

Inspirate Presents



# AN INDIAN SUMMER®



Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July - Sun 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026



**THEATRE • DANCE • LIVE MUSIC**  
**OUTDOOR ARTS • WORKSHOPS • FILM SCREENINGS**

**Jubilee Square • Attenborough Arts Centre • Leicester Cathedral**  
**Phoenix Cinema • Guildhall • LCB Depot • The Big Difference**



@aisfestival

[www.indiansummer.org.uk](http://www.indiansummer.org.uk)

# CONTENTS

- 2. Access Information
- 3. Festival Overview
- 3. Booking Information
- 4. Festival Theme
- 5. Event and Artist Information
- 14. Schedule
- 16. Maps
- 18. Venue Information

# ACCESS INFORMATION

Inspirate and An Indian Summer Festival are committed to making the festival, and all our events, safe, enjoyable and accessible to all. Please keep this guide handy to help you plan your time at An Indian Summer 2026.

You'll also find useful information about the festival at [indiansummer.org.uk](http://indiansummer.org.uk) and on our social media pages: Instagram - [@aisfestival](https://www.instagram.com/aisfestival) Facebook - [AISFestival](https://www.facebook.com/AISFestival).

**A guide to what the different symbols mean for activities, performances and venues**

<b>AD</b> Audio description	<b>CC</b> Subtitles / Closed Caption
<b>TT</b> Touch tour	Wheelchair accessible
<b>FREE</b> Free to attend	Guide/assistance dogs welcome
Loud moments	Suitable for all ages / family friendly
Speech-free activity or performance	Walkabout / roving activity or performance

**PG** **7+** **12+** **16+** **18+** Age Restrictions

# FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

Inspirate's flagship festival, An Indian Summer, is back from Wednesday 1st July to Sunday 5th July 2026, bringing a fresh, bold and unique programme of contemporary South Asian arts and culture to Leicester.

This year's programme features open-air and indoor events happening in venues across the city, including Attenborough Arts Centre, Jubilee Square and the historic surroundings of Leicester Cathedral and Guildhall. Showcasing original work by South Asian artists from across the UK, this year's festival programme features bold theatre, cutting-edge dance, live music, puppetry, film and visual arts.

# BOOKING INFORMATION

**To book our ticketed events and find out more about the festival programme:**

Visit [indiansummer.org.uk](http://indiansummer.org.uk) or scan the QR code with your phone or device to go directly to the festival website.



For festival announcements and updates:



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

# THANK YOU AND CREDITS

Thank you to all the artists, partner organisations and funders who have worked closely with us to create a vibrant festival programme that spans across the city.

With thanks also to Without Walls and Art Reach, with whom we have partnered with to co-commission, support and platform new work by South Asian artists.



Our festival theme this year is:

# CIRCLES AND CYCLES

**Across South Asia and its diasporas, life is often perceived beyond straight lines, blocks of time and linear pathways.**

It is something much more expansive and fluid than this, a journey travelled through cycles, circles, repeating patterns and spontaneous rhythms.

As we move within, through and between our different phases and seasons, we carry the memories and stories that have shaped us. With every cycle of becoming is always a series of returns, honouring all that has come before while making space for rebirth and renewal. We open and close chapters multiple times, beginning again and again and again. We ebb and flow through who we have been, who we are now and the future self we are growing into.

Cycles remind us that change does not mean leaving everything behind, but moving forward with moments cherished, lessons learnt, the courage to challenge and disrupt, embracing the possibilities of all that lies ahead.

As we evolve, our search for circles is ever present, communal places where we can gather with others, be held and nurtured, sharing our individual presence whilst building collective energy. The two inter-connect and co-exist, we enter growth and transformation whilst also seeking a deep sense of home and the quiet joy of belonging.

This year's festival programme brings together South Asian artists from a wide range of disciplines and art forms. Together, we delve into the layers and complexities of this theme, offering a richness of stories, ritual and artistic exploration where past, present and imagined futures merge and weave together.

**Parmjit Sagoo**

*Artistic & Programmes Director*

# FESTIVAL EVENTS AND ARTISTS



**Cycles and Circles Evening Raag** - Live Music - Classical Indian - Sitar Music Society - Kaviraj Singh & Ustad Sukhvinder Singh Pinky

**Wednesday 1st July | 7:30 - 9:30pm | Attenborough Arts Centre**  
**£13, £11 concessions**

Step into an evening of Indian classical music exploring circles and cycles through raag and rhythm. Ustad Sukhvinder Singh Pinky on tabla crafts intricate rhythmic patterns, while Kaviraj Singh weaves santoor and voice into evolving melodies. A meditative journey of repetition and improvisation, where sound continually renews itself through tradition.



16+

**An Asian Occasion** - Live Comedy - Curated by Rahul Somai

**Thursday 2nd July | 8:00pm - 10:00pm (doors open at 7:30pm) | The Big Difference | £15**

An Asian Occasion returns to Leicester with another hilarious compilation of the best stand up comics of Asian descent, with previous acts ranging from award winners to Live at the Apollo stars. Line up to be announced via our festival social media soon.



18+

**Upcycled Sari Wreath Workshop** - Craft Workshop

Priya Velusami

**Friday 3rd July | 2:00pm - 4:00pm | Leicester Cathedral | £52.70**

Come and make a vibrant summer wreath using recycled materials and sari off-cuts in this relaxed and fun workshop with Priya Velusami. All materials, tea, coffee and biscuits included in the price.



16+



**South Asian Creatives** - Networking Event - South Asian Heritage Month

**Friday 3rd July | 6:00pm - 7:30pm | LCB Depot | Free, registration required**

This event will bring together South Asian creatives from across the UK for an evening of connection and storytelling. As South Asian Heritage Month and An Indian Summer come together, we explore Unity in Diversity — sharing real stories, building community, and creating space for conversations and connection.

FREE



18+

**Circular Creations** - Crafts & Visual Arts - Shamila Chady

**Saturday 4th July, Sunday 5th July | 11:00am - 4:00pm | Leicester Cathedral (Sat 4th July) , Guildhall Great Hall (Sun 5th July) | Free to attend, drop-in**

Create your own circular sculpture to proudly carry around the festival. Wrap, bind, weave, interlock, connect & build whilst you play with the materials in a relaxed environment, and chat about the relevance and symbolism of circles, cycles and spirals in your life. Join community artist Shamila Chady for a family-friendly crafting workshop suitable for all ages. No need to book, drop in anytime!

FREE



**Kismat Walla** - Puppetry & Storytelling - Thingumajig Theatre

**Sat 4th July & Sun 5th July | Saturday 4th July - 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Sunday 5th July - 1:10pm, 4:25pm | Cathedral Gardens (Sat 4th July) / Jubilee Square (Sun 5th July) | Free (part of Festival Weekend Programme)**

Delight in the magical world of Kismat Walla, set within the bustling atmosphere of South Asian market streets. This captivating puppetry performance features stories about fate, serendipity and destiny, created by Thingumajig Theatre. Suitable for all ages, this family-friendly show brings stories to life through beautifully crafted puppets and engaging narratives.

FREE



**Aaron Hira** - DJ

**Sat 4th July & Sun 5th July | Saturday 4th July - between 10:30am - 5pm. Sunday 5th July - between 10:30 am - 5:00pm | Jubilee Square (Sun 5th July) Free (part of Festival Weekend Programme)**

Aaron Hira will be our resident DJ throughout the festival weekend, blending contemporary and nostalgic rhythms and melody, creating an ambient and eclectic soundtrack during our festival takeover in Jubilee Square.

FREE





## The Rite of Spring - Dance - Seeta Patel Dance Company

**Saturday 4th July | 1:10pm, 4:25pm | Jubilee Square**  
**Free (part of Festival Weekend Programme)**

Seeta Patel Dance presents a breathtaking re-imagining of Stravinsky's iconic ballet 'The Rite of Spring', brought to life through the powerful classical Indian dance form Bharatanatyam. This pagan folk story is a striking fusion of Western classical music and Indian classical dance, celebrating the connection between cultures in an open-air setting.

FREE



## Garbh - Dance - Shyam Dattani & Mira Salat

**Sat 4th July & Sun 5th July | Saturday 4th July - 12:35pm and 3:40pm, there will be a touch tour at 3:15pm prior to the 3:40pm performance. Sunday 5th July - 12:35pm and 3:40pm, there will be a touch tour at 3:15pm prior to the 3:40pm performance | Jubilee Square | Free (part of Festival Weekend Programme)**

Garbh (womb) is an innovative, in-the-round, outdoor dance work that reimagines the ancient Gujarati Folk Dance 'Garba', giving voice to this underrepresented ancestral form through contemporary choreography and immersive design.



FREE



## Holy Dirt - Physical Theatre - Vidya Thirunarayan, David Glass

**Sat 4th July & Sun 5th July | Sat 4th July - 11:30am, 2:20pm. Sun 5th July - 11:30am, 2:20pm | Jubilee Square**  
**Free (part of Festival Weekend Programme)**

Holy Dirt is a bold outdoor performance by Vidya Thirunarayan. A vibrant, funny, and beautifully episodic performance that playfully explores the mythic feminine as she struggles ridiculously through our climate catastrophe - she stumbles, she dances, she transforms. Clay, stones, water and sand erupt across the space in a visually startling drama set to a rich global soundscape, where the rawness of earth converges with myth and ritual.

FREE



## NADI | नदी | River - Ishika Biswas

**Sat 4th July & Sun 5th July | Sat 4th July - 1:50pm, 5:05pm. Sun 5th July - 1:50pm, 5:05pm | Jubilee Square**  
**Free (part of Festival Weekend Programme)**

In South Asian cosmology, rivers like the Ganga and Yamuna are sacred, yet they are dying. NADI centres the classical river goddess in a ritual of climate grief, asking: What happens when the divine becomes polluted? NADI is an act of mourning and collective resolve, where the body serves as the landscape to invite audiences into an intimate encounter with water, loss, and resilience.

Inspirate and ArtReach are proud to present this brand new co-commission as 'work in development' at this year's An Indian Summer and Journeys Festival International in Leicester from 17-25 October 2026.



FREE





**JAIKUR** - Film and dance - Kesha Raithata

**Saturday 4th July & Sunday 5th July | Sat 4th July - 12:20pm. Sunday 5th July - 4:10pm | Jubilee Square | Free to attend**

JAIKUR is a short dance film and companion to The Lost Breath, rewilding South Asian women within Leicester's green landscapes and the vibrant heart of Belgrave. Rooted in ancestry, diaspora and feminine memory, it becomes an invocation of visibility, belonging, breath and collective remembrance.



**Roots & Rivers** - Film and dance - Nupur Arts

**Saturday 4th July & Sunday 5th July | Sat 4th July - 4:10pm. Sunday 5th July - 12:20pm | Jubilee Square | Free to attend**

Roots & Rivers is a dance film that uses the metaphor of water to explore resilience, adaptability and interconnectedness. Dancers embody currents and flows, moving between unity and divergence, symbolising how nature mirrors human relationships and emotional cycles.



**Advanced Workshop with Seeta Patel Dance** - Dance

Education - Seeta Patel Dance Company

**Sunday 5th July | 10:00am - 4:00pm  
International Arts Centre, Garden St, LE1 3UA | £30**

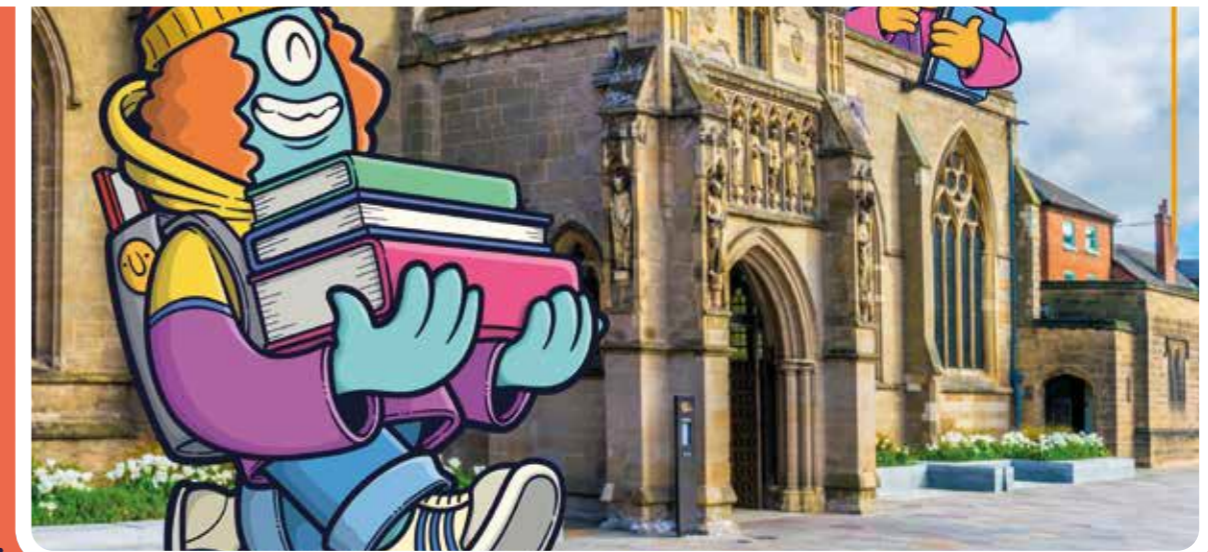
Join our immersive, advanced workshop led by award-winning choreographer Seeta Patel. Participants will deepen spatial awareness in ensemble settings, explore intentional movement through Bharatanatyam technique, and engage in choreographic devising. This event has been collaboratively produced by Inspirate and Nupur Arts.



**Back to Books** - Music & Performance - Pedestrian

**Saturday 4th July | 12:30pm, 2:30pm | Cathedral Gardens | Free to attend**

A sneak preview of performances by local young people for Pedestrian's flagship Back to Books project, inspired by reading for pleasure, the environment, urban life and activism.





**Where I Begin** - Creative Writing Workshop and Open Mic - Writing East Midlands and Leicester's Poet Laureate Mr Shay

**Sunday 5th July | 11am - 1pm - drop in writing activities | Workshop 1:30pm - 2:30pm, Open Mic 3:30pm - 5pm | Free, registration required for Mr. Shay's workshop**

Join Mr Shay and the Writing East Midlands team for a fun day of writing workshops exploring your story, and how your roots, heritage and culture make you the individual you are. The day ends with an open mic event for anyone that would like to share their writing.

FREE



15+

**Sabar Bonda** - Film Screening

**Sunday 5th July | 3:00pm start | Phoenix Cinema | from £6.25**

Winner of the Sundance World Cinema Grand Jury Prize (Drama), Sabar Bonda (Cactus Pears) is a critically acclaimed story of desire, loss and ritual. When city-dweller Anand visits Maharashtra to observe a traditional mourning period for his father, he finds unexpected connections with a local farmer. A 'magnificent film about longing and belonging'. Join us at the Phoenix Cinema for a poignant and tender cinematic journey. (Marathi - with English subtitles).



15+



**Full Circle, Still Turning** - Live Music, Short Film Screening & DJ - Amrit Kaur, Aaron Hira, Kesha Raithata, Nupur Arts Emerge Artists

**Sunday 5th July | 7:00pm - 9:30pm | Leicester Cathedral - indoors | £10**

This event brings the festival to a close with an evening of incredible live music, short film screenings and a live DJ set. Amrit Kaur (sarangi and voice) brings us a live music set, exploring the sacred sound of Sikh musical heritage whilst traversing the worlds of jazz, blues and soul. We'll be screening two short films - Jaikur by Kesha Raithata and Roots & Rivers by Nupur Arts. This beautiful evening of South Asian artistry ends with an informal festival 'gathering' accompanied by a live DJ set from Aaron Hira.



16+

**In Between Worlds: Second Generation Identity Through Creative Practice** - Panel Discussion

**Thursday 23rd July | 7:00pm - 9:00pm (Doors open at 6:30pm) Leicester Cathedral - indoors | £7**

Join us for a special festival 'satellite' event, produced in collaboration with Opal22 and Leicester Cathedral. 'In Between Worlds' is a panel discussion bringing together creatives who identify as second-generation migrants to explore what it means to grow up between cultures, languages, expectations and histories, and how this 'in-between' position informs creative expression and output. Panellists to be announced via our socials soon.



# SCHEDULE

Time	Act/Event/Workshop	Venue	Access Information
<b>Wednesday 1st July</b>			
19:30 - 21:30	Cycles and Circles Evening Raag	Attenborough Arts Centre	16+
<b>Thursday 2nd July</b>			
20:00 - 22:00	An Asian Occasion	The Big Difference	18+
<b>Friday 3rd July</b>			
18:00 - 19:30	South Asian Creatives	LCB Depot	18+
<b>Saturday 4th July</b>			
11:00 - 16:00	Circular Creations Workshop (drop in)	Leicester Cathedral	FREE
11:00 - 17:00	Quiet Space	Leicester Cathedral	FREE
11:30 - 12:00	Kismat Walla	Cathedral Gardens	FREE
11:30 - 12:15	Holy Dirt	Jubilee Square	FREE
12:20 - 12:30	Jaikur	Jubilee Square	FREE
12:30 - 13:00	Back to Books	Cathedral Gardens	FREE
12:35 - 13:10	Garbh	Jubilee Square	FREE
13:10 - 13:40	The Rite of Spring	Jubilee Square	FREE
13:30 - 14:00	Kismat Walla	Cathedral Gardens	FREE
13:50 - 14:10	Nadi: River	Jubilee Square	FREE
14:20 - 15:05	Holy Dirt	Jubilee Square	FREE
14:30 - 15:00	Back to Books	Cathedral Gardens	FREE
15:15 - 15:45	Garbh Touch Tour	Jubilee Square	FREE
15:30 - 16:00	Kismat Walla	Cathedral Gardens	FREE
15:40 - 16:15	Garbh	Jubilee Square	FREE
16:10 - 16:20	Roots & Rivers	Jubilee Square	FREE
16:25 - 16:55	The Rite of Spring	Jubilee Square	FREE
17:05 - 17:25	Nadi: River	Jubilee Square	FREE

Time	Act/Event/Workshop	Venue	Access Information
<b>Sunday 5th July</b>			
10:00 - 16:00	Seeta Patel Masterclass	International Arts Centre	16+
11:00 - 13:00	Creative Writing Activities	Guildhall	FREE
11:00 - 16:00	Circular Creations Workshop (drop in)	Leicester Cathedral	FREE
11:00 - 17:00	Quiet Space	Leicester Cathedral	FREE
11:30 - 12:15	Holy Dirt	Jubilee Square	FREE
12:20 - 12:30	Roots & Rivers	Jubilee Square	FREE
12:35 - 13:10	Garbh	Jubilee Square	FREE
13:10 - 13:40	Kismat Walla	Jubilee Square	FREE
13:30 - 14:30	Where I Begin - workshop	Guildhall	15+
13:50 - 14:10	Nadi: River	Jubilee Square	FREE
14:20 - 15:05	Holy Dirt	Jubilee Square	FREE
15:15 - 15:45	Garbh Touch Tour	Jubilee Square	FREE
15:30 - 17:00	Where I Begin - open mic (drop in)	Guildhall	FREE 15+
15:40 - 16:15	Garbh	Jubilee Square	FREE
16:10 - 16:20	Jaikur	Jubilee Square	FREE
16:25 - 16:55	Kismat Walla	Jubilee Square	FREE
15:00 - 17:00	Sabar Bonda	Phoenix Cinema	15+
17:05 - 17:25	Nadi: River	Jubilee Square	FREE
19:00 - 21:30	Full Circle, Still Turning	Leicester Cathedral	16+

# JUBILEE SQUARE



# LEICESTER CATHEDRAL



# VENUE INFORMATION



## Jubilee Square

Jubilee Square, Leicester City Centre



**What3Words:** ///square.impact.truth

**Accessibility:** Step-free access across the site, with level concrete paths and ramps; no toilets on site, please use Highcross Shopping Centre for accessible, baby changing and changing places toilets; this is a public space in the city centre and can get busy.

**Nearest Parking:** Highcross John Lewis Car Park (Burgess St, Leicester LE1 4QG. What3Words: ///forum.wires.during). Disabled parking bays: 109.

## The Big Difference

High St, Leicester LE1 5YP



**What3Words:** ///nuns.loss.arrow

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair accessible main entrance; accessible toilet available on the same level as the main entrance; no step-free access to the performance space (one flight of stairs to the basement and one flight to the mezzanine area).

**Nearest Parking:** Highcross John Lewis Car Park (Burgess St, Leicester LE1 4QG. What3Words: ///forum.wires.during). Disabled parking bays: 109.

## Phoenix Cinema

Midland St, Leicester LE1 1TG



**What3Words:** ///barks.dirt.visit

**Accessibility:** Step-free access throughout; accessible, baby changing and changing places toilets; wheelchair cinema spaces; hearing loops and audio description headsets.

**Nearest Parking:** Midland Street Council Car Park (Enter via Midland St, Leicester LE1 1TG. What3Words: ///oils.senior.large). There are 3 accessible parking bays at the entrance to the building on Midland Street for Blue Badge holders - maximum stay 3 hours.

## Leicester Cathedral

St Martins, Leicester LE1 5PZ



**What3Words:** ///finest.humans.festivity

**Accessibility:** Step-free access is available throughout the Cathedral and the new Heritage Learning Centre. Level flooring is present across the main nave; accessible toilets are available on-site. An induction loop system is in place for those with hearing aids.

**Nearest Parking:** St Nicholas Circle NCP (St Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 4LF. What3Words: ///voice.deed.pasta). Nearest Parking: Limited on-street Blue Badge parking is available on Applegate and Peacock Lane. What3Words: ///scarcely.making.fruit.

## Attenborough Arts Centre

Lancaster Rd, Leicester LE1 7HA



**What3Words:** ///arts.angle.fresh

**Accessibility:** The building is fully accessible with step-free access to all galleries, performance spaces, and studios. Includes accessible toilets and a dedicated Changing Places facility. The performance hall features dedicated wheelchair spaces and induction loops are available.

**Nearest Parking:** There are 4 dedicated accessible parking spaces on-site for Blue Badge holders (first-come, first-served). Nearest public parking: Victoria Park Car Park (Granville Road, Leicester LE1 7RU. What3Words: ///visit.drag.live).

## Leicester Guildhall

Guildhall Lane, Leicester LE1 5FQ



**What3Words:** ///curiosity.large.emerge

**Accessibility:** The historic building is partially accessible, with step-free access to all ground floor areas including the Mayors Parlour. Entrance doors are large and automatic, and a loan wheelchair is available on-site. There is one dedicated accessible toilet on the ground floor. There is currently no hearing loop system or audio guides available.

**Nearest Parking:** St Nicholas Circle NCP (St Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 4LF. What3Words: ///voice.deed.pasta). Nearest Parking: Limited on-street Blue Badge parking is available on Applegate and Peacock Lane. What3Words: ///scarcely.making.fruit.

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