available

TOUR DETAILS ON BLACK THEATRE LIVE

<http://blacktheatreive.co.uk/tours/three-sat-under-the-banyan-tree>

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ABOUT TARA ARTS

Tara Arts connects worlds....

Tara Arts cross-cultural shows range from the classics to new commissions. Productions are always created with a strong visual sensibility and often include live music.

Tara Arts has extensive experience of international touring having previously taken shows to Japan, France, Belgium, India, Australia.

“Over the years Tara Arts has proved itself a uniquely seductive British theatre company. Its blend of East and West continues to inspire an alluring vision of modern Britain.” Hanif Kureishi, CBE

In our name is our cross-cultural aesthetic. The word Tara has a number of meanings.

In most North Indian languages ‘Tara’ means ‘star’ ...

In Buddhism ‘Tara’ is the Goddess of Love and Art ...

In Ireland, the ‘Hill of Tara’ is an ancient seat of power ...



(When the Lights Went Out by Jatinder Verma & Claudia Mayer, European tour 2008)

Tara Arts' inaugural production was *Sacrifice* - Nobel Prize-winning poet Rabindranath Tagore's anti-war play. This production was staged on 25th August 1977 at Battersea Arts Centre with a clear mission - to make imaginative connections across cultures through theatre.

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TARA THEATRE



Combining London brick with ancient teakwood doors from India and a stage floor made of earth from Devon, Tara Theatre was opened in September 2016 by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, as the country's first multicultural theatre.

PATRONS

Sir Richard Eyre CBE, Shobana Jeyasingh MBE, Naseem Khan OBE, Hanif Kureishi CBE, Sir Salman Rushdie, Nitin Sawhney

@Tara_Arts

London Construction Awards 2016

Stage Sustainability Award 2017

London Architecture Awards 2017

Wandsworth Design Award 2017

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ABOUT POLKA THEATRE

World-class theatre for children

Polka Theatre is one of the few venues in the UK which is dedicated to producing and presenting work for young audiences. Since the doors opened in 1979, this unique venue has been entertaining children with resonant, engaging and exciting theatre.

Over 90,000 children a year come to Polka and are inspired, stimulated and engaged by, for the first time. Polka strives to stir the emotions, spark the imagination and, most of all, entertain. Its two theatre spaces, the Main Theatre and the Adventure Theatre are designed especially for children so that their first taste of theatre is welcoming and relevant.



At Polka children aged 0 to 14 enjoy a wide-range of experiences designed to make theatre a natural part of their lives: from the powerful drama *Stamping, Shouting and Singing Home*; to hilarious family shows like *Flat Stanley*; fantastic

world-premieres of new plays for children like *Cloud Pictures*; and adaptations of well-loved stories like *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

Polka Theatre for the very young is a vital part of Polka's artistic programming. Over the past few years Polka has developed its Early Years work and established itself as a centre for innovation in this field. Children as young as 9 months and their families are brought into a colourful and stimulating environment where simple stories are told in a sensory and visual way. Early Years shows also visit Polka from across Europe encouraging the telling of a diverse range of stories in a varied and exciting way.

Creative programming keeps Polka's work fresh and relevant. Audiences can expect imaginative new writers, dynamic performers, inventive adaptations of popular stories and resonant subjects. Everything we do is focused on providing children with thrilling world-class theatre.

<https://polkatheatre.com/> @polkatheatre

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