

24/11/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to confirm Bradford Arts Centre’s (formerly Kala Sangam) support for Sid Akbar and Dhamaka Arts’ new work, *The Wrath of Khandan: The Shame Strikes Back*.

We will be programming the show in June 2026 as part of our Spring/ Summer Season and to celebrate Pride month. Dhamaka Arts’ previous show, Besharam, premiered with us in June 2023, attracting strong audiences and we are excited for the follow up.

Sid is using his lived experience as an openly gay, Neurodiverse, South Asian Man to create work that is both relevant and important. Addressing both the traumas he has faced and the joys, he is telling stories that really connect with queer audiences and that need to be shared more widely. For many in the LGBTQIA+ community, Sid’s work reflects their own struggles and gives a platform to voices that are often overlooked.

The Wrath of Khandan will form the final part of a trilogy autobiographical work created by Sid and shows a clear development of his skill as a writer and theatre maker. As we come to end of Bradford’s year as City of Culture, it is important that an artist like Sid receives investment to continue to build on the legacy of the year and to ensure that Bradford based talent is able to make more work that tells the stories of this city.

Our support for this project includes:

Performance fee:	£1000
Tech support:	£600 (in kind)
3 Weeks Studio Time:	£3000 (in kind)
Marketing and Box Office support:	£500 (in kind)
Total:	£5,100 (£4,100 in kind)

I am really looking forward to working with Dhamaka Arts again and seeing *The Wrath of Khandan: The Shame Strikes Back* on stage in Bradford.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Corwin, Programme and Artist Development Manager

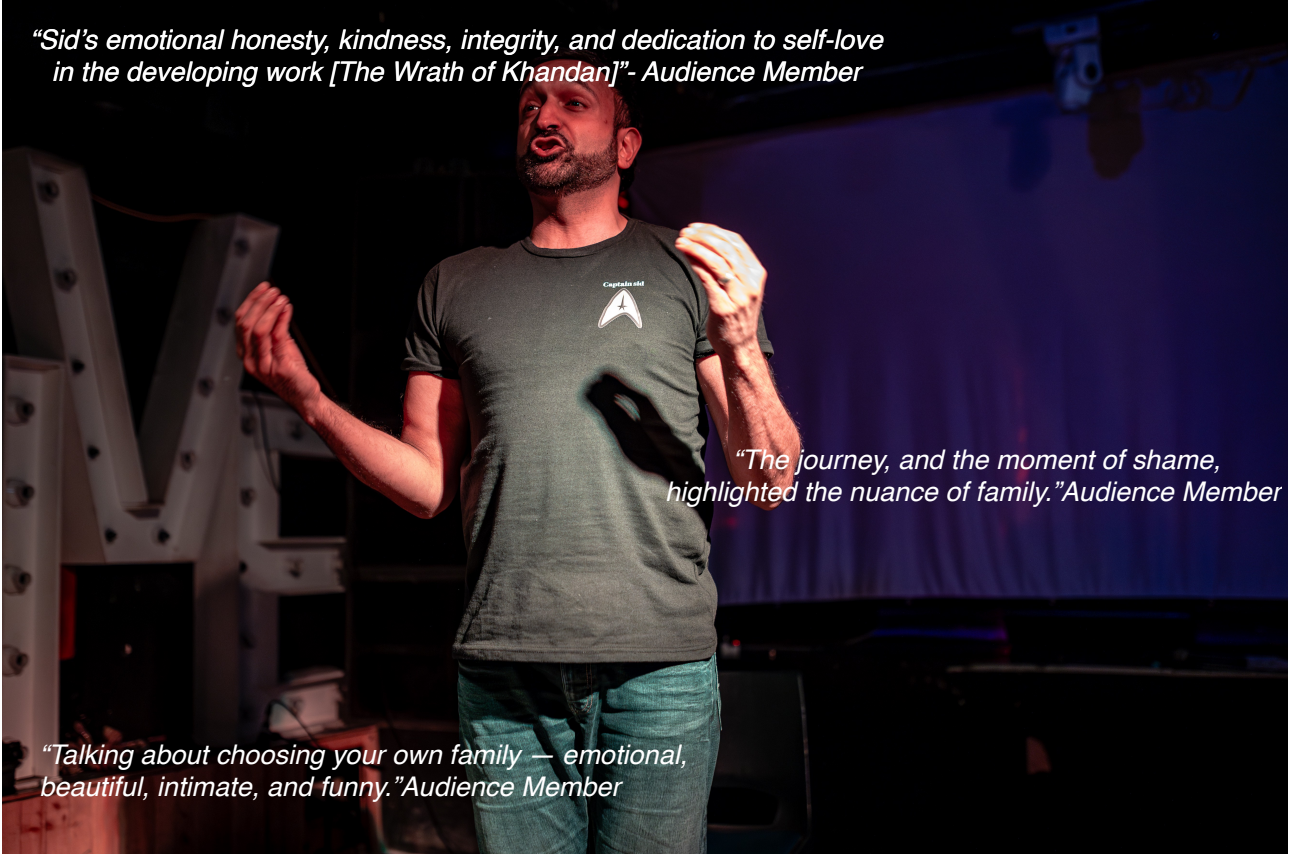


"A personal, vulnerable, real story that parallels my own" - Audience Member



"The mix of emotional storytelling that was both touching and funny" Audience Member

"Sid's emotional honesty, kindness, integrity, and dedication to self-love in the developing work [The Wrath of Khandan]"- Audience Member



"The journey, and the moment of shame, highlighted the nuance of family." Audience Member

"Talking about choosing your own family — emotional, beautiful, intimate, and funny." Audience Member



10th March 2025

Dear Arts Council England,

We are writing to express support for the funding application by Dhamaka Arts to develop its new production '*The Wrath of Khandan: The Shame Strikes Back.*'

Happy Valley Pride has been in regular contact with Sid Akbar and Jenn Wilson about the project for some time now, and we are very excited about the potential to showcase it as part of our year-round engagement.

This coincides with our plans to form a new South Asian Network in Calderdale, aimed at expanding our offering to include more work that appeals to the South Asian community in our area, alongside increasing our understanding of the barriers faced by the South Asian Queer community when accessing LGBTQIA+ art.

Following the success of *Besharam [sham-LESS] – Shame The Final Frontier*, *The Wrath of Khandan* will explore the concept of family, exploring the complex relationships between biological family and chosen family, which we believe is an extremely important concept under-explored in Calderdale.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Tim Whitehead
Artistic Director

tim@happyvalleypride.com



I loved it! I thought it had the right amount of humour, it was so representative! - Audience Member



I resonated with acceptance! - Audience Member

It's a privilege to come to the theatre and feel as if you've been given a gift, and that's what the show was for me' - Audience Member



'Charismatic, Innovative and Hilarious'



'Amazing, Thoughtful, Honest' - Audience Member



Dear Arts Council England Project Grants Assessment Team,

I am pleased to be providing this letter of support for Sid Akbar and his upcoming production, *The Wrath of Khandan - The Shame Strikes Back!*

Bradford Producing Hub has been supporting Sid's development for a number of years now, having commissioned his first solo production 'Beshararam' in 2022. We are proud to continue to partner with Sid as he develops this important programme of work. We are pleased to be able to provide support including resources, mentorship, and support, helping to ensure this production's success.

Sid's work draws from his lived experience as a queer British Pakistani person from a Muslim background, born and raised in Bradford - his stories resonate deeply with Bradford's diverse communities and beyond. As a city with a rich and diverse cultural heritage, Bradford thrives on stories that reflect its communities' lived realities.

Sid's work is a testament to the power of authentic storytelling, highlighting the intersectionality of class, race, and queerness. His innovative approach not only challenges conventional narratives but also celebrates the resilience and vibrancy of underrepresented voices. His exploration of queer chosen family versus biological family, framed within a sci-fi context, offers a unique and fresh perspective while addressing universal themes of acceptance and connection.

We are proud to champion Sid Akbar as he continues to create transformative and representative work that puts Bradford at the forefront of innovative and inclusive theatre-making through *The Wrath of Khandan*. Our partnership reflects our shared vision of empowering artists who challenge norms and create lasting cultural impact.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Mallaghan
Executive Director