**Sohaya Visions** and **Mukul and Ghetto Tigers** present

**RABI'A: SONGS OF STRAY BIRDS**

written by Tarun Jasani

directed by Mukul Ahmed

*that which holds you captivate can also set you free*

An unheard/unseen interviewer asks two female prisoners details of their life's journeys.

Both describe the world they left behind, the future they face, and finally, the legacy they will leave for humanity…

A research and development theatre presentation that explores how a common seed planted in soils of sorrow and adversity can grow into a weed as well as bloom into a flower.

Supported by

Arts Council England, Brady Arts Centre (Tower Hamlets Council), University of Sussex Asia Centre.

**Cast and Crew**

**Ulrika Krishnamurti (Rabi’a)** trained at the Guildford School of Acting and Act One Studios in Chicago. Recent theatre credits include the award-winning *Made in India*(Soho Theatre/Belgrade Theatre/UK National Tour) for which she was nominated for an Off West End Theatre Award for Best Female in a Play, *Pink Sari Revolution*(Leicester Curve/Belgrade Theatre/West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Echoes within Walls*(Tristan Bates Theatre) and *Twelve* (Kali Theatre).

**Sara Daniella Versi (Hanadi)** completed a degree in Religion and African Studies at SOAS, and later pursued a career in acting, having trained in various acting techniques of which she found Meisner the most beneficial. She enjoys participating in a wide variety of projects and hopes to begin devising and writing her own work in the future.

**Rez Kabir (Voice)** is a professional actor, storyteller and drama tutor. He has performed and taught throughout the UK and abroad in theatre, film and plays - professionally, as well as within schools education, community and other organisations. He is currently Artistic Director of Tamarind Theatre Co.. He has written and adapted a number of plays, recently (*Legend of Black Lotus*, *Look at London*, *Sagol*, *The Magic Scroll* among others).

**Tarun Jasani (Writer)** started musical training in Indian classical music at the age of 8, and studied Indian Music at SOAS. He has participated in numerous classical music festivals in the UK, Europe and India. His solo recitals have been broadcasted on several radio channels as well as Zee TV, Channel 4, and his performance at the Darbar festival was broadcasted on Sky Arts. Tarun’s recent writing was *Gauhaar Jaan: The Datia Incident* directed by Mukul Ahmed at Omnibus Theatre.

**Farzana Sifat Sopna (Music)** trained in classical music from the age of 4 and attained a 2-year diploma from the Nazrul Institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the only recognised institution for accurate research on the creation of the great poet and composer, Kazi Nazrul Islam. Respected as a classical music expert, she currently works as a senior teacher with youth at several musical institutes.

**Idris Rahman (Music)** is a London-based clarinettist, saxophonist, singer, bass-player, composer and producer. Co-led for *Soothsayers*, he has co-written and produced several acclaimed and played at most major UK festivals, in Europe and beyond. His band, Wildflower's first album was recently nominated in this year’s Gilles Peterson Worldwide Awards for Jazz Album of the Year. Idris has performed and recorded with several artists including Anoushka Shankar, Arun Ghosh, Julia Biel, Osibisa, Ayub Ogada, Childhood as well as with his sister Zoe Rahman.

### Delwar Hossain, Dilu (Music and Performer) is a theatre artist who worked with the Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) in Bangladesh. He presented a British Council project, *Amar Bahanno*, at the Contact Theatre in Manchester. He worked with [Nitin Sawhney](http://www.nitinsawhney.com/) on the project *ROOTS*, and with Tara Arts on a number of acclaimed projects. He recently performed *Romeo and Juliet* directed by Mukul Ahmed in the National School of Drama Theatre Festival India.

**Christianna Mason (Designer)** graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Theatre Design (Set and Costume) at RADA. Most recently, she designed *Trump’s Women*, a protest play by Lily Bevan at The Crazy Coqs and *The Acid Test* by Anya Reiss at The Cockpit Theatre.

**Paul Micah (Lighting Designer)** is a freelance lighting and sound designer, technician and stage manager. He has worked for productions at Paul Robeson, Broadway, Arcola, Tramshed, Watersmeet, and for Bounce Theatre Company, and Mukul & Ghetto Tigers. Paul has also lit concerts, exhibitions and dance performances.

**Mira Sengupta (Stage Manager)** is a freelance DJ, musician, music curator and cultural producer. Classically trained in piano and graduated in Ethnomusicology at SOAS, she curates the Refugee Week music programme in London produced by Counterpoints Arts, most notably for this year’s Meltdown Festival at London’s South Bank curated by MIA. An Associate Producer with ArtReach, she has worked for BBC Radio 3 DJ’s Max Reinhardt and Rita Ray and the Shrine afrobeat clubnights in East London.

**Mukul Ahmed (Director and Artistic Director of Mukul & Ghetto Tigers) t**rained at Birkbeck University and has staff directed at the National Theatre. He has directed a series of classics and new writing including a bi-lingual *Romeo and Juliet*, *Julius Caesar* (all female cast), *Faust* by Farrukh Dhondy, *Londonee* by Gurpreet Bhatti, and *Silent Sisters-Brothers Unhinged, Mishti Gals* and *Enig-Mas* by Raminder Kaur. www.mukulandghettotigers.com

**Raminder Kaur (Artistic Director of Sohaya Visions)** is based at the University of Sussex and has co-produced several theatre projects for Sohaya Visions and Chandica Arts. Her scripts were produced in various venues across the country. Her prolific writings include her authored books, *Atomic Mumbai* and *Performative Politics*. www.sohayavisions.com

Artwork by **Tahmina Shaily**

Graphics by **SNOW** – www.snowcreativeagency.org