

# NOVA Showcase

A night of new writing by South Asian writers



## CREATIVES

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### **AMIN ALI** Writer — Altab Ali Zindabad

Amin Ali (he/him) is a British Bangladeshi Actor, Writer, Director and Producer from Bletchley, Milton Keynes.

Notably he's performed at the National Theatre, Bush Theatre, Donmar Warehouse & Stratford East. Worked with many leading directors including Ridley Scott, Riz Ahmed and Lynette Linton. Recipient of The Squint Theatre Playwriting Award.



### **AYAN PHILIP** Writer — Dead Internet

Ayan Philip (he/him) is a British-Indian writer and actor, born in Kerala and raised in Bournemouth. After graduating from the Oxford School of Drama in September 2023, he was selected for the Kiln Theatre Listen Local Young Writers programme where he developed his debut play, Dead Internet. He will continue to expand this work with Tara Theatre as a 24/25 NOVA Playwright.



### **NEETU SINGH** Writer — The Punjabi Alien Play

Neetu Singh (she/her) is a writer and director from Hackney, East London. She studied English Language & Literature at the University of Oxford and is currently directing The Valley of Queens (Midlands Arts Centre) while working under a seed commission from Tara Theatre.



### **SAMEENA HUSSAIN** Director

Sameena Hussain (she/her) is a freelance theatre director, dramaturg and facilitator based in West Yorkshire. Previously Associate Director at Leeds Playhouse, she's worked with Bradford 2025, Hull Truck Theatre, Opera North, Kiln Theatre, Lawrence Batley Theatre, RSC and Soho Theatre.

Sameena's work is rooted in community and connection. Since starting her career she's been on a mission to remove barriers preventing people from engaging with theatre.



### **GURPREET KAUR BHATTI** Dramaturg

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti writes for stage, screen and radio.

Her first play Behsharam broke box office records at Soho/Birmingham Rep. Her second play Behzti was sensationally closed after protests and won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Other credits include A Kind of People (Royal Court Downstairs); Khandan (Royal Court/The Rep); Behud (Soho/Coventry Belgrade); Elephant (Birmingham Rep; Dishoom, Watford Palace Theatre)

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## CAST



### JOE SELLMAN-LEAVA

Joe (he/him) grew up in Devon, southwest England. He studied drama at the University of Exeter, where he co-founded Worklight Theatre. His first solo show Labels, which explores displacement, migration and his dual British and Indian Heritage, won five international theatre awards and has toured across four continents. Subsequent plays – Monster, Fanboy and It's the Economy, Stupid! – all premiered at Pleasance, Edinburgh, to critical acclaim. Fanboy and It's the Economy, Stupid! both transferred to London's Soho Theatre.



### NISHA EMICH

Nisha (she/her) is a Dutch-Indian actress based in London, who trained at the Oxford School of Drama. She is also a founding member of the OFFIE-nominated Baby Lamb Productions.

Stage credits include Robin Hood (that sick f\*\*k) and The Emperor's New Clothes (both with Baby Lamb Productions).



### SAEM AHMED

Credits include Meera Syal's Mrs Sidhu Investigates on Acorn TV & UKTV. Appears in Apple TV+ show Slow Horses starring Gary Oldman

**NOVA is generously supported by  
Fenton Arts Trust**

## FOR TARA THEATRE

**NATASHA KATHI-CHANDRA**  
Artistic Director & Joint CEO

**HELEN JEFFREYS**  
Executive Director & Joint CEO

**GAVIN JOSEPH**  
Associate Director

**CERI LOTHIAN**  
General Manager & Producer

**BECCA PRATT**  
Head of Marketing

**FREDERICK ZENNOR**  
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**PATRICK MCANENY**  
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