



**Media Release** 21 March 2011

Sâmir Bhamra has been awarded kick start research and development funding from British Council for a new collaboration with the South African theatre company, Hearts and Eyes.

Sâmir travelled to the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown in 2009 as one of fifteen ambassadors of Sustained Theatre. During the trip, he was introduced to Peter Hayes, director of Hearts and Eyes who was presenting *Ncamisa: The Women*, a piece that dealt with the corrective rape and murders of black lesbians in townships. Peter invited Sâmir to participate in a workshop in Cape Town where they shared their practices. Over the course of the workshop, it emerged that there was a possibility of a collaboration to create a personal narrative piece.

In May 2010, Sâmir supported the tour of *Ncamisa: The Women* to the Dublin Gay and Lesbian Theatre Festival. During this visit, both practitioners had an opportunity to review their original idea. They felt that the idea needed to be developed further to examine the growing discourse in immigration, crime and internationalism. In October 2010, Peter took part in the AfroVibes Festival which took place in the UK for the first time. During the festival, both Peter and Sâmir were given space at The Drum to interrogate the proposed idea and the first outline of a story was shaped.

Sâmir, director of Phizzical commented, *"I am delighted to hear about the financial support from British Council towards the research and development of a new dramatic text. This important collaboration with South Africa will enable us to write a visceral production to première at the National Arts Festival and Edinburgh Festival in 2012. This would not have been possible had it not been for Arts Council England and Sustained Theatre."*

For more information or to support the production, please email: [samir@phizzical.com](mailto:samir@phizzical.com) or telephone: 07958 484858.