



SID
AKBAR

ROANN HASSANI
McCLOSKEY

JENN
WILSON

DAVID
SHOPLAND

DARREN
PRITCHARD

TALLULAH
HARRIS

SARA
NESTERUK

OLLIE
POCKET

DHAMAKA ARTS
Presents

• WAS •
PROBABLY
NOT A PHASE

BESHARAM

SHAME - THE FINAL FRONTIER

shame-LESS

Bradford
Producing
Hub

City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

kalasangam

HOPE MILL THEATRE

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



ABOUT THE SHOW

SHAME: The Final Frontier

These are the voyages of the star ship Besharam [Shame-LESS]

Join Captain Sid Akbar, on a mission to explore cultural identity, to seek out an open, queer life, to boldly F*** what other people think, and choose to be themselves.

Besharam [Shame-LESS] tells a personal and political story in a playful and honest way; a story of growing up in Bradford, wishing it was safe and acceptable to be yourself, and wondering if the future you long for is just science fiction

Sid faces reality, explores alternatives, and explodes the limitations of family, faith and culture. Beyond shame are survival, healing and fabulous rainbows of possibility. Join Sid's journey, to take up space like no queer, brown, Bradfordian has done before.

Besharam [Shame-LESS] is the debut show of Dhamaka Arts, commissioned by Bradford Producing Hub Make Work, with funding support from Bradford City Council and Arts Council England.

The production was first performed to sold out audiences at Kala sangam in Bradford in June 2023



ABOUT DHAMAKA ARTS

Dhamaka Arts is the new identity for performances created by Sid Akbar.

"The work I make is socially and politically motivated and inspired by my own experiences. For decades I never saw any representation of queer Muslim stories or roles for me to play. I have had to work twice as hard as my white counterparts to have not just my voice heard but the voices of queer people of colour. My work is comedic, emotional, reflective, a rollercoaster which reflects my life. I want my audiences to empathise with my performances, to learn, to make better choices, to be inspired morally & cathartically, especially for marginalised communities who still struggle with representation and a voice. My work brings together communities as well as creating a safe space for their voices to be heard, to engage with work that reflects their experiences. I like to engage with my audience, in intimate small settings to create a feeling and experience of togetherness." – Sid Akbar

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY

‘Fab! Thank you. Queer representation is so important, particularly intersections with race and religion’
Audience member

‘Made me feel less alone as a queer Muslim making space for myself’
Audience member

‘Really good performance. As a white queer it really highlighted intersectional trauma and further need for allyship with POC Queer peers.’
Audience member

‘I have been blown away. Best of Bradford’
Audience member



TOURING REQUIREMENTS

Set: 1 8ft x 8ft flat, 2 6ft x 4ft flats, 3 projectors, chair, table and props.

Tech: Projection capabilities, desk that can run Laptop with QLab

Preferred seating arrangement: end on

Production staff: 1 tour manager, 1 production assistant

Cast: Sid Akbar

RUNNING TIME: 60 - 65 minutes

GET IN: 3 hours

GET OUT: 1 hour

MARKETING AND PR: A5 flyer, a3 poster (other posters available On request), production photos, reviews (Professional and audience)

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer/Director/Performer.....	Sid Akbar
Development Facilitator.....	Roann Hassani McCloskey
Project Mentor.....	Jenn Wilson
Producer.....	David Shopland
Stage Manager.....	Tallulah Harris
Sound Designer.....	NikNak
Set.....	Raven Staging
Film and Projections.....	Sara Nesteruk
Dramaturg/Choreographer.....	Darren Pritchard
Guest Practitioner.....	Ollie Pocket
Graphic Designer.....	Aarif Nagdee

For more information contact:
dhamakaarts@gmail.com



WWW.DHAMAKAARTS.COM



@DHAMAKAARTS



@DHAMAKAARTS

SUPPORTED BY



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**Bradford
Producing
Hub**

kalasangam



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL