

FIFTH WORD AND NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE,  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH BRIXTON HOUSE, PRESENT

# LIBERATION SQUARES

A NEW PLAY BY **SONALI BHATTACHARYYA**  
DIRECTED BY **MILLI BHATIA**

**FIFTH WORD** have been developing the play with Sonali since 2020 and are delighted to see it finally premiere, it could not be more timely or more important.

Fifth Word would like to thank the following; The National Theatre Studio Generate programme and Derby Theatre, for support of the script development process.

Nic Wass and Anna Himali Howard for dramaturgy in the earlier stages.

Rafia Hussain for producing work during development and tour-booking stage; including producing the accompanying participation and community consultation projects.

In Good Company for providing an Assistant Producer placement for the show, allowing us to work with the brilliant Kate Spencer.

Our funders for the production and accompanying participation activity: Arts Council England, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Awards for All, Unity Theatre Trust, Teale Charitable Trust, JN Derbyshire Trust, the Thomas Farr Charity.

Sets, Scenic Art, Costume, Props, Lighting, Sound, Video, Stage Management and Technical are made or managed by the Nottingham Playhouse team, supported by freelancers.

## CAST

**Vaneeka Dadhria** Ruqaya

**Asha Hassan Sabi**

**Halema Hussain** Xara

Other parts played by members of the company

## CREATIVES & PRODUCTION

**Sonali Bhattacharyya** Writer

**Milli Bhatia** Director

**Tomás Palmer** Designer

**Joshua Gadsby** Lighting Designer

**Elena Peña** Composer and Sound Designer

**Iskandar** اسکندر **R. Sharazuddin** Movement Director

**Arthur Carrington** Casting Director

**afshan d'souza-lodhi** Dramaturg

**Jade Franks** Assistant Director

**Eshmit Kaur for Artist Wellbeing**

Wellbeing Practitioner

**Marianne Samuels** Voice and Dialect Coach

**Ania Levy** Associate Designer

**Bella Kear** Associate Sound Designer

**Emilie Carter** Costume Supervisor

**Hannah Zemplak** Props Supervisor

**Rachel Bowen, Andrew Quick, Jamie Smith**

Production Managers

**Katie Bosomworth, Chloe Chancheong**

Stage Managers

**NOTTINGHAM  
PLAYHOUSE**

**fifth  
word.**

**BRIXTON  
HOUSE**



Supported using public funding by  
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ENGLAND**

## VANEEKA DADHRIA Ruqaya

Vaneeka Dadhria graduated from St Mary's University, Twickenham in 2019 with a BA in Drama & Theatre Arts. She is an actress, beatboxer, songwriter & all round creative. Vaneeka also leads Beatboxing/Theatre Workshops and has worked alongside Ambassadors Theatre Group, The Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and schools across the UK.

**Credits include:** *Cyrano De Bergerac* (West End's Playhouse Theatre, Harold Pinter Theatre, Theatre Royal Glasgow, BAM Brooklyn) and *Unite - It's Not As Simple As Black & White*, *The Lucky Mother Summons Francis Galton*, *I just Needed Cash* (The New Vic, Stoke).

## ASHA HASSAN Sabi

East Londoner Asha is best known for her series regular role in BBC Three comedy *Bad Education*. She made her professional screen debut in the multi award-winning feature film *Rocks*. Other screen credits include the title role in the Film4 short *Salma*, produced by Slam Films (Stephen Mangan and Louise Delamere) which follows a teenager living in Grenfell Tower. On stage Asha starred in the two-hander *Cuttin' It* at Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre for which she was widely praised. She has recently completed work on a drama series for Disney+ from an acclaimed writer and director.

## HALEMA HUSSAIN Xara

**TV credits include:** new ITV comedy series for transmission summer 2024; *Horrible Histories*, *Doctors*, *Casualty* (BBC); *Dreamland* (SKY) and *We Are Lady Parts* (CH4).

**Film credits include:** *Supernova* (BBC/BFI) and *Mo <3 Kyra* (Film4).

**Theatre credits include:** *The Father and the Assassin* (National Theatre); *Vardy vs Rooney: The Wagatha Christie Trial* (Ambassador Theatre); *Dawaat* (Tara Theatre); *Aaliyah After Antigone* (Freedom Studio) and *Does My Bomb Look Big in This?* (Soho Theatre).



## SONALI BHATTACHARYYA Writer

Sonali Bhattacharyya is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter (Sonia Friedman Production Award and Theatre Uncut Political Playwriting Award for *Chasing Hares*). Her play *King Troll (The Fawn)* was a finalist for the Women's Prize for Playwriting.

**Her plays include:** *The Jungle Book* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Arabian Nights* (Bristol Old Vic); *Chasing Hares* (Young Vic and Theatre Uncut); *Two Billion Beats* (Orange Tree Theatre); *Two Billion Beats* (Korean translation, Kirkos Theatre, Seoul); *Silence* (Tara Theatre and Donmar Warehouse); *Megaball* (National Theatre Learning); *Slummers* (Cardboard Citizens/Bunker Theatre); *The Invisible Boy* (Kiln Theatre) and *Assembly: The Teachers' Play* and *2066* (Almeida Theatre).

Sonali is a graduate of the Royal Court Writers' Group, the Old Vic 12, and Donmar Warehouse's Future Forms Programme. She is part of the writing team for new television drama *The Split Up* from Sister Pictures/BBC, and is currently under commission to the Bristol Old Vic, Cardboard Citizens and Kali Theatre/New Diorama Theatre.

## MILLI BHATIA Director

Milli (she/her) is a Theatre, Film and Radio Director, and Dramaturg from East London. She is an Associate Artist at Synergy.

She was Associate Director at The Royal Court, Associate Artist at The Bush Theatre, Resident Assistant Director at Birmingham Rep and Creative Associate at The Gate Theatre. Her training includes The National Theatre Director's Programme, and The Old Vic 12.

She is a two-time Olivier Award nominee, for her productions of *seven methods of killing kylie jenner* and *Blue Mist*, both premiered at The Royal Court Theatre.

**Her work as Director includes:** *Blue Mist* by Mohamed-Zain Dada (Royal Court); *seven methods of killing kylie jenner* by Jasmine Lee-Jones (Jerwood Theatre Upstairs 2019, Jerwood Theatre Downstairs 2021, Film 2022, Public Theater New York and Woolly Mammoth Washington DC 2023, Royal Court); *seven methods of killing kylie jenner* (Swedish language production) (Riksteatern, Swedish National Theatre, National tour 2022. Selected to return for the Biennale, Dramaten in 2023); *Chasing Hares* by Sonali Bhattacharyya (Young Vic); *Maryland* by Lucy Kirkwood (co director, Royal Court/South Bank Centre); *My White Best Friend* and *other letters left unsaid* (Bunker 2018/2019, Royal Court 2020); *Dismantle This Room* by Nina Segal (Bush Theatre/transferred to Royal Court); *Baghdaddy* by Jasmine Naziha Jones (Royal Court); *This Liquid Earth* by Amy Jephta (Royal Court/Edinburgh International Festival); *HomeBODY* by Jasmine Lee-Jones (Young Vic); *Yash Gill's Power Half Hour* by Nikesh Shukla, *The Hijabi Monologues* (Bush Theatre); *Living Newspaper* (Royal Court) and *Ghosts In The Blood* by Joel Tan (Audible).