

THE KING & THE CORPSE

PERFORMANCE STORYTELLING BY TUUP

WITH SHEEMA MUKHERJEE – SITAR & PERCUSSION

The King and the Corpse is an 11th Century Northern Indian story cycle of Hindu & Buddhist origin. A King is obliged to carry the corpse of a hanged man on his back - but the corpse is not dead, instead it is possessed by a storytelling vampire, whose enigmatic puzzles threaten to burst the King's head into a thousand pieces... TUUP & Sheema's charismatic style, sense of ritual, and appreciation of the power of call & response between audience and storyteller, make this a remarkable performance of rich narrative and evocative music.



IMAGES FROM BEYOND THE BORDER INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL 2012

TOUR DATES (current schedule)

18th January 12: Soho Theatre, London

1st July 12: Beyond the Border International Storytelling Festival, Wales

12th October 12: Cheltenham Literature festival

15th November 12: Northern Stage, Newcastle

1st December 12: Aberystwyth Arts Centre

12th December 12: Flying Donkeys Storytelling Club, Derby

14th December 12: Scandalnights, The Tim Thumb Theatre, Margate

31st January 13: The Royal & Derngate, Northampton

2nd March 13: Pontio Storytelling Festival, Bangor, Wales

PROGRAMME COPY

The King & the Corpse

Performance Storytelling

by TUUP & Sheema Mukherjee

A king is obliged to carry the corpse of a hanged man on his back – but the corpse is not dead, it is possessed by a storytelling vampire, whose enigmatic puzzles threaten to burst the King's head into a thousand pieces... With customary charismatic style, The Unorthodox, Unprecedented, Preacher – TUUP - takes to the stage with sitar virtuoso, Sheema Mukherjee, to tell transglobalised versions of these stunning, 2,000 year old tales. As much an encounter as a performance, this formidable collaboration by two core members the wild world music collective Transglobal Underground, brings an 11th Century Indian fairytale to the contemporary stage. Enter a place of metaphor, magic and ritual.

SHORT COPY

The King & the Corpse

Performance Storytelling

by TUUP & Sheema Mukherjee

A king is obliged to carry the corpse of a hanged man on his back, but the corpse is possessed by a storytelling vampire whose enigmatic puzzles threaten to burst the King's head... In a wild collaboration, TUUP and sitar virtuoso Sheema Mukherjee tell transglobalised versions of these 2000 year old myths - rammed full of ritual and mystery

AUDIENCE COMMENTS FROM THE SOHO THEATRE

fabulous'

'not sure what I was expecting, but that was magic...I mean it...in fact I'm not sure what just happened – are we still in Soho?'

'that is one of the most amazing shows I have ever seen'

'I loved the sitar, and I loved that the musician became part of the story. Her muttering in Hindi was great - didn't matter that I couldn't understand it – it was so evocative'

'Great – really great!'

BIOGRAPHIES

TUUP



Born to Guyanese parents and raised in Acton, West London, Godfrey Duncan - TUUP (The Unorthodox, Unprecedented Preacher) - has been a professional storyteller since 1981, when he joined Ben Haggarty to form the West London Storytelling Unit, in an era of riots on the nation's streets. Truly an elder of the storytelling revival in Britain, his style is one of total improvisation, unbounded charisma and alarming spontaneity. His fabulous capacity for mimicry and ear for a wild story is outstanding.

In performance he is often found on stage with his long-time colleague Jan Blake. He works regularly for the Crick Crack Club, and Apples & Snakes, and more recently with Africa's

Cow Foot – performing variously in London at The Soho Theatre, Rich Mix & the Albany. A festival favourite, TUUP has travelled the world, telling stories all over Europe and in both Northern and Southern Africa. In his role as a creative lyricist, poet, percussionist and vocalist with the highly influential dance music collective, Transglobal Underground, he has performed throughout Europe, Central Asia, Asia and North and South America.

TUUP has worked extensively in education and museums. In the late 80s, TUUP formed The Tellers of Time with Flora Devi, he has contributed stories to the StorySpinners educational audio CDs, and he works with Everyday Magic taking storytelling into a pyramid of schools in London. TUUP regularly works at the British Museum and famously created the character Joseph Johnson ('the man with the ship on his head') for the Museum of London.

SHEEMA MUKHERJEE



Sheema Mukherjee absorbed North Indian classical music and the western tradition side-by-side, studying sitar and Indian classical music under the tutelage of her uncle, the late Pandit Nikhil Banerjee and then with the late Ustad Ali Akbar Khan. Brought up between Britain and India, she has a rich background to draw on in her own compositions and collaborations. Today she is an established sitar player and composer; a regular in Transglobal Underground playing sitar and electric bass; a key member in The Imagined Village project; a formidable collaborator with internationally renowned artists from many genres.

Sheema has collaborated with internationally renowned artists such as Sir John Tavenor, Martin Carthy, Bobby McFerrin, Boris Grebenshikov, Natacha Atlas, Noel Gallagher & Cornershop, Mercan Dede, the Bulgarian Folk singer Yanka Rupkina. Another significant collaboration is with UK saxophonist Courtney Pine and Sheema has been featured on his albums Back in the Day and Devotion and was a guest artist on the 'On Track' tour – a

project for the UK Commonwealth Games. She has toured the world widely and key performances include The World Music Festival (Chicago), Montreux Jazz Festival and the Olympia-Halle (Munich), supporting Jimmy Page and Robert Plant throughout their European tour (1998), the Olympics Arts Festival for Sydney 2000 and also makes regular appearances at WOMAD (UK) with her own ensembles.

A versatile and creative musician, Sheema Mukherjee is continually evolving both as a composer and as a collaborator. Recent work has included an Indian Classical performance for Elton John's Black Tie & Tiara Ball, an improvisation with Australian recorder virtuoso Genevieve Lacey in Westminster Abbey for The Queen on Commonwealth Day, and a creative development role in composition and song writing in Beijing, Hong Kong and Gateshead as part of the PRS Foundation and Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong Creative Exchange Project. Larger scale work has included composition for full orchestra, for theatre, including Wuthering Heights (Tamasha), The Cornershop Project (Black Country Touring & Foursight), West Yorkshire Playhouse (Northern Exposure).

LINKS:

Sheema Mukherjee:

<http://youtu.be/MLZY7DqfwIQ>

<http://youtu.be/LxMFN0OKHMw> (clip)

The Crick Crack Club: www.crickcrackclub.com

The Imagined Village: www.imaginedvillage.com

Transglobal Underground: www.transglobalunderground.net

TARGET AUDIENCES:

Generic target groups:

Theatre audiences

Spoken word / performance storytelling audiences

Experimental theatre audiences

Local arts venues, theatres, performing arts venues

Local fringe theatre venues

Local literature festivals

Performing arts students and lecturers

Creative writing students and lecturers

English Literature students and lecturers

Comic and graphic novel shops

Bookshops, independent and second hand bookshops

Local and regional poets, poetry organisations and promoters

Regional spoken word artists, organisations and promoters

Libraries

Reader development librarians

Readers groups/Writers groups

Specific target groups

University departments and students of Hinduism/Buddhism/comparative religion

University departments and students of Indian Literature /literature in general

Jungians (groups/societies)

Transglobal underground / Imagined Village audiences

'Gothic' and 'alternative' and 'new age' shops/groups

TECHNICAL

(the technical requirements of the show are still in development and are flexible according to the space the show is being performed in)

Running time: 60+60 approx

Set: Show to take place in front of black drapes where possible

A riser is required on stage for the sitar player: 3ft high, with minimum 3x6ft surface area. (Carpets to cover riser can be provided by company if necessary)

Working space decorated with silks/instruments/small set items TBC

Sound: Please discuss amplification with Sheema Mukherjee: 07961 334 046 or sheema@mukherjee.co.uk

Where full amplification is required: 2 radio mics (headsets preferable), DI for Sitar, open mic for other instruments

If you need the performance to be self sufficient for sound, then please contact Sheema Mukherjee.

Lighting – basic requirement is a warm wash (ideally with some colour (red/blue/green) around the edges) Full lighting requirements are in development.

Other: if possible, incense to be burnt in venue prior to show