



## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



We have settled into our office following the relocation of our administrative operations to Fremantle and KULCHA is a hive of activity. The winter months have seen a diverse and well-patronised program from both accomplished musicians and community groups. In September this varied programming continues with Russian, Brazilian, Indonesian and Indigenous communities represented, including a dynamic workshop program for children and adults in Mozambique culture, and a Spanish dance and rhythm workshop as part of our ongoing school holiday workshop program.

KULCHA is looking forward to presenting an exciting program of visual arts exhibitions over the next few months. The organisation is participating in *Living Artists Week* with a visual arts show from New Guinean artist, Sandman, as well as featuring a special photographic show from Bangladesh in November. Keep your eye on the calendar and website for more information.

Following extensive strategic planning sessions in December 2004, KULCHA has reinstated the position of Multicultural Arts Officer to foster the development of new and emerging talent in local communities. The work of the Multicultural Arts Officer will facilitate greater collaborations, event and programming opportunities for artists within local multicultural communities. This position is central to raising awareness and project development in community cultural development practice within multicultural communities in Western Australia. The Multicultural Arts Officer will ensure that works created from community, cultural and artistic development initiatives continue to feed into KULCHA's core programming and events across the State.

The development of this position is supported by the Office of Multicultural Interests, who will fund the position from August to December 2005. Sarah Wilkinson has been appointed to fill this role. Sarah has a range of experience in community cultural development as a freelance worker in festival events, theatre productions and community performance projects. Most recently she has worked with the City of Mandurah, UWA Perth International Arts Festival and the Christmas Island Neighbourhood Centre. Sarah's passion for festivals and theatre has led her to work on a number of projects over her career as a director, producer, co-ordinator, performer and writer. Sarah's work is a combination of outdoor performance/events and community and cultural development projects. Highlights include; *Stretch Festival*, City of Mandurah, *Nyoongar Boodja*, *Mr Cha Cha's Ballroom*, *1000 Voice Choir & Flash Choirs*, UWA Perth International Arts Festival, Krismes Karaoke, Christmas Island Neighbourhood Centre, Darwin Festival, *Walyalup Dreaming*, City of Fremantle, *We Are Family* deckchair theatre and *Exile*, DADAA WA Inc. Sarah is looking forward to working with communities in the development of ideas and projects.

Please contact Sarah at the KULCHA office on 9336 4544 if you have ideas or projects that you would like to discuss.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

It is not often that the KULCHA President's message is one wherein we ask you what it is that you want from us. KULCHA has member benefits that relate to discounted tickets at the shows and reduced hiring fees for the excellent venue in Fremantle. The Board of KULCHA has been considering options in this regard. A number of options have been considered and KULCHA needs you to tell us what members want from the organisation. There are members that renew membership every year and take advantage of the benefits available. We thank these members very much and acknowledge the spirit of these memberships is in support of multicultural arts in Western Australia. KULCHA recognises that we desperately need your memberships to continue. Funding for arts companies is generally restricted and KULCHA needs subscriptions and memberships to continue the valuable work in celebrating cultural diversity through the enjoyment and development of multicultural arts. So much of KULCHA's work is tied to the provision of culturally appropriate arts exposure that is a vital part of the settlement services provided to our migrant communities. When migrant communities arrive in this country, one of the things that assists with transition into the community is the availability of culturally appropriate arts. KULCHA is the only organisation in Western Australia focused on providing these opportunities. It is therefore imperative that we ensure the existence and the flourishing of this organisation. Without the support of a strong membership base KULCHA would struggle to survive. So for those of you who are in the decision making phase of renewing your memberships, please do so and encourage your friends to do the same.

In recent times you would have seen the media coverage of the anti-Muslim feeling that seems to have abounded in Western Australia. The position that I have taken in respect of these issues is that, by providing culturally appropriate settlement services, including those of arts and culture, it is possible to ensure that there is a community of young migrants who are not disenfranchised and therefore vulnerable to the radical preachings of troublemakers. This then means that organisations such as KULCHA perform a very important social function. Yet governments are reluctant to recognise this and fund appropriately. One way we can convince governments of our strong position is to present to them, a strong membership base so that we become a 'force to be reckoned with'. In contributing to providing membership feedback, you will assist KULCHA in delivering a strong message to government that we need multicultural arts organisations to continue, in order to bring to migrant communities the message that it is okay to be different and that there is an opportunity to celebrate this diversity.

Suresh Rajan, President



## PROGRAM AND EVENTS

BY ROSIE JOHNSTONE

Despite being a cold and frosty winter so far we have had a busy couple of months, with well attended shows of all kinds. The demand for the KULCHA venue looks set to continue with most Fridays and Saturdays booked from now until Christmas. To provide the best range of shows for KULCHA members and to provide access to the venue for the maximum number of performers, we are giving priority to those performers who are playing at KULCHA for the first time this year. But we still have many Thursdays and Sundays free, and there may be cancellations, so please keep talking to us about your ideas for events and performances.



### The ECCRU Choir – Harmony in Diversity

Some may know that much of my experience pre-KULCHA has been in the field of community choirs and choral singing, so I was very happy to be invited along, on behalf of KULCHA, to a special performance of the ECCRU bilingual workers choir, made up of some extraordinary women from around the world. A dozen singers dressed in national dress performed songs from their own countries as well as group songs from Australia and even an especially composed ECCRU anthem, written by choir member Takako.

Since 1987 The Ethnic Child Care Resource Unit (ECCRU) has been helping migrant families to access children's services. Twice a year new Multicultural Bilingual Workers graduate from their training program. In 2000 Zoila Wood had an idea that they should form a choir, drawing on their diverse backgrounds and talents for material and inspiration.

With funding from the Office of Multicultural Interests, KULCHA has been able to help the choir to further develop, drawing on the skills of dedicated choir leader and singer, Jen de Ness. Thanks to Zoila Wood, Resource Development Officer at ECCRU and the ECCRU women for sharing their songs with us and we hope to persuade them to come and perform at the venue soon.

### CONGRATULATIONS

KULCHA congratulates The Hybrid Collective, Pascale and Salamander for their sell out performances at the KULCHA venue. Congratulations also to Milica Ilic, Ilija Ilic and the Serbian community for their generosity of spirit and overwhelming support of recent performance events at the venue in July.

### ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

It is important to acknowledge excellence in the multicultural arts community. In recent months KULCHA has supported excellence by presenting the revered classical guitarist Milica Ilic and the kulture visual arts touring exhibition *Exotic Bodies, Heavenly Products* by artists Nusra Qureshi and Naeem Rana. KULCHA seeks to celebrate artistic achievement within the multicultural arts community of Australia and to raise the profile of these artists in the broader Australian community.



Continuing in the celebration of KULCHA'S Year of the Multicultural Woman in 2005, KULCHA acknowledges Milica Ilic, Nusra Latif Qureshi, The ECCRU Choir and Pascale

### Milica Ilic ~ Profile

Milica Ilic has been living in London performing and teaching. She returned to Perth to play at KULCHA on Friday 22 July with Desert Child and to spend some time in the recording studio. Milica also performed with the newly formed Fremantle Chamber Orchestra at the Fremantle Town Hall. Milica was introduced to guitar at age nine. She was awarded a number of music scholarships in her early years and recognised as the highest-ranking classical guitarist of Western Australia in her final year of high school studies. Milica is a First Class Honours Music Graduate, from the University of Western Australia. Ilic is in demand as a solo performer and is described as ... *a rising star in the world of classical guitar music.*

Among her achievements Milica Ilic was awarded the *2004 Western Australian Citizen of the Year ~ Youth Arts*. During December 2002, Milica accompanied the world famous tenor, Mr José Carreras, with Singapore Symphony Orchestra in Singapore and Angkor Wat in Cambodia. She has also toured with Tommy Emmanuel. In July 1999, Milica performed at the Fourth Darwin International Guitar Festival. Upon hearing her play, Czech guitar virtuoso Stepan Rak invited her to study with him in Prague (2000-2001). Professor Rak, Head of Guitar at the Academy of Musical Arts in Prague, selects two aspiring artists each year internationally. Milica is in demand for both performances and to lecture at seminars, expounding the techniques that she mastered in Europe.

Milica was guest soloist at José Carreras in Concert, *One Unforgettable Evening*, conducted by David Giménez and accompanied by the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in 2003. Milica is a refugee from Bosnia and came to Australia in 1993.

In the *Fremantle Rooster* on 29 July Milica was reported as saying...

'Most of all I appreciate the respect for others that Australians have, here people are accepting and respectful of other cultures. It is the perfect place to make music.'

## EXOTIC BODIES, HEAVENLY PRODUCTS

### KULCHA presents a kultour event

Kultour is the national multicultural artists touring body supported by the Australia Council. In conjunction with kultour KULCHA presented the *Exotic Bodies, Heavenly Products* touring visual arts exhibition by Pakistani artists, Nusra Qureshi and Naeem Rana. Opening night was on 23 July at Fremantle Arts Centre.

Review by Melissa Callanan

It was a delight to speak with the artists on the night. On a personal level I found the work of Qureshi to be sensual and subtle with a strong undercurrent of subtext on the politics of human relationships that made the work intriguing and enigmatic. Rana's work I found to be ironic, playful, humorous, culturally and politically charged. The tension between the humour and the politics created a reaction that exposed questions about form and content. It interests me that these artists exhibit together and in doing so balance the representation of artistic expression that is political at both the personal and cultural level.

According to Suhnya Raffel, the Head of Asian, Pacific & International Art at the Queensland Art Gallery, each artist develops their practice through the quite distinctive considerations of aspects of Pakistani visual culture, including both historical iconography and contemporary popular culture. Their artworks deploy the familiar contemporary visual tools of appropriation, pastiche and allusion common in the practice of art today.

### Nusra Latif Qureshi ~ Profile

Trained in traditional miniature painting at the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan. Qureshi's art adopts the tradition of Pakistani miniature painting known as musaviri, in the creation of contemporary works. These delicate, poetic paintings are layered with cultural inquiry, referencing social, artistic and political histories, while inserting motifs of modern life. Solid colour, sensitive outlines and ornamental patterns meet in these narrative images that explore notions of emotional and physical identity. Colonisation, migration and possession interest Qureshi as she investigates the struggles, compromises and aspirations of peoples who have been uprooted, sought refuge in a new place, or begun a new life.

Qureshi fuses a traditional style and modern motifs within her work. What at first appears to be a deceptively simple narrative, upon close examination becomes a commentary on the issues of sexual politics and the impact of 19th Century Colonialism. Her narratives reverse the balance of perceived male dominance by marrying images of early Colonialism with those of male/female intimacy. Through her adept brushwork and layered meanings, Qureshi's reinterpretations provide an active voice for an otherwise passive historical feminine role.



### Naeem Rana ~ Profile

Naeem Rana comes from a family of calligraphers whose expertise has been passed from generation to generation. A highly refined skill with a long established history attached to the art of book, calligraphy has been referred to as the source of art in accounts and discussions of Islamic art history. Of calligraphy it has been written.

*Of the key of intellect, art has become the banner*

*And what is the key of art?*

*'Tis the tip of calamus*

*The calamus contrives designs and reveals faces*

*God has created the pen as of two kinds*

(Qazi Ahmad)

The calamus is the writing/painting implement and the 'two kinds' referred to are the reed pen used for writing and the hair brush used for painting, emphasizing that painting and calligraphy are two branches of a single art. Naeem draws influence from manuscript art in which the arabesques and geometric patterning are intrinsic to form, as is the rich subject matter that includes mythology, depiction of courtly life, portraiture and allegorical imagery. Naeem uses images drawn from popular culture that include film and advertising. Popular film culture, a vast industry within the sub-continent of India and Pakistan, is one source. So are the familiar characters of western films such as the bond girls, symptomatic of the reach of the multi-national product, whether they are film icons or the ubiquitous consumer items of Coca Cola and the Porsche Carrera. Embroiled in this tumble of images are political figures such as Saddam Hussein, Osama-Bin Laden and George Bush, whose impact on the region's political, economic and social life has been disruptive.



*Cinderella Undergarments* is the name of an imaginary product. The name is written in Urdu script in the centre of the image. The slogan underneath can be translated as 'The secret of your confident personality'. This image explores the printing process gone wrong, when colours misprint due to a mistaken shift in registration marks.



## PASCALE ~ ARTIST FEEDBACK

*A tous les amis!* The day I set foot on this vast, beautiful continent I realised that I had a mission to 'ENTERTAIN'. Coming straight from my hometown, Paris, was such a culture shock but the word 'impossible' is not in the French dictionary, so I embarked to bring my culture and heritage to this wonderful land Down Under. When I first started the crowd was intrigued but not quite ready to let themselves be transported to a foreign destination. As time went on and the world became a little global village which made Australia part of the 'European Neighbourhood', this is when the crowd started to give an ear and open their hearts to the melodies and rhythms I am so accustomed to. At the age of 5, my Dad, who had a vegetable and fruit cart in the street markets of Paris, made me dance and sing in order to attract buyers – I was the little French Shirley Temple on the block! Today, I'm hoping that people who come to any of my shows are able to take with them a souvenir of France but mostly a feeling of love, a feeling that we are ONE! -Pascale



Pascale performed her *Tribute to Edith Piaf* show to a sell out crowd at KULCHA on Saturday 30 July. By popular demand Pascale is performing again at KULCHA on Sunday 9 October. Call for more details on 9336 4544.

## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SUNDOWNER

On Friday 5 August KULCHA and the City of Fremantle hosted the first Industry Sundowner event at the Fremantle venue on the balcony overlooking the café strip. These events are to be held on the first Friday of every month between 5-7pm at KULCHA. The purpose of the Industry Sundowner is to set aside time for people who work professionally in an arts based industry to meet and catch up for a chat. It is hoped the event will create a network for sharing ideas and building a sense of unity. The invitation goes out to arts workers, performers, artists, designers and architects. If you would like to receive an email reminder for this event please contact Melissa Callanan at [marketing@kulcha.com.au](mailto:marketing@kulcha.com.au).

**INDUSTRY SUNDOWNER**  
FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

5 AUGUST 5 - 7PM  
KULCHA  
1ST FLOOR, 13 SOUTH TERRACE  
FREMANTLE (ABOVE DOME)

LICENSED BAR  
DISCOUNTED BEER & WINE

ARTS WORKERS ARTISTS PERFORMERS ARCHITECTS DESIGNERS...

CONTACT Melissa Callanan EMAIL: [marketing@kulcha.com.au](mailto:marketing@kulcha.com.au) PH: 9336 4544

KULCHA logo and other logos at the bottom.

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

KULCHA is developing a membership research survey. The aim of the survey is to seek feedback from members about the services offered by KULCHA and to assess membership needs. Your feedback and contribution to the process is much appreciated. All members who respond will be in the draw to win one of four complimentary double passes to the venue. A survey will be posted to you with the October calendar.

**KULCHA**  
Multicultural Arts of Western Australia

*Celebrate the World*  
- joie de vivre - lust au lebau - la dolce vita -

Multi-arts Venue *Music*  
VISUAL ARTS **Dance Theatre**  
weekly performances and events  
[www.kulcha.com.au](http://www.kulcha.com.au) ph: 9336 4544

Logos for various organizations at the bottom.

## CELEBRATE THE WORLD

KULCHA introduces the new advertising campaign *Celebrate the World*. As a multicultural arts organisation KULCHA supports and develops the positive aspects of cultural diversity and the heart of this idea is captured in a respect for the native language of countries outside Australia. KULCHA has begun a process of attempting to collect a colloquial phrase from a diverse range of cultures which represents the idea to ... *Celebrate the World*. In France the idea is captured in the phrase *joie de vivre*. In Italy, *la dolce vita*, and in German it is *lust au lebau*. KULCHA is seeking to collect this idea in as many languages as possible. These phrases will then be used in the generic advertising campaign and in signage around the venue as a mark of respect and celebration for the use of all native languages. If you would like to contribute please call KULCHA on 9336 4544 or email [marketing@kulcha.com.au](mailto:marketing@kulcha.com.au)

# CELEBRATE