

FOREWORD FESTIVAL PRESENTS

the
SPACE

MISFITS

BY LEKHA DESAI MORRISON

A MODERN FAMILY COMEDY
ABOUT MEERA, A TRADITIONAL
INDIAN MOTHER, WITH A STATUS
TO MAINTAIN

29 JUNE - 3 JULY
7:30PM / 2:30PM
£15/£12

THE SPACE
269 WESTFERRY ROAD
LONDON, E14 3RS
020 7515 7799
WWW.SPACE.ORG.UK

FOREWORD FESTIVAL

The Foreword Festival sees 4 plays, developed through the venue's ScriptSpace programme, staged for a week each, back-to-back, this June. These plays were selected over 200 scripts submitted in January 2020 to the Space.

Thanks for supporting our second Foreword Festival. It is especially satisfying to bring you the work of Lekha, Laura, Kate and Abigail given the year we've just had. Our work supporting new writing didn't stop and here we are with the evidence. Alongside these four outstanding new plays, we worked with many other exciting writers during the lockdown, often over zoom, through workshops, our ScriptSpace programme and award-winning online festivals. Our YouTube channel is evidence of everyone's resilience as well as talent. Do please check it out.

But the Space team and our writers have been desperate to show you new work in the building. These four plays and their playwrights represent the future of our industry. Each encompasses all the things we love about our chosen art form - direct, thought-provoking and totally human. Whether they make you laugh or cry, they will make you feel part of something. Having spent a lot of time apart lately, that's something to cherish. Enjoy

Mike Carter
Literary Manager

Misfits

A modern family comedy about Meera, a traditional Indian mother, with a status to maintain within her much-feared community steeped in old-fashioned values. To fit in, she sets out to find a bride via a dating website for her gay son Rajiv.

Meera's journey leads her to question her own and women's rights. Will she conform and fit in or stand up and be counted?

Writer: Lekha Desai Morrison

Director: Bethany Sharp

Assistant Director: India Aujla

Performers: Patsy Prince, Deven Modha, Lee Farrell and Selina Hotwani

Music consultants: Selina Hotwani and Deven Modha

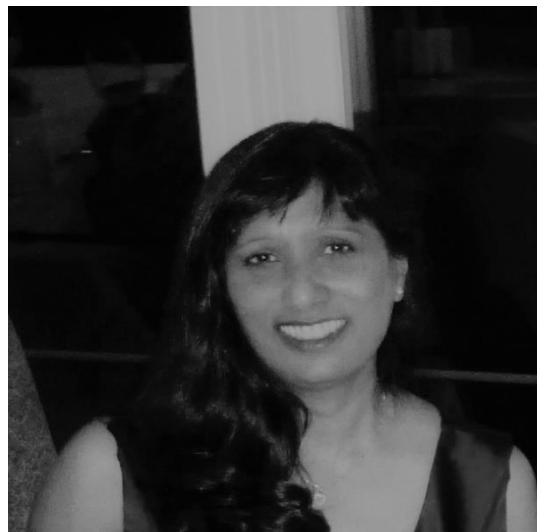
[The Space](#) | 29th June – 3rd July, 7:30pm & 3rd July, 2:30pm

[Livestream](#) | 1st July, 7:30pm & 3rd July, 2:30pm

Lekha Desai Morrison **Writer**

Misfits is Lekha's first full-length play to be performed on stage and continues her collaboration with The Space: her play *Myles and Me* was performed at The Space Theatre in December and she developed a 20-minute audio play, *A weekend in March*, for the *Amalgam Project* art exhibition by Rosemary Burns running now at The Space Theatre.

Like many of Lekha's most celebrated plays, *Misfits* tackles the Asian-British culture clash with class, humour and style.



Over the past few years Lekha was a winner in the Taking Flight competition and her play *Clarissa* was performed in London, Cheltenham and at Buxton at fringe. *Myles and Me*, her play on the subject of Multiple Sclerosis, has been performed at a number of different venues since its first performance in 2019, and her most recent work, *Dolly's Dilemma*, was awarded runner up in the 18th international Windsor Fringe and the Kenneth Branagh Award for New Drama Writing 2021.

Lekha is an established writer whose acclaimed radio play *Behind Closed Doors* was one of two of her radio plays to have been broadcast on Radio 4.



Bethany Sharp
Director

Bethany has most recently been seen at the Space as a producer for the filmed stage comedy *Aaron and Julia* and the Space's *Amalgam* Exhibition.

As a director, she remounted Wawow's *Myles and Me* for the Space, and has directed various audio plays. She has been an assistant director for Nexus Theatre Company and the Mercury Theatre.

With her digital audio theatre company, Frequency Theatre, she has produced over eighty-five pieces of new writing. Bethany has also worked as a writer and script reader.

In 2019, she was selected for the Royal Court's Script Panel for dramaturgs.



India Aujla
Assistant Director

India has freshly graduated from University of Warwick and came to The Space as part of a placement for one of her modules.

She is grateful to have had the opportunity to begin her journey into the creative industry by working alongside Bethany Sharp on *Misfits*.

India is excited to take everything she has learnt from this experience and apply it to her future projects.

Patsy Prince

Patsy Prince trained at RADA as a post-graduate.

Theatre includes: *Tales from the Socialist Crypt* (Chapel Playhouse), *Swallows* (Old Fire Station Theatre) and *Voices from September 11th* (Old Vic).

TV includes: *The Lady Killers* and *Sold* (ITV).

Film includes: *Mummy Reborn* and *The Watcher*.



Deven Modha

Deven trained at the Birmingham School of Acting. Graduating in 2011, he has worked in theatre, film, television and radio.

Deven's theatre credits include: *United Queendom*, *Les Enfants Terribles* directed by Christa Harris (2020); *Echoes*, *Crowded Room* directed by Mark Knightley (2019); *East is East*, Northern Stage/Nottingham Playhouse directed by Suba Das (2017); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, New Wolsey Theatre directed by Sir Trevor Nunn CBE (2016); *Macbeth*, Tara Arts directed by Jatinder Verma MBE (2015).

Television appearances include *Top Boy* (Netflix, 2019) and *Citizen Khan* (BBC, 2015).

Deven also appears in *Ninnila Ninnila* - a South Indian film directed by Ani IV Sasi - which was released earlier this year.



Lee Farrell

Lee grew up in Coventry where he began performing at the Belgrade Youth Theatre in his early teens.

He went on to train at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David and his theatre credits include *Common* at the National Theatre, directed by Jeremy Herrin and *Lessons in Love and Violence* at the Royal Opera House, directed by Katie Mitchell.

Lee is very much looking forward to returning to theatre after a trying year in the industry.

He is represented by Mostyn and Cross.

Selina Hotwani

Selina Hotwani is an actor and radio presenter who has appeared in film, television, and theatre in both the UK and India.

She is most renowned for her roles as Jessmeet in the Bollywood film *Patiala House* (2011) and Jasmine in *A Strange Perfume of Jasmine* (2015).

Since then, she has worked in theatre in Lillette Dubey's production of *Where did I leave my purdah?* and played Kiran in Meera Syal's first theatre show *Generation Next* at the Watermans Theatre and the Royal National Theatre.

More recently, Selina has played the lead role in a short film called *Housewife*.

Selina now works on radio and has been nominated alongside her co-host for Best Radio Show at the Asian Media Awards in 2017 and 2018. She now hosts the weekend breakfast show on Asian Fx Radio.



FOREWORD FESTIVAL

CREDITS

Producers ----- Adam Hemming and Matthew Jameson for Space Productions
Dramaturgy ----- Mike Carter
Design ----- Constance Villemot
Sound Design ----- Keri Chesser and Harry Guest
Lighting Design ----- Andy Straw
Stage Management ----- Catherine van der Hoven
Production Photography ----- Ross Kernahan
Poster Design ----- Keri Chesser
Social Media Management ----- Social Wonderland
Production Assistants ----- Mélisande Pibarot, Daisy Suffield, India Aujla

The Foreword Festival has been funded by Arts Council England and DCMS (Culture Recovery Fund), Cockayne - Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation.



COCKAYNE

The London
Community
Foundation

Visit <https://space.org.uk/> to book or see our full programme

Follow us on



[@thespace](https://www.facebook.com/thespace)



[@spaceartscentre](https://www.twitter.com/spaceartscentre)



[@thespacetheatre](https://www.instagram.com/thespacetheatre)