

**PRESS RELEASE - MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR *BLUE MIST* BY MOHAMED-ZAIN DADA DIRECTED BY MILLI BHATIA**

**THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER – SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2023**



From left to right: Salman Akhtar (photographer: Robert Harper), Omar Bynon (photographer: Clare Park), Arian Nik (photographer: Harry Livingston)

**The Royal Court Theatre** today announced **Salman Akhtar**, **Omar Bynon** and **Arian Nik** as the cast for **Mohamed-Zain Dada's** debut play ***Blue Mist***, directed by Royal Court Associate Director **Milli Bhatia**.

Set in the shisha lounges of North West London, ***Blue Mist*** follows a journalist who sells out his own community, in a candid riposte to the portrayal of South Asian Muslim men in the media. It runs in the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs from Thursday 5 October to Saturday 18 November 2023. Press night is Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 7pm.

***Blue Mist*** is designed by **Tomás Palmer**, with lighting design by **Elliot Griggs**, sound design by **Elena Peña** and movement direction by **Theophilus O. Bailey**.

*“Shisha lounges are an essential part of the Muslim experience bruv, like the Fillet o Fish”*

Chunkyz Shisha Lounge is a home away from home for Jihad, Rashid and Asif, a space where community whispers are heard, jokes are told and new hustles are born. But its future is under threat, having become a target for local politicians.

Aspiring journalist, Jihad wants to fight back. After winning a competition to produce his own documentary, he sets out to create something that gives a voice to his community and challenges the usual stereotypes that fill the airwaves.

Will Jihad be able to create something that makes his boys proud? Or will his dreams of becoming a journalist come at a cost too high to bear?

*“A good journalist doesn’t always play friendly. In fact, they mostly don’t”*

*Blue Mist* is a story about South Asian Muslim Men navigating a system that isn’t built for them. Directed by Royal Court Associate Director, Milli Bhatia.

*Blue Mist* is a co-production with SISTER.

There will be a post-show talk with Mohamed-Zain Dada on Tuesday 17 October 2023.

## ENDS

Please find images for *Blue Mist* [here](#).

### Press contacts:

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### Biographies:

#### Mohamed-Zain Dada (writer)

As writer:

For the Royal Court: **SW1: Loot, Living Newspaper: Emily (Glitched) in Paris.**

Other theatre includes: **Zidane of the Ends (High Tide).**

As director:

Theatre includes: **The End of Diaspora (Free Word Centre).**

Film includes: **Otherstani, The Moon is a Meme.**

#### Milli Bhatia (Director)

As director, for the Royal Court: **Baghdaddy, Maryland, seven methods of killing kylie jenner, Living Newspaper, My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid), This Liquid Earth: A Eulogy in Verse [Edinburgh International Festival], Half Full (& RWCMD), Dismantle This Room.**

As assistant director, for the Royal Court: **Inside Bitch (& Clean Break), Poet in da Corner, One For Sorrow, Instructions for Correct Assembly, Girls & Boys.**

As director, other theatre includes: **Chasing Hares (Young Vic); seven methods of killing kylie jenner (Riksteatern, Stadsteatern, Dramaten (Scenkonstbiennalen), The Public Theater NY, Woolly Mammoth DC); Dismantle This Room, The Hijabi Monologues (Bush); My White Best Friend (and Other Letters Left Unsaid) (Bunker); I’m Tired Of Waiting, Someone Pass Me The Duct Tape, (Stratford East).**

As director, film includes: **The Magic Finger (Roald Dahl Story Company), seven methods of killing kylie jenner, Living Newspaper (Royal Court); HOME(BODY) or The Tall Story (Young Vic), Tiny Dancers (NYT), Yash Gill’s Power Half Hour.**

As director, radio includes: **Ghosts In The Blood (Audible).**

### Cast:

**Salman Akhtar**

Theatre includes: **Tartuffe (& Birmingham Rep), Timon of Athens, Tamburlaine (RSC); Platform (Old Vic New Voices); The Flood (Young Vic).**

Television includes: **Man like Mobeen, Andor, Finding Alice, Doctors, Three Girls, Murdered by My Father, Parents of the Band.**

### **Omar Bynon**

**Omar is an actor, writer and workshop facilitator from East London.**

Theatre includes: **duck (Arcola); Julius Caesar (Globe); 2036: Pawn (Bush); Heartfelt, Poet's Manifesto (Stratford East); King Lear, The Oresteia, A Bold Stroke for a Wife, Julius Caesar, Mysterious Bruises, The Laramie Project, The Importance of Being Earnest (RADA).**

### **Arian Nik**

For the Royal Court: **Sokhan Begoo.**

Other theatre includes: **Kabul Goes Pop: Music Television Afghanistan (Hightide/Brixton House); Pufferfish (VAULT Festival); The Village (Stratford East); The Last Testament of Lillian Bocca (Hull Truck); The Ugly One (Park).**

Television includes: **Passenger, Count Abdulla, Bruce, The Bay, Ackley Bridge, Killing Eve.**

Film includes: **Allelujah, The Bower, Dating Amber, Artemis Fowl, The Beekeeper, Hamdardi.**

Radio includes: **Hal, Doctor Who: Absolute Power.**

### **Listings information:**

#### **All upcoming press performances:**

Friday 29 September 2023, 7pm	<i>Imposter 22</i> by Molly Davies,, created with Kirsty Adams, Cian Binchy, Housni Hassan (DJ), Dayo Koleosho, Stephanie Newman, Lee Phillips and Charlene Salter, from an original idea by Hamish Pirie	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Wednesday 11 October 2023, 7pm	<i>Blue Mist</i> by Mohamed-Zain Dada	Jerwood Theatre Upstairs
Thursday 9 November 2023, 7pm	<i>Mates in Chelsea</i> by Rory Mullarkey	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs
Monday 22 January 2024, 7pm	<i>Dana H.</i> by Lucas Hnath	Jerwood Theatre Downstairs

### **Listings Information:**

#### **Blue Mist**

**Thursday 5 October - Saturday 18 November 2023**

**Monday - Saturday 7.45pm, Thursday & Saturday matinees 3pm**

**Captioned Performances** Thursday 9 November 2023, 3pm, Friday 10 November 2023, 7.45pm

**Relaxed Environment Performance** Saturday 11 November 2023, 3pm

**Press Performance** Wednesday 11 October 2023, 7pm

**Post-show talk** Tuesday 17 October 2023

**Standard Tickets** £12 - £25

**Concessions\***

**First Look Tickets\*\***

**Under 27s\*\*\***

**Access** £17.50 (plus a companion at the same rate) across all Bands (excluding Band E) and all performances

\*ID required. All discounts subject to availability

### **Tickets: Ways to Save**

**Concessions\*** - available for previews and matinees. Limited to Band A – B in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Concessions are available for Over 65s, Students, recipients of Jobseekers Allowance, and members of Equity, BECTU, Stage Directors UK or the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

**First Look Tickets\*\*** - as most of the plays we stage at the Royal Court have never been seen before, the first few performances in front of an audience are the final part of a long creative process that starts with the playwright. Our First Look Performances, which are sold at a reduced price, are an integral part of the process. If you book tickets for a First Look Performance (usually the first three previews of a new play), you'll be asked for your feedback which is then shared with the artistic team during the preview period, potentially influencing the final piece.

**Under 27s Tickets\*\*\*** – We have extended our Under 26s ticket offer to Under 27s due to a year of missed discounts during the Covid-19 pandemic. We offer a limited number of £15 tickets for all performances in the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs. Available on Band B tickets, subject to availability.

**£12 Mondays** – all tickets £12 on selected Mondays. Available on the day of the performance from 9am online. A limited number are available in advance, subject to availability, to Friends and Supporters.

# SISTER

Blue Mist is a co-production with SISTER

SISTER was co-founded by Elisabeth Murdoch, Stacey Snider and Jane Featherstone to develop, produce and invest in visionary creators. SISTER builds upon Featherstone's

Emmy and BAFTA Award-winning scripted indie, Sister Pictures, an independent, modern studio with offices in London and LA. It unites the expertise of the founders alongside a team of renowned creatives to make breakout stories across all forms of media. As well as producing hit shows including *The Power* (Prime Video), *This is Going to Hurt* (BBC/ AMC), *Landscapers* (SKY/ HBO), *The Baby* (HBO/ SKY) *Gangs of London* (SKY/ AMC) and *Chernobyl* (Sky/HBO). SISTER has made a series of bold investments in new creator-led businesses including award-winning documentary production company Dorothy Street Pictures, premier British animation company Locksmith Animation, Zando, an ambitious publishing venture from Molly Stern, Campside Media, an award-winning podcast studio, AWA Studios, a comic book and digital media publisher, a partnership with iconic London music venue KOKO and Yes Yes Media, a new non-scripted TV and tech entertainment company. To learn more about SISTER and its work, visit [www.sister.net](http://www.sister.net)