



Presents

# WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

**A film by Shekhar Kapur**

108 mins, UK, 2022

Language: English and Urdu with English subtitles

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## SHORT SYNOPSIS

How do you find lasting love in today's world? For documentary-maker and dating app addict Zoe (Lily James), swiping right has only delivered an endless stream of Mr Wrongs, to her eccentric mother Cath's (Emma Thompson) dismay. For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbour Kaz (Shazad Latif), the answer is to follow his parents' example and opt for an arranged (or "assisted") marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan. As Zoe films his hopeful journey from London to Lahore to marry a stranger, chosen by his parents, she begins to wonder if she might have something to learn from a profoundly different approach to finding love.

## LONG SYNOPSIS

Zoe (Lily James) is a documentary filmmaker living in London, in search of her next project. At a pitch meeting, her new ideas are dismissed by insufferable execs as too "bleak", until she remembers that her childhood friend and neighbour Kaz (Shazad Latif) - with whom she recently reconnected - has just made the surprise announcement that he's decided to let his parents choose him a suitable match. What about a documentary on modern arranged marriage (or "assisted marriage" as it has apparently become known) in modern multi-cultural Britain? A chance to address some cultural misapprehensions as well as to examine a different approach to finding love?

Zoe's film gets the greenlight. After the small matter of convincing Kaz and his parents Aisha (Shabana Azmi) and Zahid (Jeff Mirza) to let her film them, the journey to find Kaz a wife gets underway. It begins with a visit to Mo the Matchmaker (Asim Chaudhry), where Zahid insists that Kaz needs a "companion, not a click". Curious to understand why Kaz, who is the last person she ever expected to agree to marry someone he doesn't really know, would choose this path, Zoe sets about interviewing other couples whose relationships were arranged. Her subjects share their stories in a rarely seen light: as stable relationships that end with love, rather than beginning with it.

After an unfruitful speed-dating session presided over by matchmaker Mo, Kaz is introduced over Skype to the intriguing and beautiful Maymouna (Sajal Aly), a law student in her early 20s who lives in Pakistan.

Zoe's own love life, meanwhile, is on the back burner. The infinite choice of the digital world is not helping the commitment-averse Zoe find "the one". Meanwhile, her fretful, culturally unaware and blunderingly tactless mother Cath (Emma Thompson), following the example of her neighbours the Khans, attempts to matchmake her daughter with her "lovely" vet James (Oliver Chris) with less success.

Within a matter of weeks, Kaz and Maymouna are engaged and the wedding is set for Lahore. Cath joins Zoe and three generations of the Khan family - Kaz, his parents, his grandmother Nani Jan (Pakiza Baig), brother Farooq (Mim Shaikh) and new sister-in-law Yasmin (Iman Boujelouah) - as they travel to Lahore, Pakistan for the three-day celebrations. Cue a raucous mehndi - the pre-wedding party - in which Maymouna reveals a wilder side.

Whilst in Lahore, Zoe asks more questions about Kaz's estranged little sister, Jamila (Mariam Haque), whose choice of a love marriage to David, a non-Muslim partner she picked for herself, has created a rift between her and her family - the pain of which haunts the Khans.

Meanwhile, Zoe grapples with her own complicated feelings about love, intimacy, and commitment, leading her to challenge Kaz about his decision to marry someone he doesn't yet love. Kaz, in turn, questions Zoe's own choices - why does she "actively search out anyone who is wrong"? Kaz remains committed to his decision - after all, isn't love less precarious when you walk into it rather than fall head over heels into it? He and Maymouna get married in a traditional Pakistani ceremony, a nikah, filmed by Zoe.

Back in London, Zoe decides to take a leaf out of the Khan playbook and to her mother's delight, starts dating James, the vet. As Zoe prepares to show a rough cut of her film (which includes a surprise bombshell) to Kaz's family and other friends, she begins to wonder whether there is a happy middle ground somewhere between passion and pragmatism - in the search for lasting love.

## **WRITER'S STATEMENT | JEMIMA KHAN**

Aged twenty, I left my life in London for a marriage that took me to Lahore and Islamabad, where I lived for a decade and had my two sons. During that time, I developed a deep affection for Pakistan: a vibrant and fascinating, yet often negatively depicted country. Living there opened my eyes to a profoundly different perspective on finding lasting love. And so, **WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?** began as an exploration of the contrast between Eastern and Western approaches to romance.

While, for my friends in England, arranged marriage was often seen as some sort of medieval chattel swap (so often confused with the harrowing idea of forced marriage), I started to see some merits in the seemingly unromantic consensual arrangement. Over the course of my time in Pakistan, I saw many arranged marriages succeed. I may even have been asked to arrange a few myself...

The couples I met whose marriages had been arranged didn't start with love - they ended with it. According to Pakistani friends, lifelong love was founded on a "simmer then boil" philosophy. Compatibility, rather than chemistry, formed a more solid foundation alongside the traditional ideas of shared value systems over adventure, and pragmatism over passion. My own marriage was the only love marriage in my ex-husband's family history. And the only divorce.

After I returned to London, the dating landscape radically shifted; endless options only a swipe away, thanks to the booming popularity of dating apps, which presented their own problems; the tyranny of choice, the dispiriting sense of disposability, expectations distorted by a diet of romcoms.

I joked with my single friends in London that we all might benefit from an unashamedly practical social system that insists on clear intentions stated upfront, a pre-agreed marriage contract to manage expectations, and an opportunity to meet available, like-minded, non-commitment phobic men, chosen by the people who know us best. And that's where the idea for the film came from.

I wanted to reflect this modern-day conundrum; through the two lead characters: Zoe, the commitment-averse app addict and Kaz, who swerves the romantic whirlwind and delegates his choices to his happily married parents.

I also wanted WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? to be a celebration of Pakistan. When I lived there a common complaint was that, in Western screen depictions, Pakistanis were generally portrayed as either crazed and fanatical, or backwards, their country often labelled one of the most dangerous in the world, talked about only in terms of terrorism or extremism. I intended WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? to be a celebration of the multicultural Britain that my British-Pakistani, Muslim sons inhabit and also of the hospitable, colourful and joyous Pakistan that I know. Let's call it a love letter to Pakistan... my old friend.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT | SHEKHAR KAPUR**

Love and intimacy - the most used and yet the most misunderstood words in our vocabulary, and yet we search and search for a true experience of these words. That's what I found exhilarating in Jemima's script. The opportunity to explore these words in depth yet contain them in a romantic comedy.

And then, as I always do, I work with my actors as each one of us explores what these words mean to us. It's been an incredible journey ... and now it's over to you, the viewer. To join us in our tears, our laughter, and our search. For yourselves.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? began life more than ten years ago as writer, Jemima Khan, looked to explore a story inspired by her experience of living in Pakistan for a decade.

She intended to show a more joyful and hospitable Pakistan than the one more commonly seen on our screens. "I wanted to do the Working Title romcom version of Pakistan for Western audiences for whom there is a tendency to view the country as either backwards or frightening. I hope this film shows some of the joy and colour I encountered in my ten years living there."

Before the film project, Khan wrote about the "arranged marriage business" in the UK for The New Statesman and The Sunday Times, as a journalist and made a radio documentary for Radio 4. The speed dating scene with Mo was based on a 'Practising Muslim Marriage event' she attended in London's East End while researching a piece for the New Statesman. "Arranged, or "assisted" marriage is big business in the UK and worldwide", Khan says. "Around 55% of marriages worldwide are still estimated to be arranged. In Pakistan that figure is 85%, and in India 90%. The South Asian population of the UK numbers over 3 million people, which is roughly 5% of the population, and around 4.4% of the UK population are Muslim. Arranged marriage is still the norm for the majority in these communities, though that is changing with the younger generation. Yet despite its continued popularity and prevalence, arranged marriage - based on choice and consent - is still regularly confused with forced marriage in the West or else considered an alien concept."

Like her principal character Zoe, Khan interviewed dozens of Pakistani and British Pakistani couples, young and older while researching the script, exploring if, why and how the assisted aspect of their marriages had worked. "I interviewed about 30 British Pakistani men who were the same age as Kaz and who had either decided to have an arranged marriage or had recently had one, as well as loads of married couples both in the UK and Pakistan, who I found and interviewed, via Twitter. " says Khan.

A draft of her script was sent to Shekhar Kapur, the Academy Award® -winning visionary behind BANDIT QUEEN (1996), ELIZABETH (1998), and ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (2007). "Shekhar was born in Lahore, grew up in India and was educated in London - he experienced all these clashing cultures first hand. Of course his Eastern lens on the West was the reverse to mine, so he brought a different perspective to these stories" explains Khan. "He's a brilliant cinematic director and a master at directing strong, flawed, emotionally complex female characters as he did in BANDIT QUEEN and ELIZABETH, which made him an interesting if counter-intuitive choice for a romcom. I think he gave the film a depth it might otherwise not have had."

"I thought the script was really good and really interesting," says Kapur, who had not seen south Asian culture represented in this way before. "It dealt with issues that I haven't seen any other films deal with. Issues of commitment and falling in love. About a girl fearing intimacy, being addicted to dating apps whilst also looking for a real relationship, how does someone do that? How do you do that compared to somebody else making up your mind for you? So there is that concept of too much choice, and no choice. And in between, somewhere, lies the ability to find a relationship. Not many films look at the internal life of people who are struggling with this dichotomy right now."

Kapur began his process with a table reading with actors to see what could come alive. He studied the words and their individual rhythms and was careful to allow the actors to play to their strengths. "That was the first thing we did, we just called a group of actors, which the casting director arranged. I said, 'When we get a reading, we get a sense of what the script really is'. So that was the beginning of the journey."

Khan didn't necessarily intend her story to be a rom-com, nor did Kapur particularly intend to direct one. "I didn't really know what it was when I started out," says Khan. "This is my first script and it took me a

really long time to get it into any kind of shape I felt confident enough to share. Along the way, I started to realise that sometimes it's easier to say something meaningful about complex issues when you do it in a gentle humorous way. I think someone once said that a joke is just the truth with a smile."

One of the things Kapur found most appealing was the balance between creating a family drama within the upbeat conventions of a romcom: "I knew that this film would have audiences going out with tears in their eyes and a smile on their face. It's an emotional family film with a lot of comedy."

Working Title producer Nicky Kentish Barnes had an extraordinary job to oversee, "we had eight weeks to pull off an incredibly tough job." It was a difficult shoot - if only for the sheer scale of planning involved and the mounting practicalities of filming in a pandemic. The film also required multiple looks and backdrops to convince viewers it was moving between London and Lahore, from everyday work milieu to the glamour of a Pakistani wedding. "Tara McDonald in makeup and Caroline McCall in costume pulled it off brilliantly," says Barnes. "There's a very important cultural aspect to everything that happens in this film and getting even the smallest details right - the outfits, the looks - was crucial."

Yet Kapur still managed to finish filming within 44 days. Filming took place on location in and around London, while a country manor in Suffolk doubled up as the palace in Lahore in which Kaz and Maymouna's mehndi took place. Travel restrictions curbed the crew's ability to shoot in Pakistan or elsewhere, and so external shots of Lahore were filmed remotely by a satellite crew presided over by Academy Award®-winning Pakistani filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy.

The score was composed by Ivor Novello Award-winning and Mercury Prize nominated composer, Nitin Sawhney CBE. "The music was really about finding a vocabulary," explains Sawhney. "It's a complex film in one way, but it's simple in another. It has lot of different cultural influences that needed to be balanced in the right way."

Sawhney's ambition for the score was intricately connected with the themes of the film. "I think the whole film is about coming to terms with, and reconciling, identity which is something that anyone of Asian heritage who's grown up in the UK is very aware of... it was also a process that evolved around the emotions and psychology of the characters. The music effectively became their story, the love story. It developed with the understanding and the confidence of the narrative and characters."

Sawhney also wrote three original songs for the film including "Mahi Sona" which he co-wrote with Naughty Boy as well as "Nachho Gao" and "Apni Suno" with both music and lyrics by Sawhney.

Additional artists that feature on the soundtrack include some of the biggest stars from Britain and South Asia: Grammy-winning British-Pakistani record producer, DJ, songwriter and musician, Naughty Boy, three-time BRIT Award and Mercury Prize nominee Joy Crookes, legendary Pakistani singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, superstar Indian singer Kanika Kapoor and British singer Preeya Kalidas.

Naughty Boy, who has worked on tracks with Beyoncé, Emeli Sandé and Sam Smith, brings his production and writing skills to the project on the track "Mahi Sona", which was co-written with Nitin Sawhney, and features during Kaz and Maymouna's Mehndi. He was thrilled that his first film work was so resonant to his own experience. "My parents are Pakistani, I was born here, I spent much of my teenage years thinking about opting for an arranged marriage," he says. "Coming from the same background as Kaz I wanted to do the track justice. The film has this fusion of Pakistani and English culture which was exciting."

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan also features on the track "Mahi Sona", as well as appearing in the film itself. "It doesn't get more Pakistani and global than him," Naughty Boy elaborates. "He is part of a dynasty of Qawwali music, the most popular South Asian music in the world. His uncle, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, is a

legend and performed with Michael Jackson. If you want to do something epic, Rahat will always deliver.”

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan played at Jemima Khan’s wedding, alongside his uncle Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. “He is a South Asian legend revered by all the greats including Mick Jagger, Peter Gabriel, Michael Jackson”, Khan says. “We used to travel around the World on tour with his band, raising money for my ex-husband’s cancer charity in the 90s. The crowds would become ecstatic watching him, entranced and deeply moved by the music, which was historically used to spread the Sufi message across the subcontinent. When I heard Rahat was in London, I said to Shekhar that we had to get him in the film. They had worked together in the past and had huge mutual respect for one another so Rahat agreed to play a cameo as himself in the film, which was thrilling for me and his other fans on the team”.

## WHY LOVE, WHY NOW?

WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? is a witty and emotionally charged love letter to a world Khan and Kapur both know and have seen from different perspectives.

Khan, born Jemima Goldsmith, had her own experience to draw on: in her twenties, she lived in Pakistan for ten years with her then husband Imran Khan, the Pakistani ex-cricketer who later became prime minister of Pakistan in 2018. During her time there she developed a deep affection for Pakistan. She is fluent in Urdu and understands Punjabi and some Arabic. Khan’s dual heritage, Muslim sons are now in their twenties, and she is especially hopeful that they - and their peers - will be able to relate to the stories shared in the film.

Shabana Azmi, who plays Kaz’s mother Aisha Khan, believes the film sees it from both points of view. “To the Westerner, an arranged marriage might seem like something which belongs to the eighteenth century. But now there is an understanding that maybe there has been some element of sagacity in having your parents, who know you best of all, trying to make what they call an assisted marriage,” says Azmi. “That’s where you basically just get the couple to meet each other and if they like each other, then they can carry it from there. In the West, we have different ideas of love and what I love very much about this project is the idea of ‘falling in like and walking into love’. That is a precious line.”

“Have we all been ruined by romcoms?” asks Khan. “Do our fantastical romantic expectations see us looking for all the wrong things in all the wrong directions? I’m a fan of the idea of the mutually consensual “assisted” marriage and have often thought that I might have benefited from one myself if my parents could ever have agreed on a match.”

Kentish Barnes was aware of the assumptions and stereotypes that the film might be subject to. “When arranged marriage comes up, people might assume that this is going to be maybe a harsh criticism of it,” she says, “and that’s not at all what the film sets out to do. Actually, there’s a good balance between the pressures and expectations that feature in both the western and the eastern models.”

It was important to Khan, Kentish Barnes and Kapur to present arranged or assisted marriages in a relatable way: as the everyday normality that they are for millions of couples around the world, rather than have them lampooned, “othered”, or ranked as inferior. Arranged marriage is the norm in South Asia, which accounts for around 25% of the world’s population with over 1.9 billion people.<sup>1</sup> And there are over 43 million people of South Asian origin living outside the subcontinent<sup>2</sup>: as well as making up

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<sup>1</sup> <https://population.un.org/wpp/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/regional-data-overview/southern-asia>

5% of the UK population<sup>3</sup>, there are nearly 2 million South Asians in Canada (5.6% of the population)<sup>4</sup>, and nearly 5.4 million people of South Asian heritage in the US<sup>5</sup>.

“You can see why Kaz would accept it,” says Kentish Barnes. “You look around and you see a lot of your friends having disastrous relationships, or even disastrous marriages and your parents happily married, arranged by their parents. So, you think “Why not?”.

“Like many of the British Pakistani young men I spoke to, Kaz has genuinely come to the conclusion that this is the surest route to a happy-ever-after married life for him because he’s seen it work for his parents,” says Khan. “They have a very happy marriage, which was arranged. So he has no real qualms about delegating the task of finding a wife to his parents because he feels that as long as he’s involved in that process, and he is able to meet and get to know the girl, that choosing someone to spend your life without the distraction of blinding physical attraction at the start is probably as good way a way as any to find a life partner. I was very aware that often the Pakistani arranged marriage candidate in Western films is presented as the suboptimal boring or unattractive, one-dimensional, second-choice option which is why we so wanted Sajal Aly to play Maymouna. She is beautiful, clever and charming and Kaz is genuinely dazzled by her.”

At the heart of the film is also the question of intimacy. For Lily James, who plays Zoe, the appeal is that the film asks fundamental questions about how love happens and why: “The whole film is about needing something, longing for something, and trying to engage openly, and without pretence, with this sort of facade of what life should be like, or what relationships should look like, or what family should look like. It’s about stripping that all away.”

Despite the questions WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? asks about how to find enduring love, the central premise of the film is that there is no one way to find happiness. “There is no single path which you will go down,” says Kapur. “You have to find your own harmony, your own intimacy even if that is painful”.

## THE CAST

Shazad Latif, who plays Kaz, was one of the first actors to be signed up three years ago. “When the audition came up, I was like: ‘That’s crazy!’ A film by Jemima Khan? My mum used to keep a little scrapbook of Jemima, she was pretty obsessed with her because my Mum was British, married to a Pakistani man, so she had a scrapbook of Jemima. So I knew this was one of those moments: I have to get this.”

For months, Latif would be on daily Skype calls with his director. “We spent like two months where he would just call me, and he’d just talk. And I was like, ‘What’s going on here? We’re just talking. We’re not even rehearsing.’ And then suddenly, it clicked: he was just trying to find the character, you know, unravel him and get the feeling of it and it’s just such a lovely way of working when you have that time to do that because normally you don’t... Shekhar’s one of the great filmmakers, so getting a chance to explore that with him? Of course.”

As the production geared up, one of Latif’s closest friends - Lily James - became involved with the project. “Jemima’s done an amazing job at creating something so funny and full of heart in that very brilliant romantic comedy genre,” says James, who plays Zoe, “but also it’s about something interesting that’s culturally more exciting. And Shazad is one of my closest friends. I have been friends with him for the last ten years, so when I got the email and it said Shazad is playing Kaz, it was during the first lockdown and I was like, ‘OK, I definitely want to do it, then!’”

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<sup>3</sup> <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/south-asians/>

<sup>4</sup> [South Asian Canadians | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Demographic Information | SAALT](#)

Finding Maymouna, the third part of the love triangle, was a huge endeavour. “That was quite a hunt,” confirms Kentish Barnes who helped bring on board Sajal Aly, an incredibly famous Pakistani actress. “I didn’t think it was ever going to be possible. We weren’t even factoring in travel - and how was that going to work with COVID?” Aly has a major following in Pakistan and it was unlikely the travel restrictions would allow her to work in London but luckily, says Kentish Barnes “she was completely game” and up for doing whatever it took to make it work.

At home, Khan was unconvinced that Emma Thompson would agree to play Cath, Zoe’s mother – even though the part had her name on it from the beginning. However, Thompson had been keeping an eye on the iterations of Khan’s script. “Jemima just suddenly discovered the essence of it, and the script had become this incredibly funny, warm comedy with a great deal to say about family, love, and marriage”, says Thompson.

“Cath’s very innocent in many ways, but she is deliriously ignorant...she just doesn’t know because of the age that she is, because she’s grown up in...a very white middle class way.” Thompson says Cath “totally embraced [the culture] and loves everything about it. She loves the food. She loves the people.”

The script gave Thompson pause for thought. “It’s full of the contradictions and compromises of humanity that we’re all forced to make at every step of the way, however idealistic we might be,” she says. “The message is that we all belong to one another. No matter what culture we come from. No matter what walls we may decide to put up inside ourselves. The fact of the matter is that all humans belong to all humans.”

For Shabana Azmi, the role of Aisha Khan, a middle-class Pakistani woman who migrated to England with her husband decades ago, was fortuitous: she worked on Kapur’s first film almost forty years ago. The feature, *Masoom* (1983), was a major critical and commercial hit and Azmi welcomed the chance to work with Kapur again. “Aisha is the brains, she’s worldly, she knows how to conduct herself,” says Azmi. “I’ve played a lot of Pakistani characters in British films and television in the terrorist/victim/mother bracket, whereas this was something funny and lovely. It’s important in today’s world where everything seems to be so sombre and so dark to get something which is light and makes you feel good.”

For Kapur, the process was playful - or at least, it was designed to be in order to allow the actors to loosen up and trust one another. Often he would assemble them into a scene and leave them to their own devices, without direction, until they began to act without being told to.

## CREATING KAZ

Kaz, a British Pakistani Muslim doctor, is the pride of his mother’s life. He is dreamboat handsome, witty, successful and inclined to do “the right thing” by his family. At 32, he hasn’t found his future life partner and so, with relative ease, throws the opportunity open to his parents to help him find someone to settle down with.

Kaz is “the last person you’d ever expect to do something like this” as his friend Zoe says in a meeting with commissioners in which she pitches the idea of filming his journey to find a bride. That’s because, like her, Kaz grew up next door in a sleepy London suburb. They share the same jokes and cultural references. He drinks (behind his parents’ back), smokes (ditto) and parties. He’s a Londoner through and through - they share plenty in common and so Zoe is baffled that he would want to do something so alien to her.

But Kaz has grown up in a huge family of successful arranged or assisted marriages and has a prevailing sense of duty. As Shazad Latif tells it:

“Kaz is at that point of going, ‘You know what? This actually might be easier because I’ve tried every other thing and it’s not working.’ And I suppose the core for him is that his sister, Jamila, has been

expelled from the family. He feels like he has the responsibility to keep the family together and by having this arranged marriage that will sort everything out. And it might bloody work out as she ends up being really lovely.”

Playing Kaz meant steering away from stereotypes and the comedic portrayals of Asian families on screen. “We had to find the right balance between not making it too melodramatic or too silly” says Latif, who is proud of his dual heritage.

“I don’t think there is a right way or a right path to love and none of us can say that we’re doing it perfectly or we know what we’re doing, but there are these traditions that go back hundreds of years.”

Kaz embraces the idea of Maymouna because, on paper, it’s a wonderful and practical match. She’s an intelligent, beautiful, aspiring human rights lawyer. She understands family, traditions, language and faith. He is totally prepared to walk into a union with her and find love together, rather than fall into it heart before head.

## **CREATING ZOE**

Zoe, a documentary filmmaker, is initially taken aback by the fact her childhood friend and neighbour Kaz has agreed to an arranged marriage. When he flips the question and asks her what might be so ideal in her own situation, she becomes less sure. Both characters act as windows for each other, to look into the other’s different approaches to love.

In Zoe’s case, her dating life is familiar to plenty of successful women living in a city in their thirties: dating is digital and the options are never-ending - and not always in a good way.

“I think Zoe is in turmoil, and she’s got a lot of defences up,” says James. “She’s hiding in her work and she’s doing really well. But as the film emerges, she’s sort of unravelled, and you realise that she is hiding from being vulnerable and opening up. There is a lot I relate to in the character, to be honest. I mean, I think you always find yourself in the characters that you’re drawn to play, but certainly, you know, there were quite a lot of parallels with this one.”

Zoe goes on a succession of dates. Her mother Cath wishes her daughter was settled with someone nice like James the vet and frets that Zoe’s commitment to her job means a lack of commitment to a stable relationship. Zoe recoils at her mum’s insistence that she needs a man to be happy; she doesn’t want or need a relationship in order to feel complete but she does need something - she’s just not sure what that is yet...

## CREDITS

<b>Directed By</b>	SHEKHAR KAPUR
<b>Produced By</b>	NICKY KENTISH BARNES
	JEMIMA KHAN
	TIM BEVAN
	ERIC FELLNER
<b>Written By</b>	JEMIMA KHAN
<b>Executive Producers</b>	SARMAD MASUD
	RON HALPERN
	ANNA MARSH
	JOE NAFTALIN
	SARAH HARVEY
	LUCAS WEBB
	KATHERINE POMFRET
<b>Director of Photography</b>	REMI ADEFARASIN BSC
<b>Hair and Make-Up Designer</b>	TARA MCDONALD
<b>Costume Designer</b>	CAROLINE MCCALL
<b>Production Designer</b>	SIMON ELLIOTT
<b>Editors</b>	GUY BENSLEY
	NICK MOORE
<b>Casting By</b>	LUCY BEVAN
	OLIVIA GRANT
<b>Music By</b>	NITIN SAWHNEY
<b>Music Supervisor</b>	NICK ANGEL
<b>Soundtrack Featuring</b>	NAUGHTY BOY
	JOY CROOKES
	RAHAT FATEH ALI KHAN

KANIKA KAPOOR

**CAST**

**Zoe Stevenson**

LILY JAMES

**Kaz Khan**

SHAZAD LATIF

**Aisha Khan**

SHABANA AZMI

**Cath Stevenson**

EMMA THOMPSON

**Maymouna**

SAJAL ALY

**James**

OLIVER CHRIS

**Mo**

ASIM CHAUDHRY

**Zahid Khan**

JEFF MIRZA

**Helena**

ALICE ORR-EWING

**RAHAT FATEH ALI KHAN** as himself

**Farooq Khan**

MIM SHAIKH

**Yasmin Khan**

IMAN BOUJELOUAH

**Nani Jan**

PAKIZA BAIG

**Olly**

ALEXANDER OWEN

**Sam**

BEN ASHENDEN

**Lily**

GRACE ASKEW

**Maud**

LOLLY ASKEW

**Harry**

PETER SANDYS-CLARKE

**Maymouna's Mother**

SHAHEEN KHAN

**Fertility Doctor**

SINDHU VEE

**Pucci**

NOSHEEN PHOENIX

**Baby**

NIKKITA CHADHA

**Binky**

KATIE ANJULI SINGH

**Taqi**

JAMAL ANDREAS

**Wedding Guest**

**Jamila**

**David**

SHAHID KHAN (AKA NAUGHTY BOY)

MARIAM HAQUE

MICHAEL MARCUS

## FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Shekhar Kapur | DIRECTOR**

Shekhar Kapur is a filmmaker, actor, TV presenter and entrepreneur, but most importantly, he's among the finest voices of Indian cinema on the global stage. In the four decades since his directorial debut, Kapur has created a legacy of film and TV work that has not just revealed his deep understanding of the human psyche but has earned major critical and commercial acclaim. Far from resting easy on the dozens of laurels which include Academy Awards®, Kapur has constantly innovated with evolving media and technology.

Having started his career as an accountant, management consultant and economist in London, he returned to India in search of a new direction and went on to become a well-known actor, director, writer and producer. He is best known for films, such as ELIZABETH THE GOLDEN AGE, BANDIT QUEEN and FOUR FEATHERS, have won or been nominated for numerous awards including the Oscars®, BAFTAs and Filmfare Awards.

He has executive produced the Bollywood-themed, Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Bombay Dreams* as well as films such as THE GURU for Universal Studios. He set up Virgin Comics and Virgin Animation, focused on creating new stories and characters for a global audience, with Richard Branson and Deepak Chopra. He has been on the jury of Cannes Film Festival, Tokyo International Film Festival, Venice International Festival, and London Film Festival.

He is particularly passionate about the current challenges of environmental sustainability and the role of tech-led storytelling to make an impact. He has thus emerged to be an important voice for conversations around sustainability and the planet's future, and has partnered with companies as well as elite film artistes to amplify the messages that need to be heard. Kapur has been part of a number of boards and advisory committees including The Media Development Authority of Singapore, the Prime Minister of India's Special Advisory Board for Innovation, Media and New Media and the International Global Water Challenge. He was given one of India's highest civilian state awards, the Padma Shri, for his service to media in the nation. Since 2020, he is the President of the Film and Television Institute of India.

### **Jemima Khan | WRITER, PRODUCER**

Jemima Khan is a British screenwriter and independent TV, film and documentary producer and founder of Instinct Productions. She produced the EMMY and GOLDEN GLOBES nominated 10-part FX drama series IMPEACHMENT: AMERICAN CRIME STORY. She also executive produced the EMMY-nominated HBO/ Sky Atlantic docuseries THE CASE AGAINST ADNAN SYED, as well as the award-winning A&E docuseries THE CLINTON AFFAIR and the BAFTA-nominated feature documentary WE STEAL SECRETS: THE STORY OF WIKILEAKS. She previously worked as a journalist and as European Editor for Vanity Fair, and Associate Editor for The New Statesman.

### **Nicky Kentish Barnes | PRODUCER**

Nicky Kentish Barnes' producing credits span over 20 years. Her last being MAMMA MIA 2: HERE WE GO AGAIN. She has been a constant feature at Working Title Films producing such films as EVER-EST starring Jason Clarke, Josh Brolin, John Hawke and Jake Gyllenhaal. Richard Curtis's ABOUT TIME with Domhnall Gleeson, Rachel McAdams and Bill Nighy. Paul and Chris Weitz's ABOUT A BOY with Hugh Grant, Toni Collette and Rachel Weisz. LOCH NESS which starred Ted Danson and Joely Richardson.

Additional producing credits include Mark Evan's thriller TRAUMA with Colin Firth. The highly acclaimed DANCING ON THE EDGE TV series directed by Stephen Poliakoff, and Mel Smith's HIGH HEELS AND LOW LIFES for Walt Disney Pictures.

She has been Woody Allen's UK co-producer four times, beginning in 2005 on MATCH POINT, with Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Rhys Meyers; SCOOP with Johansson, Hugh Jackman and Allen; CAS-SANDRA'S DREAM, with Colin Farrell and Ewan McGregor; and in 2009 YOU WILL MEET A TALL DARK STRANGER, with Antonio Banderas, Josh Brolin, Anthony Hopkins and Naomi Watts.

Other co-producing credits include Lasse Hallström's SALMON FISHING THE YEMEN. Paul McGuigan's GANGSTER No. 1. Oliver Parker's AN IDEAL HUSBAND, and Mark Joffe's THE MATCH-MAKER.

She began her film career in 1985 with Merchant Ivory Productions working on A ROOM WITH A VIEW, followed by MAURICE, both directed by James Ivory. She then began line producing on films, including the television movies HEART OF DARKNESS, directed by Nicolas Roeg, and THE ADVENTURES OF THE YOUNG INDIANNA JONES: Treasure of the Peacock's Eye, for Lucas Films.

## **Eric Fellner | PRODUCER**

Working Title Films, co-chaired by Tim Bevan and Eric Fellner since 1992, is one of the world's leading film production companies. Together they have made more than 125 films that have grossed over 38.5 billion worldwide. Their projects have won 14 Academy Awards® (for Joe Wright's DARKEST HOUR, Tom Hooper's THE DANISH GIRL, James Marsh's THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING, Tom Hooper's LES MISERABLES, Joe Wright's ANNA KARENINA, Tim Robbins' DEAD MAN WALKING; Joel and Ethan Coen's FARGO; Shekhar Kapur's ELIZABETH and ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE; and Joe Wright's ATONEMENT), 10 Golden Globes, 43 BAFTA Awards and numerous prestigious prizes at the Cannes and Berlin International Film Festivals.

Fellner and Bevan have been honoured with the Producers Guild of America's David O. Selznick Achievement Award in Theatrical Motion Pictures, the PGA's highest honour for motion picture producers. They have been accorded two of the highest film awards given to British filmmakers; the Michael Balcon Award for Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema, at the Orange British Academy Film [BAFTA] Awards, and the Alexander Walker Film Award at the Evening Standard British Film Awards. They have also both been honoured with CBEs (Commanders of the Order of the British Empire).

The company's commercial and critical hits include MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE, SID & NANCY, THE INTERPRETER, ABOUT A BOY, ALI G, NOTTING HILL, ELIZABETH, FARGO, DEAD MAN WALKING, BEAN, HIGH FIDELITY, JOHNNY ENGLISH, BILLY ELLIOT, FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL, BRIDGET JONES' DIARY, BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON, A SERIOUS MAN, O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?, LOVE ACTUALLY, SHAUN OF THE DEAD, PRIDE & PREJUDICE, NANNY MCPHEE, UNITED93, MR BEAN'S HOLIDAY, HOT FUZZ, ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE, BURN AFTER READING, FROST/NIXON, ATONEMENT, SENNA, TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY, CONTRABAND, ANNA KARENINA, LES MISERABLES, ABOUT TIME, RUSH, TRASH, EVEREST, LEGEND, THE DANISH GIRL, HAIL CAESAR!, BRIDGET JONES' BABY, VICTORIA AND ABDUL, BABY DRIVER, DARKEST HOUR, YESTERDAY, MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, REBECCA, EMMA, THE HIGH NOTE, LAST NIGHT IN SOHO and CYRANO as well as WE ARE LADY PARTS and EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT LOVE for Working Title TV.

Working Title's upcoming slate includes: TICKET TO PARADISE, written and directed by Ol Parker and starring George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Kaitlyn Dever and CATHERINE, CALLED BIRDY, written and directed by Lena Dunham, starring Bella Ramsey, Andrew Scott and Billie Piper. Also due to be released this year is an inspiring film about Syrian refugee sisters Yusra and Sara Mardini called THE SWIMMERS, written by Jack Thorne and Sally El Hosaini and directed by Hosaini and the film adaptation of

the musical stage production of Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, directed by Matthew Warchus, written by Dennis Kelly with songs by Tim Minchin, featuring Alisha Weir, Emma Thompson, Lashana Lynch, Stephen Graham, Andrea Riseborough, and Sindhu Vee. The slate also includes *WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?*, written by Jemima Khan and directed by Shekhar Kapur, starring Lily James, Shazad Latif and Emma Thompson and *POLITE SOCIETY*, a London based action comedy written and directed by Nida Manzoor starring Priya Kansara, Ritu Arya and Shobu Kapoor. Currently in production is *THE SUBSTANCE*, director Coralie Fargeat's explosive feminist take on body horror starring Demi Moore and Margaret Qualley.

For television, Working Title's seven-part adaptation of Dolly Alderton's best-selling book *EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT LOVE* starring Emma Appleton, Bel Powley, Marli Siu and Aliyah Odoffin was released by the BBC on 7th June, with a US release on Peacock on 25<sup>th</sup> August. *WE ARE LADY PARTS*, by Nida Manzoor, aired in 2021 on Channel 4 and Peacock, garnering multiple awards and nominations including three BAFTA TV awards.

### **Remi Adefarasin | CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Remi Adefarasin shot the award-winning film *ELIZABETH* for director Shekhar Kapur starring Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush, for which he received an Academy Award® nomination and won both a BAFTA Award for Best Cinematography and the BSC award. He also won Camerimage's Golden Frog.

Thereafter Remi shot such diverse films as *ONEGIN* starring Ralph Fiennes, Terence Davies' *HOUSE OF MIRTH* starring Gillian Anderson, Paul and Chris Weitz's *ABOUT A BOY* and Paul Weitz's *IN GOOD COMPANY* starring Scarlett Johansson. He also shot many episodes of the acclaimed HBO series *BAND OF BROTHERS* for which he received an Emmy nomination and shot the follow up series *THE PACIFIC*.

In 2004 and 2005 Remi worked with Woody Allen shooting *MATCH POINT* and *SCOOP*, both starring Scarlett Johansson. Thereafter he shot Michael Apted's *AMAZING GRACE* and he teamed up with Shekhar Kapur again on the follow-up to "*ELIZABETH*": *THE GOLDEN AGE*.

Remi collaborated with Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant on their feature *CEMETERY JUNCTION*. *LITTLE FOCKERS* followed again with Paul Weitz. He worked with Burr Steers on *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES*. Soon followed in 2015 by *ME BEFORE YOU* with Thea Sharock. He reunited with Ricky Gervais on *DAVID BRENT: LIFE ON THE ROAD*, a documentary.

He photographed Amma Asante's wartime love drama, *WHERE HANDS TOUCH* in Belgium in 2016. He completed *FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY* again with Stephen Merchant who wrote and directed. Remi shot *JULIET, NAKED* another Nick Hornby story directed by Jesse Peretz. In 2018 he shot the first ever feature shot on the Alexa LF, *THE LAST VERMEER* directed by Dan Friedkin. 2019 saw Remi teaming up with Writer / Director David E. Talbert for Netflix's *JINGLE JANGLE* with Forest Whitaker. In 2020 he shot *LOCKED DOWN*, directed by Doug Liman starring Anne Hathaway & Chiwetel Ejiofor. In 2021 he worked with Director Ali Selim on *SECRET INVASION*, a six-part series for Marvel starring Samuel L Jackson, Ben Mendelsohn, Don Cheadle, Olivia Coleman and Emila Clarke.

### **Tara McDonald | HAIR & MAKE UP DESIGNER**

Tara McDonald has worked consistently over the past 20 years as a Hair & Make Up Designer in film and television with highly acclaimed directors such as Tim Burton, Shekhar Kapur, Pawel Pawlikowski, Ken Loach, Sally Potter, Stephen Poliakoff and Michael Winterbottom.

In 2003 Tara designed her first feature film, the BAFTA award winning film *MY SUMMER OF LOVE*. Film credits include *SUBMARINE*, *GINGER & ROSA*, *DAD'S ARMY*, *BLITHE SPIRIT*, *KING OF THIEVES*,

GREED, PHANTOM OF THE OPEN and the upcoming WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? A British romantic comedy written by Jemima Khan and starring Lily James, Emma Thompson, Sajal Ali and Shazad Latif.

Recent Television credits include Tim Burton's WEDNESDAY, ROADKILL, SUMMER OF ROCKETS and CLOSE TO THE ENEMY.

Tara is currently working on a new TV series for Netflix (June 2022)

### **Caroline McCall** | COSTUME DESIGNER

Caroline McCall is a BAFTA winning costume designer for her work on DOWNTON ABBEY. BAFTA nominated for the BBC's adaptation of Philip Pullman's HIS DARK MATERIALS, she has recently completed the third series. Has previously worked with Shekhar Kapur on the TV series 'WILL' written by Craig Pearce.

### **Simon Elliott** | PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Simon Elliott is a BAFTA winning Production Designer whose work has featured in some of Britain's most well-loved mini-series including 'BLACK MIRROR: SMITHEREENS', 'NORTH & SOUTH' which earned him BAFTA nomination and 'BLEAK HOUSE' for which he earned an Emmy Award nomination and a BAFTA Award.

Simon's impressive film portfolio includes, Oscar®/BAFTA/BIFA nominated 'THE IRON LADY', 'BRICK LANE', 'THE BOOK THIEF', 'TULIP FEVER', Lenny Abrahamson's 'THE LITTLE STRANGER' and Simon Kinberg's 'THE 355'. Simon's work will next be seen in the TV adaptation of Steven Knight's 'ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE' and on the big screen in Shekhar Kapur's 'WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?'.

### **Nitin Sawhney** | COMPOSER / SONGWRITER

Nitin Sawhney CBE, recipient of the Ivor Novello 2017 Lifetime Achievement award, is one of the most distinctive and versatile musical voices around today.

Sawhney has recorded multiple albums, film soundtracks and compilations, encompassing over 70 films and TV scores and is established as a world-class producer, songwriter, touring artist, BBC Radio and club DJ, multi-instrumentalist, theatrical, dance, videogame and orchestral composer and cultural/political commentator. Among Sawhney's extensive film score credits include MOWGLI: LEGEND OF THE JUNGLE for Warner Bros. and Netflix directed by Andy Serkis, BREATHE starring Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy and directed by Andy Serkis, and Mira Nair's THE NAMESAKE. Sawhney is currently scoring the television miniseries ANANSI BOYS for Amazon, an adaptation of Neil Gaiman's book. Holding 7 honorary doctorates from UK universities along with 3 fellowships, Nitin also sits on the boards of multiple charities. He has received over 20 major national and international awards and is a member of the music branch of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, BAFTA and the Recording Academy.

Sawhney is the Chair of the PRS Foundation, the UK's funding body for new music and talent development. His last album, *Immigrants* for Sony Masterworks, was released in March 2021.

### **Naughty Boy** | SOUNDTRACK

It has been quite the ride for the award-winning music producer Shahid Khan, aka Naughty Boy. His decorated career includes multiple awards including the Grammy, Ivor Novello, Mobo and being awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Music Award at The Asian Awards.

His journey started with a vision - he worked hard to gain a grant from the Prince's Trust and battled it out on Deal or No Deal, utilising the cash prize and putting it straight into his music. In just over a decade, he has established a glowing music career, working alongside world-class artists including; Beyoncé, Rihanna, Tinie Tempah and Ed Sheeran. He is also responsible for discovering and launching the careers of successful artists including Emeli Sandé and Sam Smith.

Born and raised on a council estate in Watford, Naughty Boy spent his youth cooking with his family, adding his mother's special sauce to traditional British favourites - such as a delicious twist on the classic fish fingers sandwich, trying out his recipes on long-term collaborator and good friend, Emeli Sandé - whose dedication to vegan food has encouraged him to experiment with different ingredients and ideas, catering for all.

Over the years, he has kept up his mother's ethos, enjoying cooking for others and has used this passion to launch Naughty Boy Kitchen. In 2018, Naughty Boy made his professional culinary debut, with a hands-on collaboration with global burger brand, Shake Shack. Naughty Boy continued to make his passion for cooking known by participating on ITV's COOKING WITH THE STARS in July 2021, making it to the semi-finals with Korean chef and owner of Seoul Bird, Judy Joo.

#### **Joy Crookes | SOUNDTRACK**

A proud South Londoner of Bangladeshi and Irish heritage, Joy Crookes is a multi-hyphenate artist shaped by a rich tapestry of influences. Crookes released 3 EP's between 2017 and 2019 and was nominated for the Rising Star Award at the 2020 Brit Awards. Crookes' debut album, *Skin*, was released in 2021 to huge critical acclaim and reached number 5 in the UK album charts - nominations for Best New Artist, Best Pop/R&B Act at the 2022 Brit Awards, and a Mercury Prize nomination for Album of the Year followed. To date, Joy has had 4 singles top the UK Asian Top 40 charts including *When You Were Mine*, and *Feet Don't Fail Me Now*.

Defying genres, Joy's timeless vocals are reminiscent of a bygone era and communicate her stories and reflections with a presence and lyricism that could only exist today. Her first studio album is a statement of selfhood, the DNA of what makes her Joy Crookes as well as an examination of the relationships that have shaped her.

#### **Rahat Fateh Ali Khan | SOUNDTRACK, CAST**

Ustad Rahat Fateh Ali Khan is a Pakistani singer, primarily of Qawwali, a devotional music of the Muslim Sufis. He is the nephew of the legendary Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. In addition to Qawwali, he also performs ghazals and other light music. He is one of the most popular Bollywood playback singers. He has released more than 50 Albums, has sung 50+ title tracks of TV serials, and over 100 film songs, with over dozens of super hit songs in the last few years; his voice is considered a triumph card to success of Indian movies today, and not only in India but globally.

Ustad Rahat contributed to the soundtrack of the 1995 Hollywood film, *DEAD MAN WALKING*. In 2002, he worked on the soundtrack of *THE FOUR FEATHERS* in collaboration with the American composer of orchestral and film music, James Horner. In 2002, Rahat performed with The Derek Trucks Band on the song *Maki Madni* for Trucks' album, *Joyful Noise*. In 2006, his vocals were featured on the soundtrack of Mel Gibson's *APOCALYPTO*.

Rahat carries a message of love, peace and spiritualism. Rahat Fateh Ali Khan & Party debuted in America in the summer of 2000 with two high profile performances at Central Park Summer Stage, New

York and Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles, to fine critical acclaim. He started his world tour and was soon performing in all around the United States, Canada and Europe.

Rahat was invited to perform at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony and concert in Oslo in 2014. His performances captivated everyone, from Nobel peace prize winners, royalty, dignitaries and celebrities to the one billion people watching on television.

A few of Rahat's awards include Winner Star Screen Award for Best Male Playback (2010, 2011), Winner Mirchi Music Awards best song in Sufi Tradition (2011), Winner Film fare Award for Best Male Playback Singer (2011), and Winner 2011 IIFA Awards Best Male Vocalist.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

### Lily James | ZOE STEVENSON

Emmy-nominated actress, Lily James, has marked her place in the industry with a succession of iconic roles across all mediums, working alongside some of the most renowned directors and artists to date.

Recently, James starred in the Hulu limited series *PAM & TOMMY*, alongside Sebastian Stan. The series, which depicts the iconic marriage between Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee (James & Stan), was released on February 2, 2022. Her performance garnered her an Emmy nomination in the category of Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited Series or Movie.

She will also be starring in Jemima Khan's romantic comedy, *WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?* alongside Shazad Latif and Emma Thompson. The film will make its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September.

She recently completed filming *PROVIDENCE*, which also stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Himesh Patel. The story follows the eclectic residents of a small, picturesque island town who must navigate a sensational murder and the discovery of a million dollars as a series of increasingly bad decisions upends the once-peaceful community.

This year, James was also seen starring in Emily Mortimer's *THE PURSUIT OF LOVE*. Released by Amazon Studios, the three-part series, based on the 1945 Nancy Mitford's classic novel of the same name, is the first book in a trilogy on an upper-class English family between the First and Second World Wars.

James is perhaps most widely known for her breakout role in Kenneth Branagh's *CINDERELLA* in which she portrayed the titular character. A retelling of the Disney animated feature of the same name, James starred alongside Cate Blanchette as the evil 'Stepmother' and Richard Madden as the 'Prince'.

In 2021, James starred in Simon Stone's *THE DIG* alongside Johnny Flynn, Ralph Fiennes, and Carey Mulligan. The film follows an archaeologist as they embark on the excavation of Sutton Hoo in 1938.

In 2018, James starred in Ol Parker's summer hit *MAMMA MIA: HERE WE GO AGAIN!* for Universal Pictures. A sequel to the 2008 musical comedy *MAMMA MIA*, James portrayed 'Young Donna' alongside Meryl Streep, Amanda Seyfried, Jeremy Irvine, Dominic Cooper, and Pierce Brosnan. The year prior, James appeared in Joe Wright's award-winning Winston Churchill drama *DARKEST HOUR* alongside Gary Oldman, Ben Mendelsohn and Kristin Scott Thomas. The film, which premiered at the Telluride Film Festival and was released by Focus Features, received an Academy Award® nomination in the category of 'Best Picture' as well as several BAFTA nominations including 'Best Film and 'Outstanding British Film of the Year.'

Additional film credits include Ben Wheatley's *REBECCA*, an adaptation of Daphne du Maurier's classic Gothic novel book alongside Kristen Scott Thomas; Danny Boyle's *YESTERDAY* alongside Himesh Patel; Mike Newell's *THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY*, an adaptation of New York Times bestseller of the same name; Nia DaCosta's *LITTLE WOODS*; Edgar Wright's heist film *BABY DRIVER* alongside Ansel Elgort, Jamie Foxx and Jon Hamm; *PRIDE & PREJUDICE & ZOMBIES*; *WRATH OF THE TITANS*, alongside Sam Worthington, Rosamund Pike, Liam Neeson and Ralph Fiennes; *BURNT*, alongside Sienna Miller and Bradley Cooper and the sports drama *FAST GIRLS*.

On television, James most was notably featured in Golden Globe and BAFTA winning drama *DOWNTOWN ABBEY*, in which she portrayed the mischievous 'Lady Rose' for 3 seasons. Additional television credits include the BBC's *WAR & PEACE* in which she portrayed 'Natasha Rostova' and received glowing reviews.

After graduating from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2010, James began her career on stage. Most notably in the leading role of 'Taylor' in the Olivier nominated production of *Vernon God Little*, directed by Rufus Norris at the Young Vic Theatre. Additional theatre credits include Daniel Evans' stage production of *Othello*, for which she portrayed 'Desdemona,' Ivo van Hove's *All About Eve*, opposite Gillian Anderson, at the Noel Coward Theatre, and 'Juliet' in Kenneth Branagh's acclaimed staging of Shakespeare's classic tragedy *Romeo & Juliet* opposite Richard Madden as 'Romeo.'

### **Shazad Latif | KAZ KHAN**

Shazad Latif is a British actor, who will next be seen as Captain Nemo in Disney+ series NAUTILUS, due out next year, and in StudioCanal romcom WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? opposite Lily James, which will soon have its world premiere at Toronto International Film Festival. Latif's breakthrough role was in series 8-10 of the critically acclaimed BBC series SPOOKS. He then starred in all three series of BAFTA-winning TOAST OF LONDON as fan-favourite Clem Fandango, a role which he reprised for spin-off series TOAST OF TINSELTOWN in January 2021. In 2016 he joined the cast of PENNY DREADFUL as the literary character Dr. Henry Jekyll alongside Eva Green and Josh Hartnett. Latif recently starred in the hugely successful Netflix series STAR TREK: DISCOVERY, in which he played Lieutenant Tyler. Latif can also be heard voicing a central character in the major Netflix revival of Jim Henson's THE DARK CRYSTAL. Film credits include THE MAN WHO KNEW INFINITY, opposite Dev Patel and THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL. More recently he starred in feature films THE COMMUTER opposite Liam Neeson and award-winning PROFILE which screened at Berlin Film Festival, the London Film Festival and SXSW. More recently, Latif was seen in FALLING FOR FIGARO, which premiered at TIFF and also starred Joanna Lumley. In 2021, Latif was seen in THE PURSUIT OF LOVE on BBC One, opposite Lily James, and has also recently been seen in Netflix thriller ROGUE AGENT, opposite James Norton and Gemma Chan.

### **Shabana Azmi | AISHA KHAN**

In a career span of 40 years Shabana has played the lead in more than 140 films in Hindi and 12 international films. She is currently filming one of the main lead roles; Admiral Margaret Parangosky in HALO, the new blockbuster series for Amblin Television/Microsoft/Paramount+.

International film credits include: Fawzia Mirza's SIGNATURE MOVE, Deepa Mehta's MIDNIGHTS CHILDREN, Mira Nair's THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST, Ben Rekhi's WATERBORNE, Gurinder Chaddha's IT'S A WONDERFUL AFTER LIFE, Ismail Merchant's SIDE STREETS, Deepa Metha's FIRE, Ismail Merchant's IN CUSTODY, Blake Edward's SON OF PINK PANTHER, Jameel Dehlavi's IMMACULATE CONCEPTION co-starring Melissa Leo & James Wilby, Roland Joffe's CITY OF JOY co-starring Patrick Swayze, John Schlesinger's MADAME SOUSATZKA co-starring Shirley MacLaine, Nicholas Klotz's LA NUIT BENGALI, co-starring John Hurt and Hugh Grant.

Indian film credits include: Satyajit Ray's SHATRANJ KE KHILADI, Shyam Benegal's MANDI, JUNOON, NISHANT, ANKUR, Mrinal Sen's GENESIS and KHANDAR, Goutam Ghose's PAAR, Aparna Sen's 15 PARK AVENUE and SATI, Shekhar Kapur's MASOOM.

Recent releases include; Dhruv Panjuani's IDGAH; Ram Madhwani's NEERJA; Jayant Gilatar's CHALK N DUSTER; Sanjay Gupta's JAZBAA.

Theatre credits include: Tejpal in Pravesh Kumar's *Happy Birthday Sunita* for Rifco Arts, Manjula & Malini in Alyque Padamsee's *Broken Images* for Ace Productions, Shaukat in *Kaifi Aur Main* for Indian People's Theatre Association, Emma in *Harold Pinter's Betrayal* for Singapore Repertory Theatre, Lead in Tanika Gupta's *The Waiting Room* for The National Theatre London, Nora in Ibsen's *The Dolls House* for

Singapore Repertory Theatre, Grusha in Urdu adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* for IPTA, Amrita in Urdu adaptation of A.R.Gurney's *Love Letters*.

Television credits include: Mrs. Kamal in John Lanchester's CAPITAL a TV serial for BBC/Kudos, Sofia in Hettie Macdonald's BANGLATOWN BANQUET for BBC, Samira in Jamil Dehlavi's IMMACULATE CONCEPTION for Channel 4 and Mrs Shirani, Series Lead in GUIDING LIGHT, a 6 x 1 hour series for ITV.

Shabana is the recipient of the Gandhi International Peace Prize 2006, the first Indian to receive this prestigious award at the House of Lords in London. She received the prestigious Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum; Davos 2006 for achieving outstanding excellence in the field of culture and having used art to reach out to other cultures. She is the recipient of the International Human Rights award presented by President Mitterrand in Paris in 1989 along with Mother Theresa. She is also a committed social activist having relentlessly worked for the rights of slum dwellers, the empowerment of women and the girl child. She has been Goodwill Ambassador for UNFPA on Population and Development and SAARC countries on HIV and Aids. Shabana is a former Member of Parliament and recipient of the prestigious Padma Bhushan. Shabana believes 'Art should be used as a medium for social change.' She is married to India's best known script writer and lyricist Javed Akhtar.

## **Emma Thompson | CATH STEVENSON**

Emma Thompson is one of the world's most critically lauded and respected talents for her versatility in acting as well as screenwriting. She is the sole artist thus far to have received an Academy Award® for both acting (HOWARDS END) and screenwriting (SENSE AND SENSIBILITY). In June of 2018 she was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

In 2021 she shot three feature films back-to-back. GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LEO GRANDE, co-starring Daryl McCormack, based on the original screenplay by British Comedy award-winner Katy Band for director Sophie Hyde, opened this Spring and Summer (2022) worldwide to great critical acclaim for Thompson and the film. The film adaptation of Tim Minchin's hit stage musical *Matilda*, based on the Roald Dahl classic novel, in which she plays the dreaded school head mistress, 'Trunchbull', for director Matthew Warchus, has been chosen to open the London Film Festival in October of 2022 and will open worldwide in December. WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?, starring Lily James and Shazad Latif, directed by Shekhar Kapur from a screenplay by Jemima Khan, has been selected to screen at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival in September and will open in January of 2023.

Thompson has teamed up with bestselling illustrator Axel Scheffler to write a Christmas tale about Jim, the real-life dog who belonged to Sir Henry Cole, the V&A's founding director. Sir Henry Cole famously sent the first ever Christmas card in 1843. *Jim's Spectacular Christmas* will be published by Puffin in collaboration with the V&A in hardback on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Thompson's film credits begin with THE TALL GUY, her feature debut in 1988. They include the aforementioned SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (for which she also received a Best Actress Oscar® nomination); THE REMAINS OF THE DAY (Oscar® nomination); IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER (Oscar® nomination); LAST CHRISTMAS (for which she was also co-screenwriter and producer), LATE NIGHT, THE CHILDREN ACT, LOVE ACTUALLY; SAVING MR BANKS; THE MEYEROWITZ STORIES; DISNEY'S LIVE ACTION BEAUTY AND THE BEAST; HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN; HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX; HENRY V; DEAD AGAIN; PETER'S FRIENDS; MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING; JUNIOR; CARRINGTON; THE WINTER GUEST; PRIMARY COLOURS; STRANGER THAN FICTION; LAST CHANCE HARVEY; LOVE PUNCH; BRAVE, two of the MEN IN BLACK sequels. Most recently she starred opposite Emma Stone in the hit Disney feature film CRUELLA.

Thompson starred as the title character in both *NANNY MCPHEE* and *NANNY MCPHEE RETURNS*, for both of which she also wrote the screenplay, based on Christiana Brand's *Nurse Matilda* stories and was an Executive Producer on the latter. She is currently developing a stage musical on the character. Television credits include the BBC One/HBO six-part Russell T. Davies series *YEARS & YEARS*; HBO's *WIT* (2001 Golden Globe nomination) and *ANGELS IN AMERICA* (2002 SAG Award, Emmy nomination), both for director Mike Nichols; *SONG OF LUNCH* for BBC Two (2012 Emmy nomination); *WALKING THE DOG*; *ALFRESCO*; and the eponymous BBC series *THOMPSON*.

Stage credits include the New York Philharmonic's staged production of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* opposite Bryn Terfel, which they reprised at the London Coliseum with the English National Orchestra; *Me and My Girl* first at Leicester and then London's West End; and *Look Back in Anger* at the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue.

Thompson was commissioned to write the 24th, 25th and 26th tales in the existing collection of Peter Rabbit stories beginning in 2014, the only author since Beatrix Potter to do so.

Thompson is President of the Helen Bamber Foundation, a UK-based human rights organization, formed in April 2005, to help rebuild the lives of, and inspire a new self-esteem in, survivors of gross human rights violations. On behalf of the Foundation, Thompson co-curated "Journey," an interactive art installation which used seven transport containers to illustrate the brutal and harrowing experiences of women sold into the sex trade. Thompson and "Journey" traveled to London, Vienna, Madrid, New York and the Netherlands for exhibitions and interviews.

Four years ago, Thompson joined Greenpeace on their Save the Arctic campaign and she continues as an active supporter of Greenpeace. She is a supporter of the UK-based Food Foundation and Child Hunger. She is also an ambassador for the international development agency, ActionAid, and has spoken out publicly about her support for the work the NGO is doing, in particular, in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic that continues to sweep across Africa. She has been affiliated with the organization since 2000 and thus far has visited ActionAid projects in Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Africa, Liberia and Myanmar. She is a Patron of the Refugee Council and also patron of Edinburgh College's Performing Arts Studio of Scotland.

Thompson was born in London to Eric Thompson, a theatre director and writer, and Phyllida Law, an actress. While at Cambridge, she was a member of the Footlights comedy troupe, alongside contemporaries Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry. She is married to actor Greg Wise and they have a daughter, Gaia Wise, and a son, Tindyebwa Agaba Wise.

## **Sajal Aly | MAYMOUNA**

Sajal Aly was born in Lahore, Pakistan. She is a Pakistani actor noted for her intense acting and portrayal of a wide range of characters. Sajal started acting at the age of 16 and her first breakout role was in 2011. Her work in award-winning shows like *NANHI*, *SANNATA*, *GUL-E-RANA* cemented her place as Pakistan's leading female stars.

Sajal garnered critical acclaim for portraying a troubled child in the telefilm *BEHADD* (2013), and an aspiring actress in the relationship drama *ZINDAGI KITNI HASEEN HAY* (2016), her first feature film. Sajal made her Bollywood film debut opposite Bollywood icon Sridevi in the 2017 Hindi film *MOM*. She won rave reviews from critics worldwide for her portrayal of a young sexual assault victim in this film.

Sajal's last three TV series *ALIF*, *YEH DIL MERA* and *ISHQ-E-LAA* have been huge hits across South Asia and Middle East. *YEH DIL MERA* ranked number 1 in South Asian content in the UK. Sajal's digital debut was in Zee5 Series, *DHOOP KI DEEWAR*, which is now getting a television release in India in August 2022.

Sajal's English language project debut will be in STUDIOCANAL film *WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?* written by Jemina Khan and directed by Shekhar Kapur. Sajal married actor Ahad Raza Mir in 2020 and they announced their divorce in March 2022.

Sajal has won regional and international awards including the HUM Awards for Best Female Actor, the Middle Eastern DIAFA Awards and Filmfare Middle East Awards. Sajal Aly will next be seen portraying historical figure Fatimah Jinnah in an upcoming feature film.

## **Oliver Chris | JAMES**

Oliver Chris is a London-based actor and writer whose work encompasses stage, television, and film. His list of credits include *King Charles III* (Almeida Theatre, West End, Broadway), *One Man, Two Guvnors* (National Theatre, West End, Broadway) for which he was nominated for an Olivier Award. At the National Theatre he has also appeared in *Season's Greetings*, *Great Britain*, and *Twelfth Night*. In 2019 he starred in Nicholas Hytner's hit adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at The Bridge Theatre.

Oliver began his television career in Ricky Gervais' seminal series *THE OFFICE* and has since appeared in many cult comedies including, *NATHAN BARLEY*, *THE IT CROWD* and *GREEN WING*. Recently he has appeared in the BAFTA winning BBC comedy *MOTHERLAND* created by Sharon Horgan, and Apple TV's *TRYING* which is also bloody good and definitely worth a look. He is currently filming the next season of Apple TV's science fiction series *FOUNDATION* and *MATERNAL* a medical drama for ITV.

Recent film credits include *MISS MARX* which premiered at Venice Film Festival 2020, Autumn de Wilde's 2020 adaptation of *EMMA* and the Kazuo Ishiguro feature film *LIVING* which recently premiered at Sundance to wide acclaim.

Alongside his acting career, Oliver is also a writer. His play *Jack Absolute Flies Again* is currently on at The National.

## **Asim Chaudhry | MO**

Asim Chaudhry is an award-winning actor and writer who is best known for co-creating the BAFTA Award winning *PEOPLE JUST DO NOTHING* (BBC). Asim, who also stars in the show as 'Chabuddy G' received a BAFTA nomination for Best Male Comedy Performance and a win at the Royal Television Society Awards for Best Comedy Performance. *PEOPLE JUST DO NOTHING* itself has been hugely successful, receiving nominations for Best TV Situation Comedy at the Writer's Guild Awards and Best Scripted Comedy at the 2016 BAFTAs. In 2017, they won Best Scripted Comedy at the BAFTAs, the Royal Television Society Awards and won Best Television Series at the NME Awards. *PEOPLE JUST DO NOTHING*'s *Kurupt FM* won Garage Act of The Year at the GQ Men of the Year Awards in 2017.

In 2019, *Kurupt FM* announced their return with a brand-new podcast with Audible, *The Kurupt FM Podcast*, which is now on its second series and won twice for Best Comedy Podcast at the British Podcast Awards 2020 and 2021. Asim returned to his leading role in the hugely successful feature film *PEOPLE JUST DO NOTHING: BIG IN JAPAN* which was released last year to rave reviews. Asim and the rest of PJDN's second studio album was also released alongside the film via Universal subsidiary Polydor Records.

If you've ever flown on British Airways, you may recognise Asim as 'Chabuddy G' from their pre-flight safety video. The hilarious sketch follows the inept director Chabuddy, as he tries to direct actors Sir Michael Caine, Naomie Harris and Olivia Colman. The video promoted Flying Start, the global charity partnership between British Airways and Comic Relief raising over £20m.

Asim can currently be as 'Abel' in the highly anticipated Netflix series THE SANDMAN and will also star as best friend 'Ed' in new romcom THE HONEYMOON directed by Dean Craig. He can also be seen alongside Benedict Cumberbatch in new biopic THE ELECTRICAL LIFE OF LOUIS WAIN and also played 'Dev' alongside Stephen Merchant in the 2018 Christmas crowd-pleaser CLICK AND COLLECT (BBC/Netflix). Asim has just wrapped on a lead role in Norwegian comedy-drama film LISTEN UP! which is based on a bestselling young adult novel by Gulraiz Sharif. Asim is a talented writer and director, this can be seen in his successful short film LOVE POOL.

Asim is also celebrated for his hilarious performance of 'Terry Patel' in HOFF THE RECORD (UKTV) which won an international EMMY. Other notable credits include Patty Jenkins' WONDER WOMAN 1984 (Warner Brothers), Michael Winterbottom's GREED (Revolution Films) and Charlie Brooker's critically acclaimed BANDERSNATCH (Netflix). He is also a well-known face on TV from shows such as the immensely successful TASKMASTER (Dave), THE LAST LEG (Channel 4), I LITERALLY JUST TOLD YOU (Channel 4) and Sky's DATING NO FILTER.

Asim is thrilled to be involved in the upcoming film WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? directed by Shekhar Kapur.

### **Jeff Mirza | ZAHID KHAN**

Jeff Mirza's numerous film credits include: WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? POLITE SOCIETY, ETERNALS, BLINDED BY THE LIGHT, MUGHAL MOWGLI, A CHRISTMAS NUMBER ONE, BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM, HUMMINGBIRD, BIGGA THAN BEN, ARIFA & THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMAN'S APOCALYPSE.

Television credits include: JUICE, ROSIE MALLOY GIVES UP EVERYTHING, THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH, THE GOOD KARMA HOSPITAL, THE COCKFIELDS, ACKLEY BRIDGE, THIS WAY UP, MAN LIKE MOBEEN, HOUNSLOW DIARIES, FLEABAG, WHITE TEETH, CUCUMBER & PLEBS.

A stand-up comedian for 20 years, he is notably one of a handful of comedians to have performed stand-up in Saudi Arabia.

In 2006 Jeff received an award for Services to Entertainment at the British House of Lords. He has also won Best Comedian at the BT Ethnic Multicultural Media Academy Awards and in 2013, he won the Entertainment Award for Muslim News. In 2018, Jeff was awarded a BEFFTA Legends Award.

### **Alice Orr-Ewing | HELENA**

Alice Orr-Ewing is a British actress with an extensive CV across international film, TV and theatre. Alice's first film role, aged 17, was in the 2007 Joe Wright feature film ATONEMENT alongside Keira Knightley and James McAvoy.

After graduating from LAMDA, Alice played Livinia in the Simon Pegg feature film A FANTASTIC FEAR OF FLYING and the lead role of Frances in Charles Sturridge's THE SCAPEGOAT. Subsequent film credits include: MR TURNER, THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING, LAST LETTER FROM YOUR LOVER, THE COURIER and DEVIL.

Television credits include: THIS IS GOING TO HURT (BBC), ENDEAVOUR (ITV), A VERY ENGLISH SCANDAL (BBC), VICTORIA (ITV), OUR ZOO (BBC), BLANDINGS (BBC), PRAMFACE (BBC), POIROT (ITV).

Theatre credits include: *The Argument* (Theatre Royal Bath), *Don Juan in Soho* (West End), *An Enemy of the People* (Chichester), *Hay Fever* (West End, Bath Theatre Royal).

## **Mim Shaikh | FAROOQ KHAN**

Mim is British Asian, London born and bred, and is a multi-talented presenter, actor and documentary maker. He started his media career as a radio presenter hosting THE SHAIKH DEBATE on the BBC Asian Network and THE WEEKEND SHOW on BBC 1Xtra.

Mim's debut lead role was as Hussein in Dominic Bridges' 2017 horror-comedy TWO PIGEONS (aka Freehold), in which he starred alongside Javier Botet and which was shortlisted for the SXSW festival. He played series regular Cut Waleed in the BBC crime drama INFORMER. He has also appeared as Wayne in the BBC One comedy KING GARY, and has had guest roles on CASUALTY and DOCTORS. He also played appears in the BAFTA award winning BBC3 comedy PLS LIKE. This year, he will star alongside Lily James and Shazad Latif in the Shekhar Kapur rom com WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Mim's moving documentary MIM SHAIKH: FINDING DAD saw him travel to Pakistan to reconnect with his estranged father and discover the truth behind his family history. His topical short film, SHIA/SUNNI, about the differences between the two denominations, has garnered nearly 4 million views on YouTube. He also took part in PILGRIMAGE: ROAD TO ISTANBUL, which saw him backpack across Europe in a modern-day recreation of a mediaeval pilgrimage.

Mim has also been deeply involved in campaigning for openness surrounding mental health, including a short film for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's programme HEADS TOGETHER.

## **Iman Boujelouah | YASMIN KHAN**

Iman Boujelouah is an actress from London currently about to enter her final year of training at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has recently completed the Channel 4 Screenwriting Course 2022. Playing Yasmin Khan in WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? is her debut feature film role.

## **Alexander Owen | OLLY**

Alexander Owen is one half of comedy duo 'The Pin,' with Ben Ashenden. Their play '*The Comeback*' hit the West End last year to rave reviews, and together they were the 2021 comedy nominee for the Southbank Awards 'Breakthrough Artist of the Year'.

They've recorded four series of their multi award-winning self-titled BBC Radio Four show, created '*The Special Relationship*' for Audible co-starring Cecily Strong and Fred Armisen, and written the animated series 'OI, LEONARDO' for BBC Three. Other writing includes 'WHO IS AMERICA?' (Showtime), 'FAMALAM' (BBC Three), and 'TRACEY ULLMAN'S SHOW' (BBC One). Alexander's acting credits include 'JURASSIC WORLD: DOMINION', Judd Apatow's 'THE BUBBLE', and the upcoming 'WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?', with Lily James and Emma Thompson. Alexander is currently writing a feature with Colin Trevorrow, and new series 'LIVE AT THE MOTH CLUB' for Dave.

## **Ben Ashenden | SAM**

Ben Ashenden is an award-winning actor, writer and one half of critically acclaimed comedy duo *The Pin* alongside his long-term collaborator Alex Owen. *The Pin*'s multi award-winning comedy sketch show first aired on BBC Radio 4 in 2015, with subsequent series following in 2016, 2017 and 2019, earning them a win for Best Comedy at the BBC Radio Awards in 2016. Their stage show, originally titled *The Pin: Backstage* began as part of the Edinburgh Festival and was met with huge critical acclaim. The show went on to run in the West End in 2021 under new title *The Comeback*, written by and starring Ben and Alex.

Ben is also an accomplished actor. Ben's most recent film credits include WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? for Working Title Films, THE BUBBLE directed by Judd Apatow and JURASSIC WORLD DOMINION directed by Colin Trevorrow. Upcoming TV credits include 1899 for Netflix. Ben can also be seen in CALL MY AGENT for Bron Studios/Amazon, AVENUE 5 for HBO directed by Armando Iannucci and AFTER EVER AFTER for King Bert/Sky directed by Elliot Hegarty. Ben is currently shooting on new TV series KINGDOM for Apple, and THE BALLAD OF RENEGADE NELL for Disney+.

### **Peter Sandys – Clarke | HARRY**

Theatre Credits Include: Elyot Chase in *Private Lives* (Theatre Royal Windsor), Vincent Crane in *A Touch of Danger* (Theatre Royal Windsor), Jack in *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Original Theatre Company), Ronald Storrs in *Ross* (Chichester Festival Theatre), David Marshall in *Before The Party* (Theatre Royal Windsor & Tour), Mike Lipkin/Ronald Millar in *The Manual Oracle* (The Yard), Sir George/Sir Sandford in *The Notorious Mrs Ebbsmith* (Jermyn Street Theatre), George/ Duke of Bristol in *On Approval* (Jermyn Street Theatre), Major Tarver in *Dandy Dick* (Theatre Royal Brighton & Tour), Country Gent in *Notes For A Young Gentleman - In Response to Proverbs* (Bush Theatre), Freddy in *Pygmalion* (Garrick Theatre), Gerald in *When We Are Married* (Garrick Theatre), Freddy in *Pygmalion* (Chichester Festival Theatre), Jerry in *A Daughter's A Daughter* (Trafalgar Studios), Peter Gilbert in *The Browning Version* (Theatre Royal Bath & Tour), Sempronius in *The Apple Cart* (Theatre Royal Bath), George in *Jingo: A Farce Of War* (Finborough Theatre), Withers in *The Letter* (Wyndham's Theatre & Tour) and Raleigh in *Journey's End* (Playhouse Theatre & Duke Of York's Theatre).

Television Credits Include: Banker in SECRET INVASION Disney+, MASTERS OF THE AIR, Havers in GHOSTS BBC, Doctor in THE ROYALS Privileged Productions Ltd, BBC Producer in THE CROWN Left Bank Pictures, Captain Roberts in INDIAN SUMMERS Biscuit Films, Lance Hendry in DOCTORS BBC, Dr Thomas Barnardo in THE CHARLES DICKENS SHOW BBC, Ned Burne-Jones in DESPERATE ROMANTICS BBC, Silverman in BONEKICKERS BBC, Sheridan in FRANKIE HOWARD: RATHER YOU THAN ME BBC, Tim in TORCHWOOD BBC, Robbie in PLAYING JESUS (THE PLAY'S THE THING) Granada and Wilcox in FOYLE'S WAR Greenlit.

Film Credits Include: British Lieutenant in MARENGO, Harry in WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? UK Military Advisor in EDGE OF TOMORROW Warner Bros, Neil in THE RED LINE What Elephant Films and The Actor in NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND Poppy Films.

### **Sindhu Vee | FERTILITY DOCTOR**

Sindhu Vee is an award-winning comedian, writer and actor.

Sindhu will soon be seen as Mrs Phelps in the upcoming Netflix feature film adaptation of MATILDA, starring alongside Emma Thompson, Lashana Lynch and Stephen Graham. The feature film musical, based on Tim Minchin's adaptation, was directed by Matthew Warchus and will be released in cinemas in the UK and Ireland in December 2022, and will be available to stream across the world on Netflix. Sindhu also recently wrapped on Kristin Scott Thomas' directorial debut feature film MY MOTHER'S WEDDING, which stars Scarlett Johansson and Sienna Miller. Other acting credits include: STARSTRUCK (BBC/HBO Max), SEX EDUCATION (Netflix) and FEEL GOOD (Channel 4/Netflix).

As a critically acclaimed stand-up comedian, Sindhu has twice appeared on BBC Two's LIVE AT THE APOLLO, most recently as host, and has guested on all of the top British panel shows, including: MOCK THE WEEK (BBC Two), QI (BBC Two), HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU (BBC One) and WOULD I LIE TO YOU? (BBC One). In 2021, Sindhu recorded a Stand Up Special of her solo show SANDHOG, which is now available to stream on Amazon Prime.

## **Mariam Haque | JAMILA**

Film and Television credits include: WHAT'S HAPPENING?! (Baby Cow), PLEBS the finale (ITV); MID-SOMER MURDERS (ITV); LADHOOD (BBC Three); HENPOCOLAYPSE (Pilot); WORZEL GUMMIDGE (BBC One); THIS GOING TO HURT (BBC One); FINDING ALICE (ITV); TRYING (Apple); HOMELAND (Showtime); FLOWERS (Channel 4); BLACK MIRROR: SHUT UP AND DANCE (Netflix); DOCTORS (BBC); EASTENDERS (BBC); HOLBY CITY (BBC); HUNTED (BBC); DOWN FROM LONDON (topic); BENJAMIN & UNDERCLIFF (Open Palm Films); SMEAR (Shadowhouse).

Theatre credits include *Folk* (Hampstead Theatre); *The Living Newspaper* (The Royal Court); *Where The Crows Visit* (The Kiln) *Romeo and Juliet* & *Macbeth* (The RSC); *Home Truths* (Cardboard Citizens/ Bunker Theatre); *Diana of Dobson's* (New Vic); *Dara & Behind The Beautiful Flowers* (National Theatre); *Almost Near & Hurried Steps* (The Finborough Theatre); *Twelve* (Kali Theatre); *Crossed Keys* (Eastern Angles); *Invasion!* (Tooting Arts Club); *The House of Bilquis Bibi* (Hampstead Theatre); *Monster Under The Bed* (Polka Theatre); *Au Revoir Le Enfants* (European Tour).