

EasternEye
ACTA
Arts, Culture & Theatre Awards

In association with:



EDWARDIAN
HOTELS
LONDON

WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2021
VIRTUAL



Supported By:



Distinguished Guests,

WELCOME to this, the Fifth edition of our Eastern Eye Arts, Culture & Theatre Awards (ACTAs).

It is a huge shame that we cannot gather in person to celebrate this huge array of talent that continues to make waves in Britain, and indeed around the world. At least modern technology will allow us to mark another astounding year in the arts – and despite the obvious challenges, many have risen far above expectations and deserve to be recognised now.

The performing arts have had a particularly troubling and tough time – and we aim to recognise the sector's resilience and courage in moving forward and continuing to tell important stories.

It's been a really traumatic period for so many reasons, but art and artistic endeavour are among the parts of human activity which can give us all a sense of optimism and helps us to look forward.

And so, we meet in this spirit – a community that wants to support and promote excellence in the arts – to illustrate amply that we can move forward and build for a better tomorrow.

We will not tire in championing the best and helping them to be heard among the cacophony.

The ACTAs are part of a rich national conversation we must contribute towards and build upon, as the performing arts continue to recover through this year.

On a final and slightly sad note, we meet for the first time without Ramniklal Solanki CBE, our beloved father and editor-in-chief.

He believed passionately in the indomitable spirit of Asian community and always drew attention to those who excelled and achieved great things. His sad passing last year only serves to inspire us to reinvigorate his incredible legacy.

These awards embody his own spirit of hope and optimism.

And as the late Captain Sir Tom Moore would say, tomorrow will be a better day.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kalpesh'.

Kalpesh Solanki
Group Managing Editor



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shailesh'.

Shailesh Solanki
Executive Editor





Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport



Dear Guests,

The arts have provided us all with some much needed entertainment through the last few months and the UK's world-renowned cultural economy will play an important role in helping us build back better from Covid-19.

I'm delighted to see these awards highlight the enormous contribution of British Asian talent to this work and the creative industries generally, and am hugely supportive of the work being done to foster diversity in the sector.

Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister for Digital and Culture



Distinguished Guests,

I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone nominated for Eastern Eye's Arts, Culture and Theatre Awards. It has been an immensely difficult year for our world-class cultural sector which has seen its lifeblood - in-person performances, exhibits and events - drained away.

British Asians have been disproportionately affected by the Covid outbreak and, since you last gathered for these awards, many of you will have lost friends, relatives and colleagues to coronavirus. You will have had opening nights cancelled, productions postponed, or seen beloved venues shut down. As creatives, you have been through so much, yet your ability to surprise, delight, educate and entertain endures.

Whether by watching a film or TV programme or listening to music or podcasts on our daily walks, your talent and creativity has helped keep us going.

I'm pleased that the Covid vaccines offer light at the end this very dark tunnel, and that soon we will once again be able to enjoy our rich cultural offerings face to face. Until then, I urge you to carry on creating, innovating and telling the stories the world needs to hear.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London





Compère

Nihal Arthanayake

Nihal Arthanayake is a broadcaster and TV presenter. He is best known for presenting his daily daytime show on BBC 5 Live.

He joined BBC Radio 1 in 2002 as the host of Asian Beats with DJ Bobby Friction which established the start of a successful career in radio. The pair won a Sony Radio Award in 2003 and achieved Gold standard in specialist music – which became Asian Beats with Nihal when Bobby left.

Nihal was given his own show *BBC Radio 1's Review with Nihal* – in 2009 which won Best Radio Show at The UK Asian Music Awards.



Speaker

Amit Roy

Amit Roy is editor-at-large of *Eastern Eye* and chair of the ACTA judging panel. He also writes an influential weekly column in *Eastern Eye*.

Amit has written for the leading national newspapers in the UK, including *The Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph* as a foreign correspondent.

He has covered the Iranian revolution and wars all over the world.

As one of the most accomplished journalists to have covered the Asian community, he also contributed economic reports on India for *The Daily Telegraph*.

LET'S CREATE

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EASTERN EYE'S ACTAS**

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and how we champion culture and creativity in England:
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Entertainment



Rekesh Chauhan

Rekesh Chauhan is a British pianist and composer. He has trained in both western classical and Indian classical music. Rekesh is the winner of numerous awards including the NIAA Young Musician of the Year 2018 awarded at the Southbank Centre and the 2019 Alumnus of the Year by the University of Leicester. His knack for fusing eastern and western styles has brought him invites to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, Symphony Hall, the British Houses of Parliament as well as to arenas over 60,000 people. Rekesh's collaborations range from Rahat

Fateh Ali Khan to Talvin Singh. Rekesh's album *Avartan* earned him a no.2 position on the iTunes World Charts. He is also a TEDx speaker and a published book co-author. In 2020, Rekesh was commended by the Prime Minister of the UK, for his arts production of raising awareness of mental health through arts in conjunction with the British Asian Trust.

**We are grateful to the following
for their support:**



Award Categories

Eastern Eye Award for Arts

Awarded to an individual, curator or exhibition working through the medium of painting, photography or mixed media.

Eastern Eye Award for Dance

Awarded to an outstanding dancer or choreographer whose work is influenced by South Asian dance traditions.

Eastern Eye Award for Literature – Non-Fiction

Awarded to an author for literary work (non-fiction) which has, at its core, a South Asian influence.

Eastern Eye Award for Literature – Fiction

Awarded to an author for literary work (fiction) which has, at its core, a South Asian influence.

Eastern Eye Award for Photography

Presented for an exceptional body of work highlighting South Asia or produced by someone of a South Asian heritage.

Eastern Eye Award for Comedy

Presented to an exceptional artist of South Asian heritage working in the field of live comedy, television sitcom or online web comedy.

Eastern Eye Award for Best Presenter

Presented to an outstanding Asian presenter who has excelled in Asian or mainstream media.

Eastern Eye Award for Best Production

Awarded to an individual or team for outstanding production in television, stage, film or any live event (concert, exhibition, and festival).

Eastern Eye Award for Best Director

Presented for outstanding directing in film, television or the stage.

Eastern Eye Award for Best Scriptwriter

Awarded to a writer for best original or adapted script or screenplay (for film, TV, theatre, radio or a streaming service).



Award Categories

Eastern Eye Emerging Artist Award Supported By The Arts Council

Presented to an emerging artist who has earned significant recognition for a piece of work in arts and culture. It recognises new and undisputed talent and encourages the UK's most promising artists at an early stage of their careers.

Eastern Eye Community Engagement Award

Awarded to a museum, gallery, library, education body or cultural centre for an exceptional and innovative exhibition, programme or project that has taken community engagement a step further through cultural understanding.

Eastern Eye Award for Contemporary Music

Presented to an outstanding artist for creative achievement in the contemporary music industry.

Eastern Eye Award for Traditional Music

Presented to an outstanding artist for creative achievement in the contemporary music industry.

Eastern Eye Award for Theatre, Best Actor

Presented to a male individual for the best performance in a play.

Eastern Eye Award for Theatre, Best Actress

Presented to a female individual for the best performance in a play.

Eastern Eye Award for Film, TV & Drama – Best Actor

Presented to a male individual for the best performance in a film, drama or television series.

Eastern Eye Award for Film, TV & Drama – Best Actress

Presented to a female individual for the best performance in a film, drama or television series.

Eastern Eye's People's Choice Award Supported by Media Hive

Presented to an exceptional individual for outstanding contribution to the arts and cultural landscape of Britain. Voted for by the public.

Eastern Eye Editor's Special Award Supported By Eastern Eye

Presented to an individual or organisation for outstanding contribution to Britain's arts and cultural scene. The winner is selected by the editors of Eastern Eye newspaper.

Eastern Eye Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Creative Industry

Presented to an exceptional individual for outstanding contribution to the creative industry and cultural landscape of Britain.



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Creating Buzz for the
Eastern Eye Arts Culture
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Eastern Eye Award for Arts

Dr Aruna Mene

Nominated for her Exhibition At The Nehru Centre



Dr. Aruna Mene is a retired hospital consultant, now working as a full-time textile artist with a social conscience. Her fabric art is unique as she creates them from fabric wastes and recycled textiles, thus preventing them being dumped in landfill sites. Dr. Mene was a part of many solo and group exhibitions, supporting various charities in India and UK. Her works have appeared in many magazines, journals, and international calendars. Dr. Mene is a professional Public Speaker too, giving talks on using fabric waste to create things of beauty. She also volunteers at a primary school in a socially deprived area.



Rana Begum

Nominated for her Installations



The work of artist Rana Begum distils spatial and visual experience into ordered form. Through her refined language of minimalist abstraction, Rana blurs the boundaries between sculpture, painting and architecture. Her visual language draws from the urban landscape as well as geometric patterns from traditional Islamic art and architecture. Born in Bangladesh, Rana lives in London. In 1999, she graduated in fine art from Chelsea College of Art and Design and, in 2002, gained an MFA in painting from Slade School of Fine Art. She is the winner of Jack Goldhill Award for Sculpture (2012) and Abraaj Group Art Prize (2017).

Eastern Eye Award for Dance

Jaivant Patel

Nominated for Yaatra



Jaivant Patel is an award-winning dancer, choreographer, curator, and an artistic director of Jaivant Patel Dance, rooted in Wolverhampton. He is an associate artist at Midlands Arts Centre and Arena Theatre, and a member of the board of directors at Dance4. He incorporates Kathak into his creative practice. He is currently under the guidance of global Kathak exponent Nahid Siddiqui. Jaivant was most recently named on Akademi's 2019 Powerlist of '40 under 40' South Asian dance artists in the UK. Previously he has been acknowledged in India Gazette London's 2018, High & Mighty Powerlist of individuals.

Mavin Khoo

Nominated for Krishna Gana Sabha



Mavin Khoo is an internationally-renowned artist of Bharatanatyam as well as a contemporary dancer, having trained in contemporary technique in New York and classical ballet in the UK. Mavin is one of few male soloists of Bharatanatyam and has carved a niche for himself as a touring artist, while regularly dancing at major venues across India. Mavin's latest project, *Man to Monk*, a four-year, two-part project, premiered at *Sadler's Well*. The male duet piece charts the trials and devotions experienced on the journey between base human emotion and spiritual transcendence.

Seeta Patel

Nominated for The Rite of Spring



Born in London, Seeta has worked with a range of Bharatanatyam and contemporary dance professionals and toured with many companies including DV8 Physical Theatre, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company & Gandini Juggling. Most recently, Seeta created a Bharatanatyam version of the iconic ballet, *The Rite of Spring*, touring in 2019 and to be expanded in 2023 for Sadler's Wells and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. She has worked in film, TV and theatre, including producing a multi award-winning short dance film, *The Art of Defining Me*; being a judge, mentor and advisor for the inaugural BBC Young Dancer Competition.

Eastern Eye Award for Literature – Non-Fiction

Mona Dash

Nominated for *A Roll of the Dice: A Story of Loss, Love and Genetics*



Mona Dash is the author of *A Roll of the Dice: A Story of Loss, Love and Genetics*, *A Certain Way*, *Untamed Heart*, and *Dawn-drops*. Her work has been listed in leading competitions such as Novel London 20, SI Leeds Literary award, Fish, Bath, Bristol, Leicester Writes and Asian Writer. Her short story collection *Let us look elsewhere* is forthcoming from Dahlia Publishing in 2021. Her work has been published in more than fifteen anthologies and several international journals. She works in a global tech company and lives in London.

Sarosh Zaiwalla

Nominated for *Honour Bound: Adventures Of An Indian Lawyer In The English Courts*



Sarosh Zaiwalla founded London law firm, Zaiwalla & Co, in April 1982. He has been involved in over 1,200 International Energy, Maritime and Construction Arbitrations in London and worldwide. As a solicitor he has handled numerous cases in the English courts, up to the House of Lords and the UK Supreme Court. He clients include the President of India, the Government of the People's Republic of China and Russia. He is former member of the International Court of Arbitration of the ICC, Paris (1990 to 2002) and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts Manufacturers & Commerce.

Shamil Thakrar, Kavi Thakrar and Naved Nasir

Nominated for *Dishoom – From Bombay With Love*



Shamil and Kavi Thakrar co-founded Dishoom in 2010. Shamil was a management consultant and Kavi was working for the World Bank in Washington DC before starting the firm. Executive chef Naved Nasir worked in some of the top kitchens in India, including Dum Pukht ITC Maratha in Mumbai, and Bukhara ITC Maurya in New Delhi, before moving to the UK to open the first Dishoom in Covent Garden in 2010. Dishoom now has eight restaurants in the UK and employs 900 people. *The Sunday Times* ranked Dishoom #20 in its 100 Best UK Companies To Work For list in 2020.

Eastern Eye Award for Literature – Fiction

Deepa Anappara

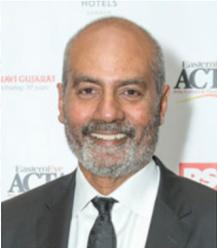
Nominated for *Djinn Patrol On The Purple Line*



Deepa Anappara was born in Kerala, Southern India, and worked as a journalist in India for eleven years. Her reports on the impact of poverty and religious violence on the education of children won the Developing Asia Journalism Awards, the Every Human has Rights Media Awards, and the Sanskriti- Prabha Dutt Fellowship in Journalism. A partial of her debut novel, *Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line*, won the Lucy Cavendish Fiction Prize, the Deborah Rogers Foundation Writers Award, and the Bridport/Peggy Chapman-Andrews Award for a First Novel. It is being translated into 16 languages.

George Alagiah OBE

Nominated for *The Burning Land*



George Alagiah's debut novel is based on a murder mystery in South Africa that goes on to capture how a nation of dreams and aspirations has been caught in slurry of disillusionment and aberrations. With his deep knowledge of the region, the veteran BBC journalist gets to the crux of the flux with ease. *The Burning Land* is Alagiah's first work of fiction, following his books *A Passage to Africa* in 2001 and *Home from Home* in 2006. Alagiah balances his narrative – juggling his caps as journalist and writer – layered well with bitterness and hope.

Kavita Jindal

Nominated for *Manual For A Decent Life*



Kavita A. Jindal is an award-winning writer, a poet, an essayist, and reviewer. Her work appeared in anthologies and literary journals and has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and European radio stations. Her novel, *Manual For A Decent Life* won the Brighthorse Prize and was released in the US and the UK in 2020. She published two poetry collections: *Patina* and *Raincheck Renewed*. She is also the co-founder of The Whole Kahani writers collective. Kavita's selected poems were translated into Arabic, German, Punjabi, Spanish, and Romanian. Her poem *Kabariwala* is included in the *100 Great Indian Poems* published by Bloomsbury in 2018.



Eastern Eye Award for Photography

Anwar Hussein

Nominated for Exemplary Work Over Six Decades



Anwar Hussein is the longest-serving British Royal Photographer. At the time of Prince Charles's engagement with Diana Spencer, Anwar was given the 'official royal photographer' title. Anwar started photography as a hobby. He was hired by the UN to capture the plight of the Belgian Congo refugees, and later he moved to England. With a career spanning over 40 years, Anwar's reportage earned him sessions with some of the world's most celebrated people – from Steve McQueen, Roger Moore, Mick Jagger, Muhammad Ali, Margaret Thatcher, and Indira Gandhi. He has also published two books on Pope John Paul II.

Arpita Shah

Nominated for Nalini



Arpita Shah is an artist based in Edinburgh and Eastbourne. She spent her childhood in India, Ireland, and the Middle East before settling in the UK. With her migratory experiences, she explores the concept shifting cultural identities through her works and have been exhibited internationally, including at the Detroit Centre of Contemporary Photography (2013), Tramway in Glasgow (2014), Focus Festival, Mumbai (2015), Chobi Mela IX in Dhaka (2017), Autograph ABP in London (2018), Street Level Photoworks in Glasgow (2019), and Impressions Gallery in Bradford (2020). She is the recipient of the 2019 Light Work/Autograph Artist-in-Residence programme in Syracuse NY.

Indy Sagoo

Nominated for Beauty, Editorial and Commercial Imagery



London-based photographer Indy Sagoo took his profession purely by choice. From a completely unrelated background, he decided to become a freelance photographer at 26. Now, he is a known name in beauty, editorial, and commercial imagery. His brilliantly uses his skills and the digital media to mould his career. With a simultaneous re-touching career, Indy learned first-hand what is often fixed in post-production, enabling him to address the issues on set during his shoots. With editorials placed across the US and UK, Indy got the opportunity to collaborate with world-class talent. In 2013, he started his own company Indy Sagoo Photography Limited.

Eastern Eye Award for Comedy

Guz Khan

Nominated for *Man Like Mobeen*



Guz Khan is a comedian and writer from Coventry, who came to prominence through his online videos performed in the guise of 'Guzzy Bear'. Guz' own series *Man Like Mobeen* featured in iPlayer's Top 10 Most-watched Shows. He was nominated for a BAFTA, and has won two RTS Midlands Awards for Best Craft, Best Writer, and Best Comedy Programme at the Broadcast Digital Awards 2020. Guz appeared in the Netflix comedy show *Turn Up Charlie*, Mindy Kaling's *Four Weddings and a Funeral* for Hulu and *Curfew* for Sky One. His upcoming new Netflix film is *Army Of The Dead - Meanwhile...in Germany*.

Parle Patel

Nominated for *Mrs Kapoor's Daughter's Wedding*



Parle Patel is an award-winning British Indian comedian, performer, presenter and producer, recognised for his online comedy sketches depicting British Asian and Gujarati life. Rising in popularity via self-created content on his social media platforms, Parle's comedy has seen global success which landed him opportunities to present in New York and Mumbai. Recently Parle played the lead role of Mrs Kapoor, in AK Production's *Mrs Kapoor's Daughter's Wedding* with over 25 sell-out shows throughout the UK. Parle has also produced an eclectic mix of Gujarati songs, raising the profile of Gujarati folk dances and surrounding arts.

Sukh Ojla

Nominated for *Life Sukhs*



Sukh Ojla is a comedian, actor and writer. Her debut solo show, *For Sukh's Sake* at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2019 has received rave reviews for the funny yet poignant portrayal of mental health issues. Sukh's latest solo run, *Life Sukhs*, premiered at VAULT Festival last year. It explored mental health, identity, and living a double life in a searingly honest look at what happens when life doesn't go to plan. In the show about "finding happiness in the unlikeliest of places", she charms us with the troubles of a single, 30-something Punjabi woman living with her parents.



Eastern Eye Award for Best Presenter

Naga Munchetty

Nominated for BBC Breakfast



Naga Munchetty is one of the UK's most respected broadcasters and journalists. She started her career as a journalist at the Evening Standard and The Observer newspapers before she moved into reporting for Reuters Financial Television. She has also worked as a producer and reporter for Channel 4 News, before anchoring for Bloomberg Television. Naga is a supporter of many charities and causes. She is a patron of Action for A-T and works with the Prince's Trust as chair of their UK2030 Taskforce. Besides this, she is passionate about golf.

Sona Datta

Nominated for BBC's Michelangelo, The Good, The Bad And The Ugly



Sona Datta is an art historian and cultural collaborator who until recently was Head of South Asian art at the Peabody Essex Museum in Massachusetts. She expanded the museum's world-renowned Herwitz collection of modern Indian art to include the best contemporary art referencing all of South Asia. Having previously worked at the British Museum for eight years, Sona's various exhibitions included the flagship Voices of Bengal season (2006), which attracted more people of South Asian extraction than any project in the British Museum's history. In 2015, Sona wrote and presented Treasures of the Indus for BBC4.

Tina Daheley

Nominated for Interviews Of The Royal Princes



BBC presenter Tina Daheley has worked on a number of shows throughout her career and holds the distinction of hosting the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in their first official joint engagement. Tina was part of the BBC line-up of presenters for major events in recent years, such as the UK General Elections in 2015, 2017 and 2019, the Brexit Referendum and the Royal Wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in 2018. She was an integral part of the BBC Sounds launch, co-hosting the new Radio 4 podcast *Beyond Today* alongside Matthew Price.

Eastern Eye Award for Best Production

Asif Khan

Nominated for *Imaam Imraan*



The play *Imaam Imraan* written by playwright and actor Asif Khan follows the story of a Bradford born actor rediscovering his identity. The compelling narrative, laced with humour, is a take on what it means to be a Muslim in modern times. Directed by the National Theatre and RC director, Iqbal Khan, the 2019 play trained the spotlight on Asif's nuanced story-telling technique. His debut work, *Combustion*, was also a light-hearted take on Muslim lives in Britain. It toured the UK in 2017, and garnered wide acclaim. Bradford-born Asif is currently working on a screenplay.

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Nominated for *Sukanya*



© Benjamin Ealovega

One of the finest orchestras on the international stage, the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) was founded in 1932 by Sir Thomas Beecham. Since then, its principal conductors have included Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt, and Kurt Masur. The LPO has performed at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall since 1951, becoming Resident Orchestra in 1992. It has residencies in Brighton, Eastbourne and Saffron Walden, and performs regularly around the UK. The orchestra also tours internationally. The orchestra broadcasts regularly on television and radio, and has recorded soundtracks for numerous films including *The Lord of the Rings*.

Nyla Levy

Nominated for *Does My Bomb Look Big In This?*



Nyla Levy is a writer and actor. Being mixed race, Pakistani and Canadian, with Muslim and Jewish heritage, and born and bred in London - Nyla has always gravitated towards stories that explore experiences related to identity, culture and race. Nyla is currently co-producing a UK tour of *Does My Bomb Look Big in This?* with Tamasha with support from Arts Council England, and AMAL foundation. The tour includes Tara Arts, Soho Theatre, Luton & Reading. She has worked with companies such as BBC, Complicite, Lyric Hammersmith, Tamasha, Tara Arts and Cardboards Citizens.



Eastern Eye Award for Best Director

Asif Kapadia

Nominated for *Diego Maradona*



Asif Kapadia had been toying with the idea of making a documentary film on Argentinian footballer Diego Maradona for over 25 years. He finally accomplished it in 2019, bringing out an eponymous documentary that looks at the “crazy, amazing and epic” life of Maradona. Asif has also achieved critical acclaim with his documentaries on Brazilian race driver Ayrton Senna, *Senna* (2010) and British singer Amy Winehouse, *Amy* (2015). The latter won him the Academy Award for Documentary Feature in 2016. His early award-winning films include *The Sheep Thief* (1997), winner of the 2nd Prize Cinéfondation for Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival, and *The Warrior* (2001), winning the BAFTA Award for Best British Film 2003.

Mira Nair

Nominated for *A Suitable Boy*



Mira Nair is an Academy-Award nominated director best known for her visually dense films which pulsate with life. Her debut feature, *Salaam Bombay!* (1988) won the Caméra d'Or at Cannes, followed by the groundbreaking *Mississippi Masala*, the Golden Globe & Emmy-winning *Hysterical Blindness* (2001) and the international hit *Monsoon Wedding* (2001), for which she was the first woman to win Venice Film Festival's coveted Golden Lion. A fiercely independent filmmaker, she then made *Vanity Fair*, *The Namesake*, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *Queen of Katwe*. An activist by nature, she founded Salaam Baalak Trust for street children in 1989.

Suba Das

Nominated for *Sukanya*



Suba Das is an award-winning theatre director and producer. He is artistic director and chief executive of HighTide, one of the UK's most acclaimed new writing theatre companies. From 2012 to 2018, Suba was associate director at Leicester Curve, one of the UK's leading producing theatres. Directing credits at Curve included the world premieres of *Wipers* by Ishy Din and *Pink Sari Revolution* by Purva Naresh, the European premiere of *Shiv* by Aditi Brennan Kapil, and new productions of *Abigail's Party* and *The Cat In The Hat* (with Rose Theatre Kingston and the National Centre for Circus Arts).

Eastern Eye Award for Best Scriptwriter

Ayeesha Menon

Nominated for Q&A



Ayeesha Menon is currently working on a play for the National Theatre. Her adaptation of *Midnight's Children* won the Outstanding Achievement award in 2018 at the BBC Audio Drama Awards, and *A Tale of Two Cities* won Best Adaptation in 2019. Over the years, Ayeesha has been an award finalist with her other dramas *A Fine Balance*, *Undercover Mumbai*, *The Seventh Test*, and *Mumbai Chuzzlewits*. She won Gold at the Sony Awards for her adaptation of Q&A and Bronze for *The Cairo Trilogy*. Her stage play, *Pereira's Bakery at 76 Chapel Road* had a reading at the Royal Court.

Lolita Chakrabarti

Nominated for Life Of Pi



Lolita Chakrabarti is an award-winning playwright and actress. Her writing credits include the adaptation of award-winning novel *Life of Pi* (West End London), the adaption of *Invisible Cities* (MIF), and *Red Velvet*, (West End, and New York), *Calmer* (The Birmingham Rep) and *Hymn* (Almeida Theatre). Theatre credits include Sir Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet* (RADA), *Fanny & Alexandra* (Old Vic) and *Free Outgoing* (Royal Court). TV credits include *A Casual Vacancy* (BBC1/HBO), *To Provide All People* (BBC2), *Beowulf* (ITV), *Jekyll and Hyde* (ITV), *Riviera* (Sky), *Criminal* (Netflix), *Defending the Guilty* (BBC) and the forthcoming series *Wheel of Time* (Amazon) and *Vigil* (BBC1).

Rabiah Hussain

Nominated for SPUN



Rabiah Hussain is a writer for the BBC TV Drama Writers' Programme 2020 and is developing an original script with Clerkenwell Films. Her current TV projects include a book adaptation with Parti Productions, which has been commissioned for script by the BBC, a book adaptation with BBC Studio Wales. Rabiah's play, *SPUN*, premiered at Arcola Theatre in July 2018, received 4-star reviews in *The Guardian* and *The Stage*. *SPUN* toured Canada in 2019, won the German Baden-Wuttemberg Youth Theatre Prize in 2020, and the German Youth Theatre Award 2020 from The German Ministry for Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People.



Eastern Eye Emerging Artist Award

Supported By



Himali Singh Soin

Nominated for *We Are Opposite Like That*



Himali Singh Soin is a poet and artist who works across text, performance and moving image. Her series *We Are Opposite Like That* explores urgent questions about environment, history and myth. The 2019 video in the series is made from footage of her trip to the Arctic in 2017 and commissioned by Frieze London, Forma Arts and Channel 4 Random Acts. It uses the tale of the omnipresent anxiety in Victorian England of an imminent glacial epoch to reveal entanglements between human and non-human life. The series *We Are Opposite Like That* is also indirectly touches upon the xenophobic sentiment behind Brexit.

Joy Crookes

Nominated for her work as a Singer And Songwriter



Joy Crookes is one of the UK's most exquisite new talents, described as curious, passionate and culture obsessed. The daughter of a Bangladeshi mother and an Irish father, she grew up listening to an eclectic mix of musical genres. Born and raised in South London, Joy's musical journey is still just beginning. She had an incredible eighteen months releasing two EPs, *Reminiscence* and then *Perception* –won her an overwhelming amount of acclaim across the globe. Notable achievements include a BRIT Rising Star nomination, performing on *Later* with Jools Holland and securing 4th place in the BBC Sound Of 2020.

Nabhaan Rizwan

Nominated for *1917* And *Mogul Mowgli*



In the mid-2017, 20-year-old Nabhaan Rizwan was auditioning for the role of Raza Shar, the central character in the BBC drama *Informer*. The six-part series premiered in October 2018 to rave reviews and opened doors for an equally stellar film debut for him, in the Oscar-winning World War I feature *1917*. Nabhaan played the role of Sikh soldier Sepoy Jondalar in the thriller directed by Sam Mendes whose Neal Street Productions produced *Informer* for BBC. He also appeared in Riz Ahmed-starrer *Mogul Mowgli* which premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in February 2020.

Eastern Eye Community Engagement Award

Altaf Sarwar

Nominated for his work at Desi Central



Birmingham-based Altaf Sarwar is the founder of comedy brand Desi Central. It has become synonymous with top stand-up talent coming together to entertain audiences all over the UK. The current tours are in full flow and have some of the best live entertainers teaming up for hilarious shows, brought together by Altaf. Over the years, Desi Central has grown to be recognised nationwide on the live circuit. This year, Altaf will be involved in 100 comedy events, including public and corporate sector ones.

The National Theatre

Nominated for Commitment To Diversity



© Philip Vile

The National Theatre is known for creating world-class theatre. It delivers on this promise through a programme that reinvigorates existing work and explores progressive new voices and forms, created by a wide range of artists. Their work is shaped by the world around us and they seek to be constantly engaged with the national conversation. On their stages and on tour, through community partnerships, and via digital and broadcast, the theatre shares their work with a diverse and evolving audience throughout the UK and around the world.

The Queen's Gallery in Edinburgh

Nominated for Eastern Encounters



The Royal Collection contains some of the finest South Asian paintings and manuscripts. The *Eastern Encounters* exhibition offers new insights into the 400 years of interaction between the British Monarchy and the Indian Subcontinent through their exquisite, illuminated manuscripts, dazzling depictions of the Mughal court, royal portraits, Hindu epics, and modern masterpieces, poetic-texts, and gifts given between the nations.



Eastern Eye Award for Contemporary Music

Anoushka Shankar

Nominated for Love Letters And Scoring The BBC Series A Suitable Boy



Anoushka Shankar is a British-Indian-American sitarist and composer who received seven Grammy nominations, a House of Commons Shield, two *Eastern Eye* ACTAs, and a Songlines Best Artist Award. She was trained on the sitar by her father, the legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar. Her performing debut was at 13 and she released her first solo album at 17. She has made nine solo albums, composed a new score for the 1928 classic silent film *Shiraz*, and co-composed Mira Nair's adaptation of *A Suitable Boy* for BBC One and Netflix. In 2020, she was announced as the president of the F-List.

Charli XCX

Nominated for How I'm Feeling Now



Charli XCX is a singer, songwriter, video director, documentary maker, radio host, and record label boss. She has earned critical acclaim for her forward-thinking musical output and refreshing entrepreneurial spirit. In 2020, she received her first BRIT nomination for British Female Solo Artist. Charli announced her new album *How I'm Feeling Now* - written, recorded, and released in 39 days, entirely being in self-isolation, proving herself to be one of the most adaptable artists in modern times. The record was nominated for the Hyundai Mercury Prize 2020. She was also awarded a lucrative Innovator of the Year in the Variety Hitmakers 2020.

Riz Ahmed

Nominated for The Long Goodbye



Riz Ahmed is an English actor and rapper of Pakistani descent, who famously portrayed Bodhi Rook in the Star Wars Anthology Series film *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. He is known for his performances in *The Road to Guantanamo*, *Ill Manors*, *Shifty*, *Nightcrawler*, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, and more. Recently, he released a music album titled *The Long Goodbye*. It has been released on his own record label Mongrel Records. It showcases the UK's historical and contemporary relationship with South Asians, British Asians and the abusive romantic relationship in the wake of Brexit and the rise of the far-right in Britain.

Eastern Eye Award for Traditional Music

Jasdeep Singh Degun

Nominated for his work as a Musician, Composer And For The Sitar Concerto Arya



Breaking down cultural boundaries with his extraordinary artistry and a new approach to composition, virtuoso sitarist Jasdeep Singh Degun brings new energy and vision to both Indian classical and contemporary music globally. Jasdeep is learning under the guidance of the eminent musician, Ustad Dharambir Singh. He performed in many high-profile productions and prestigious venues, including Buckingham Palace, the Amphitheatre in Doha, and the Royal Albert Hall at the 2014 BBC Proms. He was awarded a Sky Academy Scholarship to work on his debut album *Anomaly*. For *Anomaly*, he worked under the guidance of celebrated musician and producer, Nitin Sawhney.

Pandit Chiranjeeb Chakraborty

Nominated for his work as an Indian Classical Vocalist



Pandit Chiranjeeb Chakraborty is one of the top-ranking vocalists of Indian Classical Music in Europe. He demonstrates a wide-ranging musical repertoire consisting of Dhrupad, Khayal, Thumri, Semi-Classical music as well as Contemporary-Fusion styles. He completed a Masters in Khayal from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and was honoured as a Fellow in Indian Vocal Music (FTCL) by the prestigious Trinity College of London. His blending of the styles of Rampur, Gwalior, and Patiala/Kasur Gharanas has been appreciated by the music circles. He is currently a guest faculty at the Rotterdam Conservatoire (Codarts), Netherlands for Indian Music.

Shahbaz Hussain

Nominated for his work as a Tabla Virtuoso



Rochdale-based Shahbaz Hussain is regarded as one of the most prominent and versatile tabla percussionists of his generation. Shahbaz has travelled across the globe to present performances, in company with Indian music greats like flautist Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia, sitarist Ustad Shahid Parvez, and ghazal legend Ghulam Ali, to name just a few. He has performed in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC, Lincoln Center in New York, and Royal Albert & Queen Elizabeth Halls in London. His band Indus received critical acclaim for their debut album *Firefly* and they continue to tour the UK and internationally.



Eastern Eye Award for Theatre, Best Actor

Sid Sagar

Nominated for *The Starry Messenger*



Sid is a London-based actor and writer. He was born abroad and has lived in England since the age of eight. He studied at the University of Bristol and has trained with the National Youth Theatre, Identity School of Acting and the Writers' Lab at Soho Theatre. He regularly works across stage and screen. His recent acting work includes *Trying* (Apple TV+), *Anatomy of a Scandal* (Netflix) and Kenneth Branagh's *Belfast*. As a writer, he's currently an associate at Middle Child Theatre and is developing television projects with SLAM Films and Bend It Networks.

Waleed Akhtar

Nominated for *A Thousand Splendid Suns*



Waleed is a British actor, best known for his role as Essad in Golden Globe nominated film *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* and will soon be seen in Disney's *Cruella*. His first role was in the International Emmy winning BBC adaptation of Jacqueline Wilson's children's book *Dustbin Baby*. He has performed extensively on stage, in the Asian Media Award winning *Wipers* (Leicester Curve), was part of the original cast of *The Kite Runner* (Nottingham Playhouse), in the sold out run of *A Thousand Splendid Sun's* (Birmingham REP) and has worked for The Bush, Soho, Finborough, Chichester Festival theatre, and the Tron.

Zubin Varla

Nominated for *Equus*



Olivier nominee Zubin Varla has given a nuanced performance as psychiatrist Martin Dysart in Ned Bennett's re-telling of Peter Shaffer's modern classic *Equus*, which explores the complex relationships between devotion, myth and sexuality - universal themes that make the 1973 play contemporary. He has received critical acclaim for his portrayal of the psychiatrist who is as disturbed as his patient. In 2019, he appeared in the UK premiere of Dave Malloy's critically acclaimed musical *Ghost Quartet* and received an Olivier nomination in the Best Actor in a Musical category for the previous year's *Fun Home* at the Young Vic.

Eastern Eye Award for Theatre, Best Actress

Anjana Vasan

Nominated for *A Doll's House*



Anjana Vasan is a Singaporean actor and singer-songwriter. She graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in 2012 and has since performed across theatres, TV, and films in the UK. She collaborated with The Bush, Royal Shakespeare Company, Young Vic, National Theatre, and Shakespeare's Globe. Her theatre credits include *A Doll's House* (Lyric Hammersmith), for which she received a Best Actress nomination at the Evening Standard Awards in 2019. Her most recent film appearance was in *Mogul Mowgli*, starring Riz Ahmed. Her TV appearances include *Sex Education* (Netflix) and an upcoming comedy, *Lady Parts* for E4.

Nyla Levy

Nominated for *Does My Bomb Look Big In This?*



Nyla Levy is a writer and actor. Being mixed race, Pakistani and Canadian, with Muslim and Jewish heritage, and born and bred in London - Nyla has always gravitated towards stories that explore experiences related to identity, culture and race. Nyla is currently co-producing a UK tour of *Does My Bomb Look Big in This?* with Tamasha with support from Arts Council England, and AMAL foundation. The tour includes Tara Arts, Soho Theatre, Luton & Reading. She has worked with companies such as BBC, Complicite, Lyric Hammersmith, Tamasha, Tara Arts and Cardboards Citizens.

Preeya Kalidas

Nominated for *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*



Preeya Kalidas (born 21 June 1980) is a multi-talented personality of Indian descent. She played Amira Shah in *EastEnders*. Following her departure from *EastEnders*, she began a career in singing, with her single *Shimmy* released in July 2010. She was most recently seen in the play *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*, a musical inspired by the 2011 BBC Three documentary *Jamie: Drag Queen at 16*, directed by Jenny Poplewell. The musical follows a 16-year-old teenager as he overcomes prejudice, beats the bullies and steps out of the darkness to become a drag queen. Preeya played the role of Jamie's teacher Miss Hedge.



Eastern Eye Award for Film, TV & Drama – Best Actor

Antonio Aakeel

Nominated for Dublin Murders



Antonio Aakeel is an English actor of Indian origin, known for his leading role in the film *Eaten by Lions*, which won him the Emerging Artist award at the 2019 EE ACTA. He was named a Screen International Star of Tomorrow by Screen Daily and appeared opposite Oscar winner Alicia Vikander in the recent *Tomb Raider* reboot. Antonio was a local theatre artist before performing in the E4's hit series *Skins*. Last year, he appeared in the BBC thriller series, *Dublin Murders*, and Channel 4's *Ackley Bridge*. He is the lead in the upcoming films *Granada Nights*, and *Footprints on Water*.

Himesh Patel

Nominated for Yesterday



Himesh Patel has been establishing himself as one of the UK's most versatile actors with projects spanning theatre, TV, and film, cemented when he was voted as one of Screen International's *Stars of Tomorrow* in 2019. It was recently announced that Himesh will appear in Adam McKay's feature *Don't Look Up*, alongside Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence and Meryl Streep. Himesh is currently shooting Hiro Murai's *Station Eleven*, a post-apocalyptic saga. Himesh made his acting debut in 2007 in the role of Tamwar Masood in the hit BBC soap opera *Eastenders*, which he played until 2016.

Shubham Saraf

Nominated for A Suitable Boy



Shubham Saraf plays a lead role in the BBC series *A Suitable Boy*, adapted by Andrew Davies and directed by Mira Nair. He also plays one of the lead roles in Netflix's *Criminal*, opposite David Tennant and Hayley Atwell and plays the key role of Tahir Mahmood in the Golden Globe winning BBC/Netflix drama series, *Bodyguard*. He also acted in Michael Bay's *6 Underground*, and the leading role of Adel in Shan Khan's feature film *Honour* opposite Paddy Considine. Shubham graduated from Guildhall School of Music and Drama, has a BSC from Warwick University and also trained in Gaulier School, Paris.

Eastern Eye Award for Film, TV & Drama – Best Actress

Kiran Sonia Sawar

Nominated for Beta Female



Kiran Sonia Sawar is a Scottish actress best known for her role in the one-off drama *Murdered by My Father*, which highlighted the issue of honour killings. In 2017, Sawar appeared in *Crocodile*, an episode of the fourth season of anthology series *Black Mirror*. Sawar is of Pakistani descent and grew up in Glasgow. Glaswegian Kiran has also been seen in Channel 4's hotly anticipated comedy-drama *Pure*, and drama *Brexit: The Uncivil War* starring Benedict Cumberbatch, also for Channel 4. Lastly, she filmed *Snatches* for BBC America/Royal Court alongside Jodie Comer, Siobhan Finneran and Shirley Henderson.

Shelley King

Nominated for Coronation Street



Shelley King is a British-Indian actress, known for her roles as Jay Harper on the BBC drama series *Angels* and Yasmeen Nazir on the ITV soap opera *Coronation Street*. Shelley made her television debut in the *Angels* as Jay Harper in 1978 and remained in the series until 1980, after which she appeared in various British television series including *The Jewel in the Crown*, *Tandoori Nights*, *King of the Ghetto* and *The Demon Headmaster*. She has appeared in numerous Radio 4 plays and films including *Code 46*, *All in Good Time* and *Nothing Like This*.

Tabu

Nominated for A Suitable Boy



One of India's most accomplished and respected actors, Tabu has made films in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali, Marathi, and English. She has twice won National Film Award for Best Actress, and in 2011 was bestowed with the Padmashri, one of the highest civilian honors of the country. Her international projects include the lead in *The Namesake*, Mira Nair's 2006 adaptation of Jhumpa Lahiri's bestseller. She was also handpicked by Ang Lee to star in 2012's *Life of Pi*. In 2020, she reunited with Nair for a key role in the BBC series *A Suitable Boy*.

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Eastern Eye's People's Choice Award

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Anita Rani

Nominated for her Presenting And Diversity Advocacy



Bradford born Anita Rani is known for her work as a journalist and broadcaster. Anita studied broadcasting at Leeds University before moving to work for TV. She worked as a presenter for *Cricket AM* on Sky Sports, *Four Rooms* on Channel Four, and *Watchdog* on BBC. Her other notable credits include co-presenting BBC One's *Countryfile*. In 2015, Anita Rani became one of the celebrities on *Strictly Come Dancing*. In 2021, the BBC revealed that Anita would join Emma Barnett as a presenter of Radio 4's *Woman's Hour*.

Charli XCX

Nominated for Music



Charli XCX is a singer, songwriter, video director, documentary maker, radio host, and record label boss. She has earned critical acclaim for her forward-thinking musical output and refreshing entrepreneurial spirit. In 2020, she received her first BRIT nomination for British Female Solo Artist. Charli announced her new album *How I'm Feeling Now* - written, recorded, and released in 39 days, entirely being in self-isolation, proving herself to be one of the most adaptable artists in modern times. The record was nominated for the Hyundai Mercury Prize 2020. She was also awarded a lucrative Innovator of the Year in the Variety Hitmakers 2020.

Dev Patel

Nominated for Acting



Dev Patel rose to fame with his performance in the 2008 release *Slumdog Millionaire*. Dev was born in Harrow, to Anita, a caregiver, and Raj, who works in IT. His first role was in the UK TV series *Skins* (2007) and break-out role was in the Oscar winning film *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008). He has since featured in several hit movies such as *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, *Lion*, *Chappie*, *Hotel Mumbai*, and many others. He has also played the lead role in the movie *The Personal History of David Copperfield*.

Eastern Eye's People's Choice Award

Supported by MEDIAHIVE

Guz Khan

Nominated for Comedy



Guz Khan is a comedian and writer from Coventry, who came to prominence through his online videos performed in the guise of 'Guzzy Bear'. Guz' own series *Man Like Mobeen* featured in iPlayer's Top 10 Most-watched Shows. He was nominated for a BAFTA, and has won two RTS Midlands Awards for Best Craft, Best Writer, and Best Comedy Programme at the Broadcast Digital Awards 2020. Guz appeared in the Netflix comedy show *Turn Up Charlie*, Mindy Kaling's *Four Weddings and a Funeral* for Hulu and *Curfew* for Sky One. His upcoming new Netflix film is *Army Of The Dead - Meanwhile...in Germany*.

Jameela Jamil

Nominated for Women Empowerment and Diversity Advocate



Jameela Jamil is an actress, writer, radio host, and an advocate for female empowerment. Jameela is arguably best known for her role in Mike Schur's Golden Globe-nominated series *The Good Place*, opposite Ted Danson, and Kristen Bell. She voiced the character Auntie Pushpa in the Disney series *Mira, Royal Detective* with an all-Indian cast that includes Freida Pinto and Kal Penn. Jameela is a prominent campaigner and in 2018, launched a movement and activism platform called *I Weigh*, where community of change makers share ideas, experiences and ultimately, mobilize activism, and explore social issues from mental health to climate change, to the representation of marginalized groups.

Mira Nair

Nominated for Directing



Mira Nair is an Academy-Award nominated director best known for her visually dense films which pulsate with life. Her debut feature, *Salaam Bombay!* (1988) won the Caméra d'Or at Cannes, followed by the groundbreaking *Mississippi Masala*, the Golden Globe & Emmy-winning *Hysterical Blindness* (2001) and the international hit *Monsoon Wedding* (2001), for which she was the first woman to win Venice Film Festival's coveted Golden Lion. A fiercely independent filmmaker, she then made *Vanity Fair*, *The Namesake*, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *Queen of Katwe*. An activist by nature, she founded Salaam Baalak Trust for street children in 1989.



Eastern Eye's People's Choice Award

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Naga Munchetty

Nominated for Presenting



Naga Munchetty is one of the UK's most respected broadcasters and journalists. She started her career as a journalist at the *Evening Standard* and *The Observer* newspapers before she moved into reporting for *Reuters Financial Television*. She has also worked as a producer and reporter for *Channel 4 News*, before anchoring for *Bloomberg Television*. Naga is a supporter of many charities and causes. She is a patron of Action for A-T and works with the Prince's Trust as chair of their UK2030 Taskforce. Besides this, she is passionate about golf.



Naomi Scott

Nominated for Acting



Naomi Scott is an English actress and singer, best known for her featuring role as Princess Jasmine in Disney's real to life adjustment of the melodic dream film *Aladdin* (2019), for which she likewise added to its soundtrack. She won at the Teen Choice Awards for her work. She has also starred in the superhero film *Power Rangers* (2017) and the action-comedy film *Charlie's Angels* (2019). Her first significant acting role was in Disney Channel UK arrangement *Life Bites*. In 2010, she was given a role as Mohini 'Mo' Banjaree in the Disney Channel unique film *Lemonade Mouth*.

Eastern Eye's People's Choice Award

Supported by **MEDIAHIVE** 

Naughty Boy

Nominated for Music and Mental Health Advocate



Shahid Khan, better known by his stage name Naughty Boy, is a British-Pakistani DJ, record producer, songwriter, and musician. He has partnered with an array of stars, including Beyoncé, Sam Smith, Emeli Sandé, Ed Sheeran and Chipmunk. His debut album *Hotel Cabana* (2013) featured the number one hit *La La La*. His debut album peaked at number two in the UK. *La La La* was awarded Best Song and Best Video at the MOBO Award's 18th Anniversary. In 2018, he released his collaboration with artist Ray BLK and Wyclef Jean titled *All or Nothing* and the follow-up track *Bungee Jumping* featuring vocals from Emeli Sandé and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan.

Nitin Ganatra

Nominated for Acting



Nitin Ganatra's long and distinguished career began after he graduated from the University of Bristol with a BA honours in drama, film and television and went on to study with experimental theatre maestro, the late Jerzy Grotowski. Across the decades he has worked alongside some highly accomplished actors and directors such as Sam Mendes, Tim Burton, Ray Winstone, Richard Gere, Donald Sutherland and John Malkovich. Currently balancing a film career alongside popular television shows, Nitin has also recently returned to the theatre, winning rave reviews for *The End of the Pier* and *God's Dice*.



Eastern Eye Editor's Special Award Supported By EasternEye

HRP's Kensington Palace

Nominated for Queen Victoria: Woman and Crown Exhibition



The 2019 marked the 200th birth anniversary of Queen Victoria at Kensington Palace. To recognise this important anniversary, Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) mounted a major exhibition, *Victoria: Woman and Crown* which examined her later life and legacy. The exhibition explored her life as monarch and Empress of India. HRP incorporated participatory practice throughout the planning and development of the exhibition. It worked collaboratively with an intergenerational group of women from the local South Asian community and students studying South Asian Language and Literature from University of London to respond creatively to the narrative, key themes and objects featured in the exhibition.

Kusoom Vadgama

Nominated for India And Britain: Over Four Centuries Of Shared Heritage



Kusoom Vadgama, the 89-year-old historian, came to Britain as a student in 1953 and devoted her six decades in researching about the crucial contribution and sacrifices of Indian soldiers in two World Wars. She has written four books and her focus included how the Empire impacted in the lives of British Asians, about the SOE agent Noor Inayat Khan who was executed by the Gestapo, about Queen Victoria's favourite courtier Abdul Karim 'the Munshi', and her particular heroine, Cornelia Sorabji, the first practising woman barrister in India.

Eastern Eye Editor's Special Award Supported By EasternEye

Lord Dolar Popat

Nominated for A British Subject: How To Make It As An Immigrant In The Best Country In The World



Lord Dolar Popat is a Conservative peer, party whip and the Prime Minister's trade envoy to Rwanda, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo. He became a member of the House of Lords back in 2010 and is the first Gujarati to represent the Conservative party in the House of Lords. Lord Popat served as a minister of the crown for the Departments of Business, Innovation and Skills, and Transport, as well as a Lord-in-Waiting and a member of Her Majesty's Household. He is a founding director of St Luke's Hospice, Harrow, and founder of the Lord Dolar Popat Foundation, which makes contributions to medical and educational institutions.

Patricia Rozario OBE

Nominated for her work as an Opera Icon



Patricia Rozario OBE FRCM is a Bombay-born British soprano. Her wide concert and opera repertoire ranges from baroque to contemporary music. Her unique voice and artistry has inspired over 15 of the world's leading composers to write for her, notably Arvo Pärt, Sir John Tavener and Jonathan Dove. Patricia runs the foundation, *Giving Voice Society*, which instructs Indian students in western singing. The foundation produces operas with all-Indian casts and has sent several singers for international study abroad. She is currently a professor of singing at the Royal College of Music, and at Trinity Laban.



The Judges



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Editor-At-Large
Eastern Eye and
Chairman of the
ACTA Judging
Panel



Bernie Choudhury

Editor-At-Large
Eastern Eye



Mira Kaushik OBE

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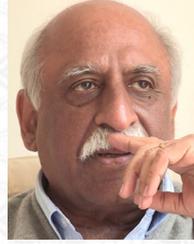
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Shailesh R Solanki
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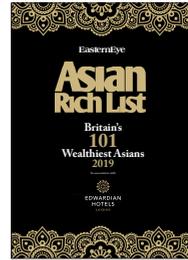
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