

PHIZZICAL

# Arabian Days

The untold story of a young and rebellious Scheherazade

A musical prequel to the enduring tales of the Arabian Nights that explores themes of gender differences, power, subservience, perception and freedom.

# Arabian Days

A Musical by Sumerah Ahmad Srivastava



**Arabian Days** chronicles the untold story of a young and rebellious Scheherazade whose own adventures inspired the stories of Aladdin, Ali Baba and Sinbad and led to her courageous decision to marry a Sultan and inspire an empire.

Scheherazade is the impetuous daughter of the Sultan's vizier who in defiance of convention and her father, she runs away from the palace on the eve of her seventeenth birthday with dreams of joining the infamous Captain Qureshi and his men for a life of adventure.

A cunning and natural tomboy she willingly dons a disguise as a man and trades with a gang of local thieves that promise to get her an audience with the Captain. Scheherazade finds herself caught up in the seedier part of the city, travels to no man's land where few have ever returned and finally finds herself on board the pirate ship Deliverance with an unexpected wise old woman.

Through her journey Scheherazade learns to have courage in herself and in the humanity of others and, with the knowledge that real power is in the eye of the beholder, she returns back to the palace with a plan.



**Sumerah Srivastava** is a writer for stage, film and television. Her short plays include *Blind Love* (shortlisted for The Windsor Fringe Kenneth Branagh Award for New Drama Writing), *For the Love of Her* (reading at the Write Now Festival) and *Downfall* (commissioned by Tamasha Theatre company for a performed reading at Soho Theatre).

Her first full length play *Border Lies* is receiving development support from Kali Theatre and she is currently a member of the Royal Court's invitation group on their Advanced Playwright Programme. Sumerah is also developing an original feature length screenplay with the Script Factory in association with the National Film and Television school. In addition to her writing, Sumerah works as a script researcher for the BBC1 continuing drama *EastEnders*.

**For more information please contact**

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## Technical Requirements

Size	Mid - Small scale
Company	8 actors, 4 musicians, 2 crew
Running Time	120 min, with a 20 min interval
Get in / Get Out	One day get in, pre rig required Get out 1hr after performance
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workshops on story telling and traditional lost Arabic Dance and Music: how the Artists fuse the dance forms and incorporate poetry live music and song are available.</li><li>• Longer residencies and participatory projects working with a range of participants, from young people, emerging dancers to elders exploring key themes.</li><li>• Opportunities to create a platform events, transforming the cafe/bar with Arab influences or curtain-raiser performances with local dancers as a response to <b>Arabian Days</b> would be welcomed.</li></ul>
Press and Marketing	High resolution marketing and production photos Press release Print media
Digital Media	Micro web site Viral video advert E-flyer and social media adverts
Audience	Family audiences, 6years and above Specific audience groups (Asian, Middle Eastern)
Audio / Video (venue to provide)	PA & Sound Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 mics for vocals</li><li>• 2 Mics for Horn Section</li><li>• 4 Microphone stands (for above microphones)</li><li>• 2 DI units</li><li>• Relevant mics for drum kit</li><li>• 1 standard height table for DJ</li><li>• 6 Monitors (minimum)</li><li>• 28 mic in input console/ mixing desk and adequate cables (XLR/RCA/A-jack)</li><li>• 2.5K power rig with adequate outboard speakers</li></ul>
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basic onstage overhead generic lighting rig, capable of delivering a saturated and even 4-colour wash across the WHOLE stage.</li><li>• A minimum of 6 x moving light/mirror fixtures onstage, 4 rigged overhead with at least 2 on their bases on boxes/ black-covered flight cases places USL and R. These should be a minimum of 250w fixtures.</li><li>• A competent programmer for lighting desk for at least 3 uninterrupted hours</li><li>• Lighting operator during show</li></ul>

## CREATIVE TEAM

### **Phil Willmott**

Phil Willmott is a multi-award winning director, playwright, composer, librettist, and dramaturg. He is the most commissioned musical Theatre writer/composer in the UK and Britain's foremost director of Greek drama. In 2009 He has awarded a prestigious T.M.A award for "Outstanding production of a musical" and nominated for the What's On Stage "Best Regional Theatre" prize for his musical Once Upon A Time at the Adelphi (Liverpool Playhouse). In London he received a Peter Brook Award for his annual classical productions and family shows at the Scoop and numerous London Fringe Awards. He has also been the recipient of a Brook Atkinson New Dramatists Award in New York.

### **AjayHQ**

Chart-topping songwriter and composer creating music and sound design specialising in the stage and screen. AjayHQ production creates original music for film, TV, corporate video, commercials, dance, theatre and Podcast broadcasting. AjayHQ is the frontman of the band BOTOWN and has performed with leading artists such as Jamiroquai and the Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan.

### **Sâmir Bhamra**

Sâmir Bhamra is a highly commended designer, artistic director and director. Previous credits include The Maids (2010), the Pultizer nominated play A Perfect Ganesh (2008), Romeo + Laila (2006) and Precious Bazaar (2004). He was an artist in residence at Leicester Haymarket Theatre and recently part of a development programme at the National Theatre where he was seconded to Royal Shakespeare Company.

### **Leylah**

Choreographer with a specialist knowledge of lost Arabic dance forms and has choreographed for stage productions in the UK and spectacular corporate events in United Arab Emirates .

