

PRESS DOCKET – THE RIVER’S DAUGHTER

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Subject: **The River's Daughter Press Release & Media Information**

We are excited to announce our upcoming theatrical play 'The River's Daughter', being staged from 25th – 31st May 2023 at the Zia Mohyeddin Hall NAPA (National Academy of Performing Arts) Karachi, in partnership with the British Council under the Gender Ecologies Programme. The play is produced by Arieab Azhar and ALL4ONE Communications (Private) Limited Pakistan, with Yasmin Whittaker-Khan and Insaan Culture Club as UK partners.

Seasoned theatre director, writer, actor and educator Kulsoom Aftab is the director and dramaturge of 'The River's Daughter'. This is the first play written by Arieab Azhar, a multi-talented artist with extensive experience in music and performing arts who will be returning to the theatre stage after 30 years having grown up as part of the Dastak theatre group of Karachi in the 1980s. Yasmin Whittaker-Khan, an internationally published playwright and cultural promoter from the UK will be the script and production consultant of the play and will organise rehearsed readings of the English script in London in July.

The play features renowned screen actress and model Amna Ilyas in the lead female role of 'Marui', a charismatic young woman defending her village against a mega real-estate project; and acclaimed theatre and television actor Fawad Khan in the lead male role of 'Umar', the powerful director of the Riverfront Urban Project; as well as a host of other talented actors and folk musicians.

The play will take the audience on a journey through the delicate ecosystem of a river and explore the impact it has on the lives of the people living around it; while tackling the pertinent subjects of ecology, economic exploitation, permaculture and climate justice.

'The River's Daughter' raises awareness of indigenous communities struggling to maintain their cultures and values against forced urbanisation and ecological exploitation, while empowering women to seek sustainable solutions for ethical progress.

Laila Jamil, Director Arts, British Council Pakistan, said: *"Climate change is one of our main priorities at the British Council as it is one of the most urgent global challenges we face, particularly affecting the Global South. Through artistic engagement, our Gender Ecologies programme aims to communicate climate issues and promote sustainable practices, highlighting the essential role women play in mitigating the impact of climate change."*

"Theatre is an important art form in Pakistan and we're proud to promote it through The River's Daughter, which features a talented cast and team and is being performed at one of Karachi's leading cultural institutions, the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA)."

For more information and invites, please visit trd.all4onepk.com

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Join us for an exclusive press conference for

The River's Daughter

17 May 2023 | Wednesday

5:00 pm

NAPA Karachi

Don't miss out on this opportunity to know more about
the play and hear from the creative team behind it!

The River's
daughter

25 - 31 May 2023 | NAPA KARACHI

ENDS

About the Collaborators

About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We do this through our work in arts and culture, education and the English language. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2021–22 we reached 650 million people.

www.britishcouncil.pk

To check out our work under the Gender Ecologies Programme – please check #GenderEcologies

About the ALL4ONE Communications (Pvt.) Ltd.

ALL4ONE is a transmedia company; specializing in development communication services, turnkey productions and event management solutions to national and international organizations, companies and established entities across Pakistan and beyond. ALL4ONE was established in 2014 under 70% female ownership.

Links: Instagram: www.instagram.com/all4onepk
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Short Bios

Arieb Azhar – Producer, Writer, Lead Actor (Tota Sa'ain), The River's Daughter

Arieb Azhar is an acclaimed musician, festival organizer and producer. He co-founded the 'Music Mela Festival Islamabad' and curated its first 3 editions before establishing his present festival platform 'Art Langar'. He was also Creative Producer of the award-winning feature documentary 'Indus Blues' and Executive Director of T2F (The Second Floor), Karachi's famous cultural café and art gallery, between 2018 and 2020.

Kulsoom Aftab – Director & Dramaturge, The River's Daughter

Kulsoom Aftab is a dramatist, poet, actor, original content creator, director, translator, voice-over artist, script consultant, writing and acting coach, student counsellor, and member of the NAPA teaching faculty. Kulsoom is an activist for meaningful entertainment, female empowerment, and original content. Her work includes award-winning documentary, Our Jacob; Urdu translation of Stanislavsky's An Actor Prepares; voice-over artist in 3 Bahadur (Pakistan's first animated movie); lead role in Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra (NRT); Urdu adaption of Shakespeare's All's Well That Ends Well; and actor in feature film, Jugnu, produced by Jami.

Yasmin Whittaker-khan – Co-Producer & UK Partner, The River's Daughter

Yasmin Whittaker-Khan is a published playwright and a youth community worker within inner city London, sixth form college since the past 20 years, using the arts to raise awareness of socio-political, gender bias and environmental issues faced by marginalized communities. She established Mitford residents' association (2016) of which she is Chair, to get government support to develop a brown land space into a green, ecofriendly children's play area and street planting project. Yasmin is also a presenter on a weekly Instagram live project Big Bottom Begums that provides a platform for south Asian women to talk about their hopes, aspirations, fears and ambitions.

Muhammad Bin Baseer – Project Manager, The River's Daughter | Director & CEO, ALL4ONE

Muhammad Bin Baseer is a Festivals, Film Productions, and Media Operations and Logistics Specialist; with over a decade of managerial, planning and execution experience in Media support and festivals such as Music Mela (2014-2016) and Art Langar Festivals. Muhammad has films such as Janaan and Parchi as Associate Producer to his credit. Muhammad is also the Co-Producer of a Comedy-Theater Play, Aapka Matlooba Number.

ALL4ONE is Muhammad's brainchild and entrepreneurial venture. In extension to the existing portfolio, Muhammad has recently stepped up to explore the Directorial side in Film productions as Co-Director of the flag-ship project of Brand Pakistan. Muhammad had also been a member of Visiting Faculty of Media Sciences at Iqra University Islamabad Campus.

Sara Khan – Project Manager, The River’s Daughter | Director & COO, ALL4ONE

Sara Khan, a versatile creative powerhouse. With a strong background in Production Design for renowned films like Janaan and Parchi, Sara's passion for filmmaking began in childhood. As Project Manager, she crafted the captivating theme for Art Langar Festivals and excelled in Production Design for Aapka Matlooba Number, along with various DVCs and productions. Managing day-to-day operations, Sara's role extends beyond clients, as she spearheads self-initiated projects, making her the Chief-Right-Brain of the company. Recently, she embraced a new challenge as Co-Producer for Brand Pakistan's flagship film project. Alongside her accomplishments, Sara runs Fitafiny, an online clothing brand. With Sara Khan on board, you have the ultimate creative solution.

Amna Ilyas – Lead Actress (Marui), The River’s Daughter

Starting her career as a model in 2007, she made her big-screen debut as an actress in 2013 with Sabiha Sumar’s critically acclaimed Good Morning Karachi. Amna Ilyas has starred in a string of critically acclaimed films throughout her career, such as Good Morning Karachi (2013), Zinda Bhaag (2014), Gardaab (2015), Baaji (2019), and Ready Steady No! (2019).

She has also been a part of several television and web series that have aired on local channels such as ARY and Express TV, as well as other OTT platforms nationwide. Her current drama Bandish 2, which is a horror drama, is all set to air on ARY this month.

With a desire to seek out characters that aim to empower and inspire, Amna cares strongly about the messages her acting portrays. She aims to create awareness on issues as well as fish out cutting-edge storylines. Amna Ilyas's name remains intact with storylines and characters that keep the audience enthralled.

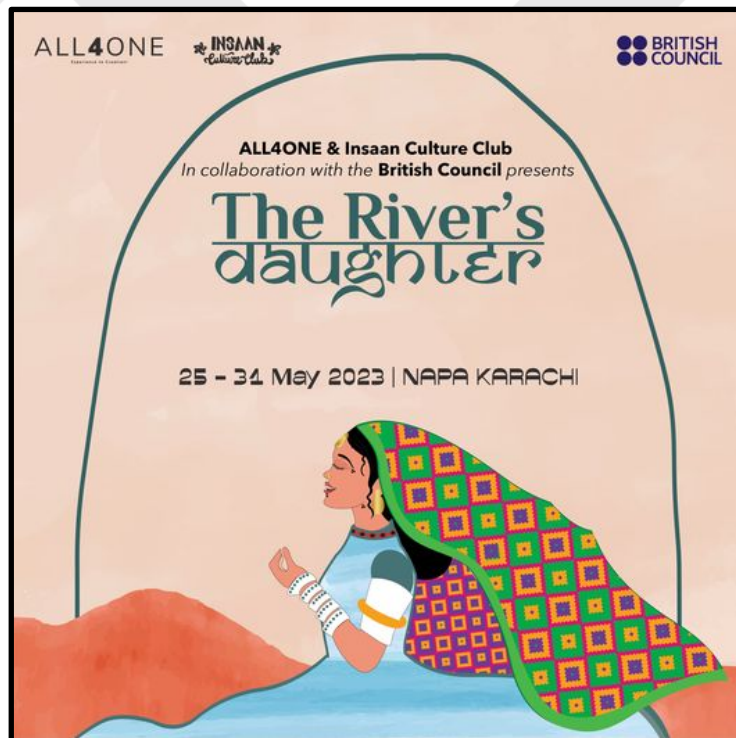
Fawad Khan – Lead Actor (Umar), The River’s Daughter

Fawad Khan is a highly experienced director, actor, teacher, and writer. He graduated with a major in direction from the National Academy of Performing Arts Karachi in 2008 and worked closely with renowned stage directors such as Zia Mohyeddin and Khalid Ahmed. With 14 plays directed and over 20 stage performances, Fawad has also acted in film, television, and web-series. He is the co-founder of Dastango, a platform for the revival of the oral tradition of storytelling. Fawad has recorded over 25 audiobooks in Urdu, available on Audible.

Fawad has been part of major productions including Waiting for Godot, King Lear, Romeo and Juliet, all directed by the late Zia Mohyeddin, Baba Jalinoos, an adaptation of Moliere's Tartuffe, Khoya Hua Aadmi by Kamal Ahmed Rizvi, Qusoorwar, an adaptation of "12 Angry Men" by Reginald Rose, Chup and Betaali Prem Katha, plays that he wrote himself. Fawad has been part of the revival of Dastangoi in Pakistan, and his group, named Dastango, has been working for 9 years to promote Dastangoi. Dastango has performed at all major literary and theatre festivals in Pakistan, schools, colleges, universities, and other neutral venues.

Art Work & Pictures

The River's Daughter



Arieb Azhar



Kulsoom Aftab



Amna Ilyas



Fawad Khan



ALL4ONE Communications (Pvt.) Ltd.

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Experience to Creation!

British Council Pakistan

