



Annual Review

April 2011 – March 2012

**[www.artasia.org.uk](http://www.artasia.org.uk)**



# INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIR



Welcome to Art Asia's 2011/12 Annual Review. It has been a busy year, with Art Asia celebrating its 30th birthday and our biggest outdoor performance to date. Bollywood Baraat after months of work was enjoyed by more than 4500 people in Southampton Guildhall Square. At the same time the Southampton Mela Festival welcomed more than 17,000 people on the day. The introduction of two new stages and our vibrant and innovative education work saw participant numbers go from 4,794 to 7722, which is of course not just a number but an interaction.

To mark Art Asia's 30 years of promoting, celebrating and creating South Asian Arts, we hosted two very different events. We had a big birthday party with supporters old and new, artists and students performed whilst some great guest speakers were very kind about our 30 year history. The second event was the 30 Ragas in 30 days programme where Art Asia hit the road, in a flash mob style, popping up and performing in various locations around Southampton, including the Isle of Wight ferry, a local market and the City Centre Library. It was a perfect celebration of what Art Asia does best – bringing South Asian Arts to the mainstream in an accessible, approachable and entertaining way that enriches people's lives.

As well as a year of celebration it has also been a turbulent one for Art Asia. We were delighted to be part of the Arts Council of England's National portfolio of funded organisations, but the challenge of a 63% reduction on past funding will have a huge impact on Art Asia in 2012/13. We have also heard that we are no longer anchor tenants of SNAC (Southampton New Arts Complex) and are still waiting for clear dialogue about the investment of £750,000 of Art Asia's funding being used despite our new found absence. However, we are very supportive of the new complex and hope we will play a part in its future as once planned.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of our dedicated staff, directors and volunteers of the organisation and the support we receive from our funders particularly the Arts Council of England and Southampton City Council.

**Dahlia Jamil**

Chair of the Board.

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# ART ASIA'S ARTISTIC STATEMENT

Our mission is to communicate the rich and exciting experience of South Asian Arts to the widest possible audience. Our work aspires to be entertaining, surprising and to celebrate our belief that the Arts of South Asia are universal in their appeal.

Throughout our history we have risen to many challenges, and as a thriving organisation we continue to learn and explore.

We wish to develop the traditional, contemporary and experimental practice of artists in the UK and abroad by commissioning and showcasing the best, the unexpected and the unknown. We will create the spaces in which established and emerging artists may test themselves and their art and pursue new ideas and new partnerships.

We wish to create a supportive environment for participants in which transformational experiences and exciting inter-cultural exchanges can take place.

Through our links with arts organisations, venues and other creative professionals we will challenge assumptions, raise awareness and prepare the platform on which our artists can bring their work to diverse audiences.

## THE YEAR IN NUMBERS:

12 events

26, 832 audience

128 workshops and demonstrations

7722 participants

9 dance and music classes run weekly in Southampton

116 class attendees

47,100 unique visitors across three websites:  
artasia.org.uk  
southamptonmela.com  
bollywoodbaraat.com

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Left page: Actors and dancers on the Bollywood Baraat stage. Photo by Murray Freestone.

Below: Crowds enjoy the outdoor spectacular. Photo by Murray Freestone.

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## BOLLYWOOD BARAAT

Bollywood Baraat was an ambitious 10-month project led by Art Asia in partnership with City Eye, the Nuffield Theatre and the John Hansard Gallery. With a specially commissioned script, original soundtrack and a series of community workshops a total of 380 people were involved in the creating of Southampton's Wedding of the Year.

The all-singing, all-dancing outdoor spectacular blended live theatre and film in Southampton's Guildhall Square. 4500 people shared the highs and lows of love with Arti and Jay. They witnessed the elderly Aunties rap like 50 Cent, and cheer as the groom arrived by horse with his Baraat (procession) of 120 school children, Dhol drums and Bollywood Brass Band. We laughed, we danced and it all ended happily ever after with a big Bollywood number!

***"Really enjoyed the evening – great atmosphere and good to see a big crowd enjoying themselves. Makes me proud of Southampton!"***





Top left: Rakhi Sood poses for trailer video. Photo by Murray Freestone.

Top right: Actors on stage in front of the Guildhall Building. Photo by Murray Freestone.

Bottom: The crowd. Photo by Murray Freestone.

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## THE BOLLYWOOD BARAAT NUMBERS

30 Artists

347 participants

5 new pieces of work commissioned

21, 359 unique visitors to the project's website

## PEOPLE'S BOLLYWOOD BARAAT

Over the entire project 380 people have been actively involved in Bollywood Baraat. A professional cast of 6 shared the stage with 18 community dancers who all auditioned to take part. Most of these attend our dance classes and others travelled from as far as Bournemouth to take part in intensive rehearsals. Some members of the group later set up their own dance troupe in Southampton. Music students from Southampton University took part in a module lead by composer Niraj Chag. The performance was filmed by Solent University's outdoor broadcasting unit manned by Solent University students and Journalism students from Solent also supported the projects marketing. Students from our Dhol drumming class performed in the show. 3 schools took part in a carnival module lead by artists from the Carnival Learning Centre. Local singers were auditioned to sing on the specially commissioned soundtrack through a competition on local radio station Unity 101. Last year community projects worked with young people from Newtown Youth Centre, the Over 50's festival, and an Asian women's group. A visiting artist from Calcutta created 'end of the pier' a style painting which was unveiled at the Southampton Mela Festival. Bollywood Baraat was a huge success due to the support and work of so many talented people.



This page: Photos from the red carpet at the Bollywood Baraat movie premiere.  
All photos by Murry Freestone.

## BOLLYWOOD BARAAT THE MOVIE

Bollywood Baraat the Movie premiered during Southampton Film Week at Harbour Lights Picture House. The glamorous event saw cast members, dancers, crew, family, friends and the public all walk up the red carpet snapped by photographers.

Drinks and samosas were served as people mingled, laughed and chatted at the pre-screening reception. Once the film started, there were claps, cheers and the occasional sing along from the audience.

***"My friends and I thought it was a great event. There should be more like it, it's great Southampton celebrates it's cultural diversity."***





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# ART AT THE HEART PROJECTS

## INSPIRATIONAL CREATIVE PROJECTS FOR SOUTHAMPTON'S CULTURAL QUARTER

### GIANT RANGOLI

In Indian cultures, all guests and visitors occupy a very special place and a Rangoli meaning row of colors, is an expression of this warm hospitality. Art Asia worked with leading exponent of Rangoli in the UK, Ranbir Kaur and 4 local visual artists to create a giant Rangoli celebrating the opening of Guildhall Square.

David Dixon, an installation artist created a large Rangoli out of lots of materials like sawdust and bark chippings at Ejector Seat Arts Festival in Palmerston Park. Eileen White, a paper and textile artist created an intricate paper Rangoli at the Art House Café. Michelle Clayton, a 3-dimensional textile artist created paper flower Rangolis to decorate a word vine in the central library. Zoha Zokaei a multi disciplinary artist created a huge flower shape Rangoli out of paper in West Quay shopping centre, participants used paint to draw around themselves creating patterns on the flower.

On the final day, 7 Rangolis were made in 8 hours using over 3 tonnes of grains and spices. The Giant Rangoli measured a whopping 32 metres by 18 metres and was designed by Ranbir incorporating each of the supporting artists Rangoli designs.

In the evening people enjoyed seeing the completed Rangoli decorated with hundreds of tea lights accompanied by live Indian classical music. The entire Giant Rangoli make was captured in a stop frame photography film by artist Rob Varley.

The Rangolis remained on the grass site until they were mowed, allowing them to be admired by lots of people in the weeks after. The animals and birds ate their fair share and the kidney beans even started sprouting!





Left page: A creative participant helps us complete the Giant Rangoli. Photo by Paul Davison.

This page: Participants of the art to dance workshop. Photos by Sarah Filmer.

## ART TO DANCE

A partnership with Southampton City Art Gallery, Art to Dance was an exhibition of inspirational works selected from the gallery's permanent collection by Mayuri Boonham, a leading British exponent of South Asian Dance. Works by artists included Roger Hilton, Peter Lowe, Paul Nash, Jean Spencer and Ben Nicholson.

To compliment the exhibition Mayuri bought together a range of artists at the forefront of their fields to deliver a vibrant programme of workshops, master-classes, talks and sharings exploring the creative connections between different artforms.

Participatory workshops included a contemporary Bharata Natyam workshop using art work from the exhibition to inspire dance pieces with 45 students from 3 secondary schools. A music composition workshop, with composer Hannah Marshal who introduced participants to visual scores and used selected paintings in the exhibition to inspire short compositions. We also intervened a regular life drawing class with a dancer who used Bharata Natyam postures and movement.

The programme also included a master-class with world renowned dance photographer Chris Nash and the installation of a sculpture by Jeff Lowe made in collaboration with Mayuri for her latest work Erhebung/Rising. There was a sharing of the work and a talk by Mayuri explaining her approach to creativity as a choreographer, describing the links between Erhebung/Rising and visual artwork.

The exhibition will return in the Autumn/Winter of 2012 to include a selection of the very best work created by participants in the January workshop programme.



Right page: Rakhi Sood and team perform Kathak on the Main Stage. Photo by Murray Freestone.

Below: Jaipur Maharaja Brass Band. Photo by Murray Freestone.



## SOUTHAMPTON MELA FESTIVAL 2011

Southampton Mela Festival is an annual festival held in a city centre park each July. It is the largest free festival in Southampton and a highlight of the region's events calendar. 17,000 people joined in the celebration of modern and traditional South Asian Culture and the diversity of the local community.

The festival's four stages (Main Stage, Stage 2, Stage Bus and Activity Stage) featured the finest national and international musicians and dancers as well as showcasing emerging talent and giving community groups and school the chance to shine!

Various workshops and arts activities give all ages the chance to experience something new, whilst the stalls lining the park feature a range of products.

***"The Mela is a fun place for all. It's full of colour, music, culture and foods from all around the world. My team and I look forward to it every year due to its popularity and diversity. We get to meet other artists and inspire new students who want to learn, dance or simply keep fit!"***





Bottom: Southampton Mela Festival smiles. Photo by Murray Freestone.

Right page: Crowds enjoying the Mela. Bollywood Baraat dance troop. A traditional fire eater wowed the crowds. Jaipur Maharaja looked magnificent in traditional dress. The introduction of the Indian Classical Stage Bus. All photos by Murray Freestone.

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## SOUTHAMPTON MELA FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

44 acts performing 22 different genres of music and dance.

World class performances by Jaipur Maharaja Brass Band and Qawwali musicians, The Khan Brothers

To celebrate Art Asia's 30th Birthday a giant Rangoli of the Art Asia logo was filled in by hundreds of the days visitors.

The Art Asia Stage Bus was introduced featuring 5½ hours of Indian Classical Music by leading UK based musicians and singers.

***“The Mela is a great festival, such a friendly day full of cultural and a highlight of our yearly events”***













Left page: Mehboob Nadeem, Sitar, and Sanju Sahai, Tabla, perform with Panjazz international at Global Rhythms.

Below: Mehboob Nadeem, Sitar, and Keith Waithe, Flute.

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## EVENTS

### RAGA: A JOURNEY INTO THE SOUL OF INDIAN, BARGATE MONUMENT GALLERY

In October Southampton Film Week (SFW) transforms the City into the South's film capital. SFW offers an exciting mix of film screenings, workshops, master-classes and competitions. As part of 30 Ragas in 30 Days and Southampton Film Week, Art Asia programmed the film Raga: A journey into the Soul of India. A live 30 Ragas in 30 Days performance also took place before the screening.

### SOUTHAMPTON'S MUSICAL ALPHABET, THE HUB

Southampton came alive with a multitude of sounds as internationally renowned artists, local professionals, community groups and young people's ensembles joined together to go from A to Z all in 26 hours. The weekend featured over 50 events in 26 hours performed by over 500 performers in 23 locations.

Art Asia presented Walking Through the Memories of Jagjit Singh, a Ghazal concert celebrating the 'Ghazal King', U Can Play Tabla, a workshop for anyone wanting to have a go at playing the Tabla and D for Dhols performance in the Guildhall Square.

### GLOBAL RHYTHMS, GOSPORT DISCOVERY CENTRE

15 workshops, 7 demonstrations and an evening concert exploring music from India, Africa, Bali and the Caribbean took place at Gosport Discovery Centre. Over 200 people participated in the workshops with hundreds more enjoying the performances. Led by Art Asia in partnership with Essequibo Music, Panjazz International and Hampshire County Council, Global Rhythms delivers a board mix of music from around the world across the Hampshire region.



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# 30 RAGAS IN 30 DAYS

30 Ragas in 30 Days popped up throughout October in various locations across the city to celebrate Art Asia's 30th Birthday. In Indian Classical Music a raga is a melody connected with a mood, a time of the day, or a season. By performing in various places in the city at different times of the day, each performance became a unique experience. From Ikea, ferries, parks to online and market stalls attenders and accidental audiences experienced Indian Classical Music. Taking high quality Indian Classical Music out of concert halls and international festivals exposed a new audience to its qualities. Performing the Ragas in familiar surrounds highlighted the extraordinary sensory response Indian Classical Music can have on an audience.

***"I loved hearing this deeply traditional music whilst sat at my local coffee shop. I will be looking forward to watching more of their performances across town."***



## VENUES AND DATES

1. Palmerstone Park	2nd October
2. Bedford Place	4th October
3. City Art Gallery	5th October
4. Guildhall Square	6th October
5. Southampton University	7th October
6. Holyrood Church	8th October
7. Bargate Monument Gallery	9th October
8. Great Oaks School	11th October
9. Bitterne Market	12th October
10. Riverside Park	12th October
11. The Art House	13th October
12. Guildhall Square	14th October
13. High Street nr West Quay	15th October
14. A Red Funnel Ferry	16th October
15. St Anne's Catholic School	18th October
16. Red Hot Press	18th October
17. John Lewis Restaurant	19th October
18. The Cellar	19th October
19. West Quay Shopping Centre	20th October
20. SoCo Hub	22nd October
21. Mayflower Park	23rd October
22. Listen on air 101.1 FM	23rd October
23. Tudor House	24th October
24. Ikea	25th October
25. City Art Gallery	26th October
26. Marlands Shopping Centre	28th October
27. City Centre Library	29th October
28. Oxford Street	29th October
29. Bargate Monument Gallery	30th October
30. Online - Ustream	30th October

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Below: Three of our Kathak dance students performing. Photo by Murray Freestone.

Right Page: Rajeeb Chakraborty and Mehboob Nadeem perform at Bitterne Market. Photo by Lucy Jenner



# ART ASIA'S 30TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

## THE HUB, SOUTHAMPTON

An evening of professional performers, gifted students and guest speakers captured Art Asia's successful 30 year history. Invited guests joined us as we celebrated 30 years of producing, promoting and celebrating South Asian Arts.

### Guest Speakers

The Mayor of Southampton  
Trevor Thorne, Southampton Solent University  
Samhita Foria, Art Asia Dance Student  
Sally Abbott, Arts Council South East  
Rakhi Sood, Dancer  
John Denham MP  
Dahlia Jamil, Art Asia Chair of the Board

### Performers

Sid Shaha - Stiltwalker  
Bollywood Band - Orchestra Polytones  
Rangoli by Zoha Zokaei  
Dandia stick dance with Rakhi Sood and guests  
Rick Kasba on Dhol  
Art Asia Kathak dance students  
Bollywood dance performance by Rakhi Sood and Simran Sarl



# EDUCATION PROJECTS

## YOUTH MUSIC – CELEBRASIAN ENSEMBLE

A grant was secured from Youth Music to run a year long Fusion music project in Southampton. In Spring term 2012 young people from Bitterne Park School, Cantell School and Newtown Youth Club created their own fusion compositions under the guidance of music producer Niraj Chag. Each group produced two tracks, all very distinct in style from urban beats to folk harmonies. As part of the project we recruited a Youth Music Trainee; Jaipal Channa, who is a MA music student at the University of Southampton. He has been employed under the guidance of Niraj and given the responsibility of co-leading the music focused parts of project. The project will continue over the next two school terms during which time two ensembles will be formed with the secondary school feeder schools, music videos will be made for some of the tracks, performances will take place and all the tracks will be released for commercial sale.

## MULBERRY BUSH SCHOOL

Artists Sanju and Jaymini Sahai worked with Mulberry Bush and neighboring Standlake Primary School in Oxfordshire on a music and dance project. Mulberry Bush School provides specialist care for traumatised children aged 5-13, and led the project which fused opera (led by Mandala from Nottingham) and Indian music. The project started off with a CPD session led by Sanju for Mandala staff. This was followed by a fundraising Indian classical music concert and Kathak dance performance in Standlake village. The project involved a series of workshops leading up to a final performance with all the children and Artists involved.



Left page: Bitterne Park School composition students. Photo by Lucy Jenner.

Below: Bollywood Baraat Carnival. Photo by Paul Davison.

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## EKANATYAM – CONTEMPORARY SOUTH ASIAN YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

Ekanatyam is a company of gifted young dancers from across the South East, working together with a shared passion for the different dance movement languages originating from India. Art Asia hosted auditions and two of our dance students were selected to become members of Ekantyam. The company was formed by Hampshire Dance with Mayuri Boonham as the creative director who choreographed their first dance.

## BOLLYWOOD BARAAT – CARNIVAL PROJECT

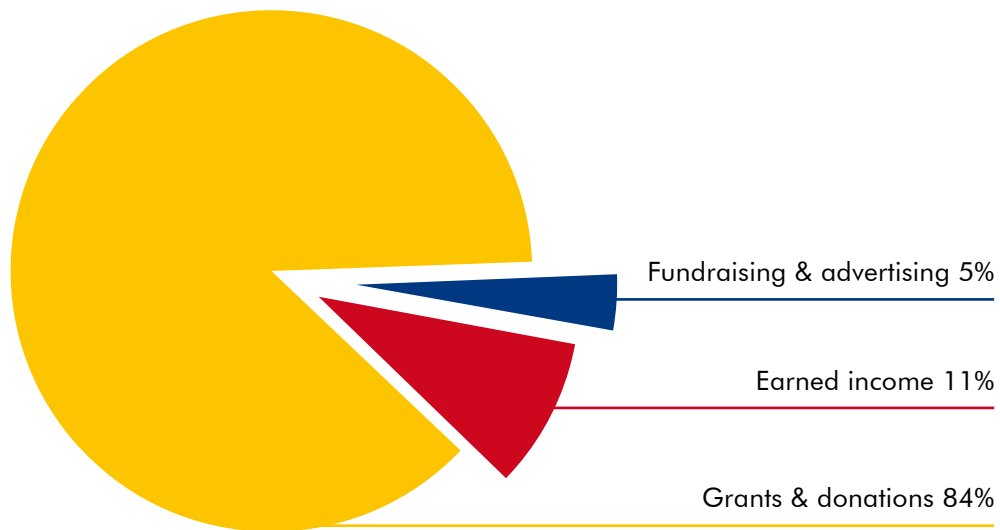
120 students in total from Bevois Town Primary School in Southampton, Mayfield Secondary in Portsmouth and Cowes Primary on the Isle of Wight took part in a carnival costume making project for Bollywood Baraat. Students and teachers looked wonderful in their costumes which included decorated umbrellas, headdresses and hanging flower garlands. They started Bollywood Baraat by processing around beautiful East Park and then followed the groom on his horse into Guildhall Square where they all paraded onto the stage before the rest of live show continued.

*“The Bollywood project was an incredible experience. Full of vigour and such an infectious sense of creativity. The collaboration was magnificent. The participants were given an opportunity that they will cherish and remember for the rest of their lives.”*

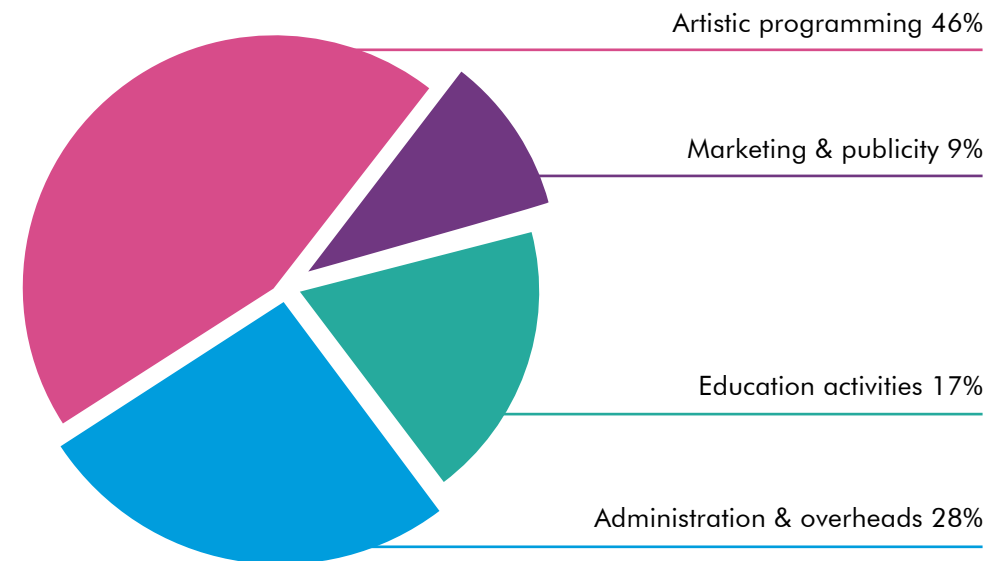


# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

**INCOME: £375, 812**



**EXPENDITURE: £362,735**





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# THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

## EVENTS

Bollywood Baraat

Bollywood Baraat the Movie

Giant Rangoli

Art to Dance

Southampton Mela Festival

Global Rhythms

Raga: A journey into the Soul of India

Walking Through the Memories of Jagjit Singh

U Can Play Tabla

D is for Dhol

30 Ragas in 30 Days

30th Birthday Celebration

## EDUCATION PROJECTS

Youth Music – CelebrAsian Ensemble

Mulberry Bush School

Bollywood Baraat:  
Carnival Project  
Southampton University Soundtrack Module

## CLASSES

Bollywood Dance (beginner) with Rakhi Sood

Bollywood Dance (intermediate) with Rakhi Sood

Kathak (intermediate) with Rakhi Sood - Southampton

Tabla (beginner) with Surjit Singh Hassanpuri

Tabla (intermediate/advanced) with Surjit Singh Hassanpuri

Singing & Harmonium (beginner) with Pooja Angra

Singing & Harmonium (intermediate) with Pooja Angra

Dhol (beginner) with Ricky Kasba

Dhol (intermediate) with Ricky Kasba

Dhol (advanced) with Bindi Sagoo (summer 2011) & Vishal Vekaria (autumn-spring 2011/12)



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# DIRECTORS, STAFF AND TUTORS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dahlia Jamli - Chair

Mary Morrison - Vice Chair

Arvind Pandit - Treasurer

Geeta Uppal

Jaya Gunatillaka

Arzoo Iqbal

Meena Vashisht

Forkanul Quader

## STAFF

Chief Executive - Vinod Desai MBE

General Manager - Helen Keall

Education Development Officer - Lucy Jenner

Marketing Officer - Lucy-Jane Attrill

Arts Administrator - Siobhan Balfour

Mela Co-ordinator - Paul Mckenna

Additional Mela Programming - Paul Atwal

Accountant - Bob Anthony

## EDUCATION TUTORS AND ARTISTS

Rakhi Sood (Bollywood Dance)

Pooja Angra (Singing & Harmonium)

Demi Ladwa (Visual Arts)

Mayuri Boonham (Bharata Natyam Dance)

Shreya Kumar (Bharata Natyam Dance)

Ricky Kasba (Dhol)

Vishal Vekaria (Dhol)

Surjit Singh Hassanpuri (Tabla)

Sanju Sahai (Tabla)

Jaymini Sahai (Kathak Dance)

Iqbal Pathan (Indian Percussion)

Simran Sarl (Bollywood Dance)

Nilesh Fatnani (Bollywood Dance)

Mitel Purohit (Indian Percussion)

Ranjana Ghatak (Singing & Harmonium)

Geetha Sridhar (Bharata Natyam Dance)

Jonathan Mayer (Sitar)

Shumon Chakraborty (Tabla)

Michelle Clayton (Visual Arts)

Zoha Zokaei (Visual Arts)

Bindi Sagoo (Indian Percussion)

Sarah Filmer (Film Maker)

Jeff Lowe (Sculptor)

Hian Ruth Voon (Contemporary Dance)

Chris Nash (Photographer)

Sal Chitula (Youth Music Tutor)

Mehboob Nadeem (Sitar)

Jaipal Channa (Youth Music Tutor & Composer)

Niraj Chag (Composer & Producer)

Hannah Marshal (Composer)

David Dixon (Visual Arts)

Eileen White (Visual Arts)

Kiranpal Singh (Santoor)

Ranbir Kaur (Visual Arts)

Sue Riley (Visual Arts)

Sandeep Raval (Indian Percussion)

Murray Freestone (Photographer)

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Below: Rangoli. Photo by Paul Davison.

Paul Davison (Photographer)

Sarah Filmer (Photographer)

Lucy Jenner (Photographer)

## PARTNERSHIPS

Art at the Heart

City Eye

Essequibo Music

Gosport Discovery Centre

Hampshire County Council

John Hansard Gallery

Music in the City

Nuffield Theatre

Panjazz International

Solent University

Southampton Puja and Cultural  
Association

Southampton Bangladeshi Society

The Vedic Society

Turner Sims Concert Hall

Workers Education Association

## SOUTHAMPTON MELA FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Hampshire Constabulary

Lycamobile

Solent University

Southampton University

*Art Asia would like to  
say “thank you” to all  
our volunteers for their  
time and support.*





**A larger print version of the Annual Review is available from Art Asia.**

**A downloadable version is available from the Art Asia website.**

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Cover Photo - Southampton Mela Festival by Murray Freestone.

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