

A PASSAGE TO INDIA



E.M. Forster

Adapted by Martin Sherman

An amateur production by arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French Ltd

Director's Note

E.M. Forster's classic novel is set against the backdrop of the British Raj and the Indian independence movement. Many of his works observed class differences. A secular humanist, he showed concern for social, political, and spiritual divisions in the world. E.M. Forster began writing *A Passage to India* after his first visit to India in 1912. The impetus to write it came partly from something he had been told by a young Indian man whom he had tutored in Latin and fallen - unrequitedly - in love with: 'You know my great wish is to get you to write a book on India, for I feel convinced from what I know of you that it will be a great book'.

Though Forster had begun the novel 'as a little bridge of sympathy between East and West', he later felt that this was no longer viable, writing: 'most Indians, like most English people, are shits'. He wanted the book to speak to 'something wider than politics', and to be 'philosophic and poetic' - indeed he has been praised for his ability to conjure the different aspects of British, Muslim, and Hindu India. The novel brought him his greatest success.

Mark G. Nagle
Director

Martin Sherman (1938 -) Sherman's play *Bent* (1979) is listed among the NT2000 100 Plays of the Century. Other plays: *A Madhouse in Goa* (1989), and *Rose* (1999). His adaptation of *A Passage to India* premiered in 2002. He earned a second Tony nomination for the musical *The Boy From Oz* (2003), and a BAFTA nomination for *Mrs Henderson Presents* (2005).

Edward Morgan Forster OM CH (1879 - 1970) was an English fiction writer, essayist, and librettist. Many of his novels examine class difference and hypocrisy, including *A Room with a View* (1908), *Howards End* (1910), and *A Passage to India* (1924). He was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 16 separate years.

Synopsis Of Play

Before deciding whether to marry Chandrapore's local magistrate, Adela Quested desires discovering the "real India" for herself. Newly arrived from England, she agrees to see the Marabar Caves with the charming Dr Aziz. Through this one harmless event Forster exposes the absurdity, hysteria, and depth of cultural ignorance that existed in British India in the twenties. E.M. Forster's classic novel is adapted in this highly theatrical, humorous, and faithful version for the stage by Martin Sherman.

MARK G. NAGLE - Director Mark trained in Direction at Theatre Nepean and NIDA Open. For GTC: *Simpson, J. 202* (2015), *A Room with a View* (2019). Assistant Director - *Amadeus* (2014) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (2017). Direction at New Theatre: *Young Pretender* (2016), *F*cking Men* (2018), *Angry Fags* (2020), and *Beautiful Thing* (2021). Assistant Director - *Dinkum Assorted* (2015), *After The Dance* (2017), and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (2018).

EMMA WHITEHEAD - Assistant Director Emma holds a BA(Hons) in Theatre & Performance and MA in Cultural Policy, and has studied direction and acting at NIDA Open. Genesians: Director, *Decline and Fall* (2020), Assistant/Acting Director, *Sherlock Holmes and the Death on Thor Bridge* (2020). Elsewhere: Dialect/Cultural Advisor, *Beautiful Thing*, New Theatre (2021), Stage Manager/Producer, *Far Away*, site-specific (2008), Creative Producer, *Wonderland*, Warwick Arts Centre (2007), Movement Director, *Rhinoceros*, WSU, (2007).

ANDREA TAN - Costume Design With a background in the visual arts and Traditional Chinese Medicine, Andrea made her debut in the theatre industry this year coordinating and designing costumes for this production and *The Removalists* (New Theatre). She is currently studying Fashion and Textiles at TAFE and is commencing her Diploma in Live Production / Costume for Performance later this year.

SARAH GOODA - Lighting Design Sarah has worked in theatre for 20 years, including as in-house technician for the Wales Millennium Centre and Orange Tree Theatre (London). Previous lighting designs include *Jetlag* (Gasworks Theatre), *The Six Wives of Timothy Leary* (Riverside Studios & Edinburgh Fringe), and shows by her own production company - Spangled Aura Productions.

MICHAEL SCHELL - Lighting Design Michael has been a member of the Genesian Theatre for over 40 years. A professional Sound and Lighting Designer, his Genesian credits include *Great Expectations*, *St Joan*, *The 39 Steps*, *Terra Nova*, *Frankenstein*, and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Other recent Genesian sound design credits include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Mousetrap*, *Crown Matrimonial*, *Spider's Web*, *Three Sisters*, *Our House*, and *Dracula*.

JAYMES JULIAN WILSON - Sound Design Julian has worked in the Houston and Sydney artistic communities since 2005 as an actor, director, and sound designer. New Theatre - Sound Designer: *Beautiful Thing*, *Animal Farm*; Sound Operator: *Angry Fags*. Some other companies - Queensbury Theatre, Mildred's Umbrella, Main Street Theater, Alley Theatre.



GAURAV KHARBANDA - Prof Narayan Godbole Gaurav has previously acted in various indie productions - *The Jungle* (2018), *Myth Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America* (2018), *When the Rain Stops Falling* (2017), and *Hay Fever* (2016). Gaurav has also produced two indie theatre productions, and has appeared in various TVCs.

ATHARV KOLHATKAR - Dr Aziz Ahmed Atharv is an actor, stand-up comedian, and an improv artist from Mumbai. He trained at the STS and NIDA Open. He made his stage debut at Sydney's Nautanki Theatre in *Curry Kings of Parramatta* (2019). Other performances: *Don't Hate The Player* (Old Fitz), *Taj Mahal: A Timeless Love Story* (Riverside Theatre), and Adakar Theatre Group's *Where Did I Leave My Purdah*.



ANKIT KAPOOR - Ralph Moore / Anthony Ankit has been involved in the musicals: *High School Musical* (2014), *Oliver!* (2015), *Moby Dick* (2016), *A Christmas Carol* (2017), and *The Wizard of Oz* (2019). Moving to Sydney from Singapore in 2017, Ankit has experienced theatre in Australia and is lucky to culminate his skills in his first adult role.

MILES BOLAND - Mr Cyril Fielding A graduate of Film, T.V. and Media at the University of Auckland and The 2020 Hub Studio Ensemble, Miles has had a voice over and event hosting career spanning seven years. 2021 marks his Australian theatre and screen debuts in GTC's *A Passage to India* and ABC's *Total Control*.



SUSAN JORDAN - Mrs Moore Susan has performed in independent theatre, film, and television since the 1980's. Recent theatre: *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2* (Streamed Shakespeare), *Inner Weather* (Chippen Street Theatre), *Neighborhood Watch* (New Theatre), *True West* and *How to Change the World and Make Bank Doing It* (Limelight on Oxford). Susan is delighted to debut at GTC as Mrs Moore.

CHRISTIANE NEW - Miss Adela Quested Since attending Newtown High School of the Performing Arts (NHSPA) and training with David Cuthbertson at Actors Assembly, Christiane has featured in theatre, musical theatre and opera. Other credits include *A Little Night Music* (Charlotte), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (The Chaperone), *Sunday In The Park With George* (Old Lady), *Hedda Gabler* (Thea) and *The Women* (Sylvia).



SIMON LEE - Mr Ronny Heaslop Simon's theatre career began in 2013, with Williamson's *The Removalists* at The Tap Gallery. Recent credits include: *Simple Souls* (Subtenuance 2019) and *A Deal* (Flying House Assembly 2019). He tours Australia-wide with the educational theatre company Blue Whale Theatre and works as a drama teacher. Simon is a proud contributing member of MEAA.

NICK FITZSIMMONS - Mr Ronny Heaslop Nick has previously appeared at GTC in *Persuasion* (2019), as Dr Watson in *Sherlock Holmes and the Death on Thor Bridge*, as well as *Decline and Fall*, both in 2020. He also competed in Impro Australia's Cranston Cup in 2018.



VISHAL SHAH - Hamidullah Vishal moved to Sydney in 2019 from India where he had played various roles with his own theatre troupe. Actor: *Let's Have Sex!* (2014), *The Green Room* (2015), *Evam Indrajit* (2016), Music Composer: *Lights Out* (2018), Sound Designer: *Aisa Kehte Hai* (2017). In Sydney, Vishal has worked with New Theatre as ASM *Angry Fags* (2019), and SFX Designer *Little Miss Sunshine* (2019).

SANKALP BHATNAGAR - Rafi / Das / Guide / Driver Originally from India, but in Australia since 1989, Sankalp has been active in the sporting community (Emerging Blues - cricket). He is an IT professional working in the data analytical sector. Although new to theatre, he has a background in the visual arts via computer and digital media.





TAUFEEQ AHMED SHEIKH - Mahmoud Ali / Mohammed Taufeeq began acting in Indian theatres and on television, later immigrating to Australia from Mumbai in 2009. In 2019 he became a radio presenter on 89.3 2GLF FM while acting in *The Female of the Species*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Ten Years to Home*, and *Hamlet*. Taufeeq has also written and directed various plays as well as short films for NSW Police Force.

DOUGLAS SPAFFORD - Mr Harry Turton After growing up in the UK and Northern Territory, Douglas Spafford moved to Sydney in 2017. He has been prolific in community theatre since then, particularly at Rockdale's Guild Theatre. He enjoys acting in period pieces and recently performed as Edward VIII in Royce Ryton's play *Crown Matrimonial*.



PHOEBE KENNEDY - Mrs Mary Turton From Blackburn in the UK Phoebe initiated her passion for performance at age 11 appearing in musicals and choirs. Completing a degree in Creative and Performing Arts, she developed her love for drama within community arts. After travelling widely, she settled in Australia in 2015 continuing with theatre throughout NSW.

MURRAY FANE - Major Callender Murray is an actor and musician. Recent roles at Pymble Players and Castle Hill include Killigrew in *Nell Gwynn*, Vincent in *Natural Causes*, Tom, Leslie, and Phyllis in *Sylvia*. Rod and Liam in *Calendar Girls*, Bank Chairman with Willoughby's *Mary Poppins*, and Old Man in *The Chairs* at Sydney Fringe.



SWETA KUMAR - Mrs Bhattacharya / Mother Sweta Priyadarshini is originally from India but has lived in Sydney since 2017. She has been active in community theatre since then. Sweta is also a Sydney based micro influencer using social media to help businesses reach their target audience. She enjoys acting and theatre performance.

KATE SMYTHEMAN - Miss Nancy Derek Kate is a fine arts and design graduate, who has completed various acting workshops while gaining experience behind the scenes as an ASM with the Genesians and at New Theatre. She performed in *Sherlock Holmes and the Death on Thor Bridge* (GTC 2020). Kate is a proud member of MEAA/Equity.



JAMES FRASER MOIR - Mr McBryde James has performed in *Masterpieces*, *Closer*, *The Next Big Thing*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Darlinghurst Theatre. At GTC; *Journey's End*, *Terra Nova*, *Saint Joan*, *Three Sisters*, and *A Room with a View*. He appeared in the 40th Anniversary Production of *Equus*; the films *Darklands*, *Redd Inc.*, and the TV series *Friday on my Mind*.

OWEN L. HIRSCHFELD - Subaltern / Steward Owen attends NHSPA and is in the STC's 2021 Young Wharfies program. New Theatre: ASM: *Twelfth Night* (2021), Production Secondment: *Animal Farm* (2020), Set & prop construction: *1984! The Musical!* (2020). Chippen St Theatre: Stage Manager: *Love According To The Clash* (2021).



GUNJEET SINGH - Amritrao / Haq / Warrior Gunjeet has trained at Dramtech and The Actors Pulse. Other performances: *Forbidden Love Story* (2017), *Foreign Star of Bengal* (2018), *All in the...Timing* (2019 short and sweet) *Taj Mahal* (2019). Other than that, he spends his time sword fighting, flying planes and cheffing.

AMAN PAL - Tabla player and singer Born in London UK, Aman has been practicing the Tabla under the guidance of his father Amrit Pal and Ustad Tari Khan ji. He's performed in prestigious festivals like the 133rd Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan. He's contributing to the Indian Classical Music Scene in Sydney and has received numerous awards.



Production

Director
Assistant Director
Set Design
Costume Design
Lighting Design
Sound Design

Costume Coordinator
Costume Consultant
Lighting and Sound Consultant
Incidental Music Design
Indian Music Composition / Performance **Vishal Shah**

Choreographer
Production Manager
Production Assistant
Set Construction

Photography
Graphic Design
Ticketing
Transport
Audition Personnel

Sari Fabric
Loan of Tabla drum

Crew

Stage Manager
Lighting and Sound Operation

Cast

Prof Narayan Godbole
Dr Aziz Ahmed
Ralph Moore / Anthony
Mr Cyril Fielding
Mrs Moore
Miss Adela Quested
Mr Ronny Heaslop
Mr Ronny Heaslop
Hamidullah / Musician
Rafi / Das / Guide / Driver
Mahmoud Ali / Mohammed Latif
Mr Harry Turton
Mrs Mary Turton
Major Callender
Mrs Bhattacharya / Mother
Miss Nancy Derek
Mr McBryde
Subaltern / Steward
Amritrao / Haq / Warrior
Tabla player and singer

Mark G. Nagle
Emma Whitehead
Mark G. Nagle
Andrea Tan
Sarah Gooda, Michael Schell
Jaymes Julian Wilson, Vishal Shah,
Mark G. Nagle
Mark G. Nagle
Susan Carveth
Mehran Mortezaei
Mark G. Nagle
Vishal Shah, Murray Fane,
Pramod Tandon, Aman Pal,
Gaurav Kharbanda, Ankit Kapoor,
Taufeeq Ahmed Sheikh,
Sangeeta Tandon, Saral Dass
Akshat Gupta
Hannah Dunwell, Helen Kohlhagen
Chelsea Antman, Sangeeta Tandon
Tom Fahy, Grant Fraser,
Members of the Company
Craig O'Regan
Trudy Ritchie, Tom Massey
Tom Massey
Barry Nielsen
Di Henderson, May Hnin,
Will Keyes Byrne, John Leonard
Margaret Sims
Avijit Sarkar (Natraj Academy)

Marica Fumanti, Owen L. Hirschfeld
Charlotte Launay, Amy Roberts,
Sangeeta Tandon

Gaurav Kharbanda
Atharv Kolhatkar
Ankit Kapoor
Miles Boland
Susan Jordan
Christiane New
Simon Lee
Nick Fitzsimmons (May 21-23)
Vishal Shah
Sankalp Bhatnagar
Taufeeq Ahmed Sheikh
Douglas Spafford
Phoebe Kennedy
Murray Fane
Sweta Kumar
Kate Smytheman
James Fraser Moir
Owen L. Hirschfeld
Gunjeet Singh
Aman Pal

About the Genesian Theatre

The Genesian Theatre Company celebrated our 75th year as a company in 2019! For 65 years we have been operating from our home at 420 Kent St in the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Angela Punch, Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Coral Lansbury, Judi Farr, John Bell, Peter Carroll, and Nick Enright. We are also just as proud of the hundreds of other talented actors, directors, stage managers, set and costume designers, lighting and sound specialists, stage and production staff who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre. We are particularly proud of all our members who volunteer their time to work Front of House to help you enjoy your visit to the Genesian Theatre.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young theatre professionals and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share, and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre Company is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops, and many other activities.

The building which houses the Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of the Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

The Genesian Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of the land our theatre stands on.

Membership

If you're interested in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next...

