

Sajeela Kershi presents...



IMMIGRANT DIARIES

Statistics don't tell the real story of immigrants, people do

Leicester Square Theatre, London

3 December, 2015

22 January, 2016

'Funny and poignant, The Immigrant Diaries should be available on prescription' Brighton Argus ★★★★★

Immigration, migrants, the refugee crisis; these are hot topics dividing Britain and the rest of Europe too. How many are there? Why are they coming here? What do they want? And who exactly are these 'bloody foreigners' anyway? **Immigrant Diaries** is a chance to come and hear some of those who chose to live and work on this marvellously multi-cultural island.

Telling stories that are true, funny, moving and uplifting, guests from the world of entertainment and beyond (previous examples include Hollywood character actor Stephen Tobolowsky, actors Jing Lusi and Sanjeev Kohli and comedian and star of The Chase, Paul Sinha) provide a much-needed positive antidote to negative anti immigration/refugee rhetoric.

The creation of comedian and broadcaster Sajeela Kershi, **Immigrant Diaries** is a multi award-winning show that has enjoyed acclaimed runs at **London's Southbank**, the **Brighton Fringe**, the **Edinburgh Fringe**, **WOMAD** and the **House of Lords!**

The show was born of Sajeela's frustration at being bombarded with anti-immigration rhetoric, her response was to bring audiences captivating true-life immigration stories from special guests. As part of her hosting role, Sajeela also tells her own story - of how her grandparents were refugees during the partition of India, migrating around what was the newly formed Pakistan, before settling briefly in Germany, and then ar-

living in the UK in the early hours of a cold winter's morning with all their possessions, three children and 3000 cigarettes stuffed into a Scooby-Doo van!

'Hilariously entertaining...genius idea for a show'

★★★★ Latest 7

Sajeela Kershi has been performing stand-up since 2006, getting her big break as part of Brendon Burns's 2007 Edinburgh Comedy Award-winning show, *So I Suppose This Is Offensive Now?* She made her Edinburgh Fringe solo debut in 2009 and was a Hackney Empire New Act Award finalist in 2011. This year Sajeela won the **Asian Women of Achievement Award** (Arts and Culture section) and appeared on Radio 4's Loose Ends. Sajeela. Named in The Huffington Post's Top 50 Funny Women to follow on Twitter, you can follow her **@SajeelaKershi** and you can also find her on Facebook: **facebook.com/SajeelaKershi**

The Leicester Square Theatre dates will feature:

Thurs 3 December 2015, (7pm)

Comedian and writer **Dave Cohen**. Dave's extensive and award-winning career has ranged over *Dead Ringers*, *Spitting Image*, *Not Going Out*, *My Family* and *Horrible Histories*. He was nominated for the Perrier Comedy Award and he helped co-found The Comedy Store Players. **@cohendave**

Actor and producer **Shobu Kapoor**. Shobu's many credits include *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Doctor Who* and *Citizen Khan*. Her film roles include *Bend It Like Beckham* and on stage she was cast opposite Steven Berkoff and Sanjeev Bhaskar in Anthony Horowitz's play *Dinner With Saddam*. **@Shokap**

Comedian and actor **Inder Manocha**. Inder won the 2004 EMMA (Ethnic Multicultural Media Award) for Best Comedian and has performed with the prestigious Cutting Edge team at the Comedy Store. As an actor, Inder is best known for playing Anwar's father in E4's *Skins*.

Friday 22 January, 2016 (9pm)

Comedian, writer and broadcaster **Shappi Khorsandi**. Shappi's many credits include *Loose Ends*, *Just A Minute*, *The Now Show*, *Have I Got News For You* and *QI*. Shappi has also appeared on *Question Time* and *Loose Women* and published her memoir, *A Beginner's Guide To Acting English*. **@ShappiKhorsandi**

Filmmaker and journalist **Amir Amirani**. Amir's film about the global day of protest against the Iraq war, *We Are The Many*, was widely acclaimed on its release in May 2015 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EK60Y4IG89E>). Amir has made films made for *Arena*, and *Newsnight* among others, and has written articles for *The Guardian*, *The New Statesman* and *The New Scientist*. **@AmirAmirani**

Praise for Immigrant Diaries:

Winner, Argus Angel award for artistic excellence

Nominee, Brighton and Hove Independent Award for Outstanding Local Talent

'ever changing, ever entertaining show'
Kate Copstick, Scotland on Sunday

'brutally honest intimacy, frank self-deprecation and boundary pushing observational humour'

★★★★★ **Fresh Air Radio**

'Empowering'

★★★★★ **Asian Culture Vulture**

'this show is far more than stand up comedy... catch it at all costs'

★★★★★ **Remote Goat**

'*Immigrant Diaries* plays with the boundaries of stand up comedy and is entirely engaging.'

★★★★★ **A Younger Theatre**

'Hilariously entertaining'

★★★★ **Latest7**

'A must see and never forget'

★★★★ **Broadway Baby**

You can also see Sajeela in Shallow Halal on Friday 4 December, 2015 (7pm) & Saturday 23 January, 2016 (9pm)

For images: Dropbox: <http://tinyurl.com/kb62zd8>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyIU5FAUFVU>

Media contact:

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Full Listing:

Title: Immigrant Diaries

Venue: Leicester Square Theatre (Lounge), 6 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX

Tel: 020 7734 2222

Web: www.leicestersquaretheatre.com

Tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/nd4mgcv>

Date & times: Thurs 3 December 2015, (7pm) Friday 22 January, 2016 (9pm)

Age: 15+

Duration: 1 hour

Entry: £10, £8 concessions