

20 years of ground-breaking interdisciplinary arts

Key:

- Significant milestones**
- Impact and Influence**
- Awards/critical acknowledgements**
- Grants and endorsements - key organisational developments**
- Human Stories**

YEAR MILESTONE

1989 Ali Zaidi & Keith Khan first work together and articulate a shared vision on creative practice and collaborative processes.

1990 First project funding from Arts Council England (ACE) within Black Arts Video Project for short video *Aiya s Apples, Aisha s Eye*

1991 *Flying Costumes, Floating Tombs* commissioned by London International Festival of theatre (LIFT), Artangel (R&D) and Arnolfini, Bristol, live event presented in Bristol Dock Arena and Paddington Basin in London, plus 4 week installation at Arnolfini Gallery.

motiroti won its first 'Time Out London Dance and Performance Award' with *Flying Costumes, Floating Tombs*. This extravagant spectacle on transference of cultures embodied the company's core values, and brought together visual arts, music and dance, featuring hundreds of performers.

1993 Creation of the first Bollywood Musical *Moti Roti Puttli Chunni*, commissioned by Theatre Royal Stratford East.

Co-production and funding secured from Theatre Royal Stratford East, London International Festival of Theatre, Baring Foundation, Hamlyn Foundation, International Initiatives, Arts Council of Britain, London Arts Board.

Moti Roti Puttli Chunni receives a 'Time Out London Dance and Performance Award'.

Captives, **motiroti's** first immersive installation is commissioned by Walsall Museum and Art Gallery. Featuring 200 live tropical fish, projections and photographically printed bamboo blinds. Specially commissioned hand embroidered silks from Pakistan. Alongside the installation a sculptural light piece was created for the Walsall Illuminations. Attended by 300,000 visitors!

motiroti commissioned by Channel 4 to make sculptural stage and lighting design for Nusrat Ali Fateh Khan concerts in London and live/recorded broadcasts.

1994 Tour of *Moti Roti Puttli Chunni* to Hamburg Festival, Harborfront Centre Toronto, Greenwich Theatre, Leicester Haymarket.

1995 **motiroti** is produced and administrated by artsadmin. Projects include *Maa*, commissioned by Barclays New Stages for Royal Court Theatre, funding from ACE's New Collaborations.

- 1995** *The Seed The Root*; a series of site-specific installations and performances exploring gender and cultural imbalances, created in collaboration with local businesses and international and British artists. The installations and performances (which include a khathak performance by Akram Khan and a shared Bangladeshi food at local restaurants) are sited discretely around Brick Lane and Spitalfields and “discovered” by small groups guided through the area.
- The season ran for over a month, with the popularity and demand of the off-menu dishes specially prepared for the tours by the restauranter’s mother prompted an acknowledgement of ‘Bangladeshi Cuisine’.
- This is a significant milestone in creating interdisciplinary work with strong educational and participatory basis from a core arts and cultural perspective.
- Developed with Tower Hamlets education, LIFT, Arnolfini, Camerawork, funded by London Arts Board, Visiting Arts, ACE’s New Collaborations.
- Wigs of Wonderment*, a performance installation challenging western notions of beauty and the ‘exotic’ commissioned by ICA Live Arts and tours internationally during 1996, 1998, 1999, to Copenhagen City of Culture, De Beweeging Festival Antwerp, Ikon Gallery Birmingham, Union Chapel London.
- 1996** motiroti founded as company limited by guarantee with charitable status, by Zaidi and Khan to formalise their working processes and provide framework for projects. The company leaves artsadmin and moves into independent office space.
- motiroti receives fixed term funding award of £28,800 from ACE.
- Projects include *The Open Sea*: a one-day spectacular with UK and international artists marking the Year of the Visual Arts and specially commissioned for the inauguration of the Docks Museum at Barrow in Furness.
- 1997** Projects include *Anockha*: a live music, film and sculptural installation and the first collaboration with renowned artist Talvin Singh, commissioned by Greenwich International Festival.
- Ali Zaidi and Keith Khan commissioned by Tamaseel Theatre in Lahore, Pakistan as artist designers on *Janam Janam Ki Maili Chaddar*, the inaugural musical to launch the new theatre.
- The production ran for 3 years continuously to audiences of more than 185,000, while a parallel production was presented for 3 months at the National Theatre in Islamabad.
- An early indication of motiroti’s network and experience of intercultural and international working.
- 1999** Travelling exhibition *Plain Magic* takes art out of the conventional gallery setting and into festivals and melas across the country. Due to its success the project is remounted in successive years, 2000 and 2002. Funded by Arts Council England and London Arts Board.
- 2000** Ali Zaidi and Keith Khan’s preferred working environments begin to distinguish between the carnival / street spectacular (Khan) and the immersive / collaborative / participatory installation (Zaidi).

- 2000** Ali Zaidi creates *Fresh Masaala* for Warwick Arts Centre, a blend of photography, soundscapes and digital media exploring cultural representations of being Asian in Britain, working with three lead artists and over 80 participants. Audiences of up to 6000.
- Build*, a sculptural triptych, consisting of three giant Monopoly-style houses - a glass house, a mirrored house and a house of cards, sited at the Turbine Hall, Tate Modern. Commissioned by Department for Employment and Education for the Year of the Volunteer.
- 2002** The Commonwealth Institute commissions **motiroti** to lead on the creation of *Celebration Commonwealth* as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations including The Jubilee Parade down The Mall, London. Working with over 4000 international artists and seen by millions live and on broadcast television. Funded by DCMS, London Arts and marks the beginning of an ongoing relationship with the British Council.
- 2003** Further explorations of hybrid cultures and identity continue with the special edition publication of *Under Your Skin Inside Your Head*, created as a fanzine. Distributed internationally in cities including London, New York and Singapore, it explored the opinions of young people of South and South East Asian descent on a range of issues concerning race and racism, art, fashion, popular culture and status. Funded by A4E. Indication of **motiroti's** increasing interest in working pro-actively with contemporary and widely accessible forms of communication.
- 2003** Ali's professional interest in exploring site-specific interactive digital/visual media installations continues with *Mix & Match*. A club event commissioned by Roma-Europa Festival and supported by the British Council, plays to 1000 visitors.
- Keith's professional interest in working with large-scale spectacles continues with *Waterscapes*, involving multiple participant/artists. Commissioned by the Somerset House. Trust and funded by DCMS.
- 2003-04** *Alladeen*, a large-scale multiplatform project seamlessly merging Bollywood and Hollywood with cutting edge video, performance, internet and music, made with The Builders Association, New York. Commissioned by Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; REDCAT (The Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater), Los Angeles; MIST Residency Program at The Kitchen, NYC.
- Performance is co-produced by Arts International with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Ford Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation; Barbican BITE:03; Le-Maillon, Strasbourg; Roma-Europa Festival 2003; Melbourne International Arts Festival. Global touring throughout 2003, 2004, 2005.
- Winner of New York OBIE Award. Receives huge international media interest in both the content blending of intercultural connectivity, and in digital technology in performance plus as international cross-media project (performance, music video, interactive website all with independent distribution and dissemination methods creating massive global audiences).
- 2004** Keith Khan appointed Artistic Director of Rich Mix and Ali Zaidi becomes the sole Artistic Director of **motiroti**.

2004-05

Fresh Asian video project tours across South Africa and to Lille3000.

motiroti's work is predominantly visual and exhibition/installation led, working with photography, animation, graphic design and digital media.

Cooked With Love, intimate meal and digital slide show for 45 guests commissioned by Laura Godfrey-Isaacs for Home, South London marking Ali's parents 45th Wedding Anniversary.

2005-07

cutout video triptych co-produced with d-box, New York, filmed in Auckland, Cape Town, London, Mumbai, New York and Singapore. Funded by A4E grant through ACE, DCMS.

Presented at the ICA, Bradford Museum, Leicester City Gallery and projected onto the National Theatre flytower as part of the Mayor of London's Thames Festival.

2006

Priceless commissioned by the Serpentine Gallery with The Exhibition Road Cultural Group (Natural History Museum, Science Museum, Royal Geographical Society). A multi-site large-scale project involving video and graphic installations, road-shows, mobile units, guided tours to secret archives and major launch event in & around Exhibition Road.

Sponsored by Bloomberg. Supported by Arts Council England Lottery funding and kind assistance from Westminster City Council, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and Time Out Park Nights.

Board reviews company needs and structures and expansion of core staffing. New appointments made in Learning and Communications.

2006-07

Large outdoor participatory events *Light It!* and *Harvest It!* commissioned by Home, for Myatts Fields Park in South London.

They include targeted learning trajectories with multiple participants and the collaborative process is seamed into the core of motiroti's methodology of generating creative ideas.

Funded by Arts Council England Grants for the Arts and the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Coutts Charitable Trust and the Local Network Fund and supported by Camberwell Arts, Myatt's Fields Park Project Group, The London Borough of Lambeth Events and Parks, Veolia and Visit London.

360 Degrees project is conceived as long-term programme of work continuing explorations of migration, displacement and cultural identity.

2007

Board commissions Sue Storr to conduct structural review of company. This leads to changes in contracts and staffing levels.

60x60 Secs series of one-minute films and website is launched at London Living Room, City Hall and subsequently shown at Dubai Art Fair and BASAS Conference in Leicester.

2008

Rachel Feuchtwang is appointed to new post of Executive Producer. ACE review of funding 2009 – 11, secured by December.

2008

60x60 Secs premieres as multi-screen installation at Shunt, and Vibe Gallery, Brick Lane, London. UK and international presentations at Royal Geographical Society, Aicon Gallery New York, Jamila Millia University Delhi, Alhamra Cultural Centre Lahore, National Maritime Museum London, National Art Gallery Islamabad and others.

London Mix, motiroti and Waterman's participatory public art project for the Cultural Olympiad takes place from March – September. Working with more than 200 individuals and groups through workshops and outreach with five lead artists, the installation is exhibited at Watermans and subsequently invited by BA to show at the newly opened Terminal 5 departures lounge at Heathrow Airport.

360 Degrees programme via **60x60 Secs** exposure generates increased media attention on broadcast networks across India and Pakistan and online throughout the world.

60x60 Secs projected across UK network of BBC Big Screens during coverage of Olympic Games, Beijing 2008.

505 by Juhi Jaferi, Komail Naqvi and Taimoor Tariq wins Impact Award, Ivey Film Festival 2009, Ontario.

The Great Identity Swindle by Yam Boy (Nikesh Shukla) wins Best Short Film, Asian Festival of 1st Films (AFFF), Singapore.

2009

London Mix opens at Ealing Central Library and Heathrow T5.

New project ideas generated in digital platforms, international collaborations, public art commissions and public consultations.

Work with peer group reviews, external advisors and associates continue to broaden perspective of **motiroti** projects, partners and collaborations.

360 Degrees Think-Tank event held in collaboration with Live Art Development Agency involving Keith Khan, Sumant Jayakrishnan, Naseem Khan, Lois Keidan and Homi Bhabba.

60x60 Secs film **The Great Identity Swindle** wins Satyajit Ray Foundation Best Short Award at BAFTA ceremony and subsequent screening at the NFT in London.

60x60 Secs installation tours India with British Council in January, at Bradford Museum's Gallery One from February – May, and at VM Gallery in Karachi in May. Screening events at international festivals in Berlin, Canada, Australia and at Rich Mix and London On Film Festival.

Journeys of Love and More Love co-produced with Napoli Teatro Festival Italia and is critical success. Leads to interest from other international presenters and festivals.

Extensive press coverage in Italian media particularly in significance of Italian socio-cultural perspective on immigration.

Further cultivation of international presenters and festivals for Journeys starts and begins to show significant interest.

Project funding for young people led Public Art Project **A-Maze** awarded from Mediabox for the Department for Children, Schools and Families.