

Asian EASTENDERS



Saturday 20 July 2013



Celebrating British Asian culture in the East End
A fusion of traditional and local influences

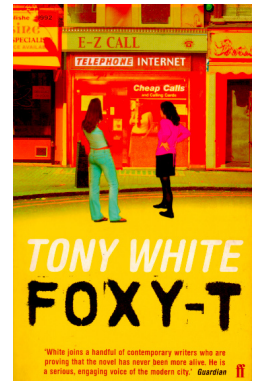
FREE

12:00-1:00

Introduction by
Rushanara Ali
MP, followed by
live music with
Checkered Faces



1:00-1:45 Tony White reading
from **Foxy-T** (An ingenious,
beautifully crafted, thrillingly
contemporary love story set
in the Bangladeshi East End
and narrated in that area's
distinctive patois - *Time Out*)



1:45-3:00 "Making
sense of the smell of
Bangladesh" - a panel
debate on British Bengali
identities hosted by
Swadhinata Trust

3:00-4:00
Live music
with **Spex**
MC and
King Sour
Da MC

Idea Store Whitechapel
4th Floor
321 Whitechapel Road,
London E1 1BU

Part of Cockney Heritage Festival 2013
www.ideastore.co.uk



Many of today's East Enders have developed cultural identities based on a fusion of both traditional and local influences. Rushanara Ali MP introduces a celebration of British Asian culture in the East End, featuring musicians, cultural activists, writers and historians.

Part of the Cockney Heritage Festival, this event is being jointly organised Swadhinata Trust, Idea Store Whitechapel and Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, and is supported by Tower Hamlets Council Arts & Events Fund.

About the speakers

Author event

Writer Tony White will read from and discuss his acclaimed novel *Foxy-T* about the lives of young Bangladeshis working in a phone and internet shop off Cannon Street Road. "An ingenious, beautifully crafted, thrillingly contemporary love story set in the Bangladeshi east end and narrated in that area's distinctive patois" (Time Out). "A serious, engaging voice of the modern city" (The Guardian).

Tony White is the author of novels including the critically acclaimed *Foxy-T* (Faber & Faber, 2003), numerous short stories and the non-fiction work *Another Fool in the Balkans* (Cadogan). His most recent novel *Shackleton's Man Goes South* is published by the Science Museum. Other recent works include a novella *Dicky Star and the Garden Rule* (Forma) that was specially commissioned to accompany works by artists Jane and Louise Wilson to reflect upon the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. He is also currently chair of London's arts radio station, Resonance 104.4 FM.

Panel discussion

Bengali cultural heritage group the Swadhinata Trust curate and chair a panel discussion focussing on the formation and evolution of British Bengali cultural identities in the East End, featuring a keynote presentation by Benjamin Zeitlyn from the University of Sussex.

Chair

Julie Begum was born and brought up in Tower Hamlets. She has volunteered in the community since a teenager and worked as a part time ILEA (Inner London Education Authority) youth worker since 1986. She spent two years as VSO volunteer in Nepal. Julie Begum passed B.Ed Hons at Polytechnic of North London. She re-trained to teach adults English as speakers of other languages in further education college and community education. She has worked with refugees and asylum seekers for three years before starting work in the heritage sector. Julie started working in museums in 2002. Julie Begum is a founding member of Swadhinata Trust and currently its Chairperson.

Keynote presentation

Benjamin Zeitlyn is a Lecturer in International Education and Development at the University of Sussex. He is an anthropologist who works on education, development, migration and identities. His PhD research was about British Bangladeshi children growing up in London. His work developed ideas of transnational social spaces and the experiences of children growing up in multicultural and transnational societies.

Panellists

Sean Carey PhD studied sociology and social anthropology as both an undergraduate and a postgraduate at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He has lectured at the University of Northumbria, and was a research associate at Royal Holloway College investigating "street life and ethnicity" – how members of different ethnic groups used a variety of public spaces -- in a number of east and north London boroughs. He has written extensively on several Hindu religious movements in the UK as well as the Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani communities in the East End of London, and politics and social affairs in the Indian Ocean. He is currently research fellow in the School of Social Sciences, University of Roehampton. Sean writes regularly for the Guardian, Independent, New African, African Business and Mauritius Times. He is also a contributor to the AnthropologyWorks blog, part of the Culture in Global Affairs Programme in the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University.

Delwar Hussain is the author of "Boundaries Undermined: The Ruins of Progress on the Bangladesh-India Border". He is a writer and anthropologist focusing on the contemporary Indian Subcontinent. He was educated in London and Cambridge and has written on Bangladesh for the Guardian since 2009. Hussain is currently researching his next book, a social and cultural history of Dhaka. See more at: <http://www.hurstpublishers.com/author/delwarhussain/#sthash.bhXEEYGp.dpuf>