

South Asian Arts Collective

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2007/08



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South Asian Arts Collective: Annual Report 2007/08

Introduction

I am pleased to present this annual report of our activities in 2007/08.

Once again we faced a challenging environment, with no paid staff and very little external grant funding. Despite this, we succeeded in offering a good range of classes and performance opportunities for our students and tutors.

We are very grateful to Edinburgh City Council for their support, and we look forward to developing these links in 2009. I would also like to record our thanks to those people who made donations during the year, and anyone who gave up their time to help with classes, performances and meetings.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank you for your continuing support for our collective.

Anita Bhatnagar
Chair, South Asian Arts Collective

Board Membership

The Board members for 2008 were:

- Anita Bhatnagar (Chair)
- Rashpal Nottay (Vice-Chair)
- Nigel Richard (Treasurer)
- Dave Beards (Secretary)
- Gautam Sirur
- Sheetal Shah
- Dane Murdoch
- Laurence Howells (stepped down in July 2008)



SAAColl Showcase 2008, Assembly Rooms

Name Change

Following feedback from our members, the Board agreed a proposal to change the name of the organisation from Indian Music and Dance Collective to 'South Asian Arts Collective'. This was seen as a more inclusive title for the collective, with the prospect of attracting new students. Having obtained the necessary permission from the Office of the Charities Scotland Regulator (OSCR), the new name was formally adopted at a special meeting on 26 August 2008. Our website was revamped and new publicity materials were produced to reflect the change of name.

Our Development Objectives

The South Asian Arts Collective (SAAColl) has five development objectives, which were first agreed and set out in the IMDColl Development Plan in 2002. This report is structured around these strategic aims.

Aim 1: Maintain existing markets and quality of service

We reviewed our current student numbers and decided that we needed to raise our profile to maintain our existing markets. We made a successful application to the City Edinburgh Council for funding to help with publicity materials and taster sessions. The taster sessions took place in the first 4 weeks of the Autumn 2008 term, and attracted a small number of new students.

Student numbers (enrolments per term) increased slightly over the year, compared to 2007:

	Enrolments 2008	Enrolments 2007	Difference
Tabla	27	41	- 14
Sitar	31	30	1
Vocal	25	4	21
Bollywood	45	37	8
Bharatnatyam	28	27	1
Totals	156	139	17

Tutors

We have worked hard this year to achieve stability in our music classes (tabla, sitar and vocal). By the autumn, we had professional tutors in place for all of our classes. The following tutors have all taught for SAAColl in 2008:

- Tabla - Vijay Kangukar
- Vocal - Payal Debroy, Prakriti Dutta
- Sitar - Sonal Mann
- Bollywood - Payal Debroy, Anuj Kapilishrami
- Bharatnatyam - Merav Israel

Aim 2: Expand into new markets

Our main thoughts this year were to reach out to new groups of potential students, particularly older women and new migrants. We made an application to the Scottish Government Race Religion Integration and Immigration Fund for this purpose, but this bid was unsuccessful.

We also ran a series of tabla and bollywood dance workshops for local schools. These were well-received by the pupils and we look forward to expanding our partnership work with the City of Edinburgh Council and local schools in the future.

Aim 3: Add new art forms

The main focus here was to restart our kathak dance classes. We applied to the Lottery Awards for All Scheme to support an event and workshops featuring kathak dance, but the bid was unsuccessful.



Aim 4: New performances

Students continued to be active in 2007/08, performing at a wide variety of events:

- December: IMDColl AGM, Tollcross Community Centre – sitar and tabla students performed Raag Bhairavi, accompanying Bollywood dancers.
- February: European Conference on Migrant participation in adult education, Tollcross Community Centre – tabla and sitar students performed Raag Jog
- May: Ladyfest at the Reid Concert Hall – sitar and tabla students performed Raag Bageshri
- May: Tollcross Community Centre summer concert – tabla and sitar students performed Raag Bageshri
- August: Craigmillar Art Space – sitar and tabla students played at the opening of an exhibition by Polish artists
- October: Poland – sitar and tabla students played a series of concerts of Indian classical music.
- October: SAAColl Showcase, Edinburgh Assembly Rooms – students from all classes performed at this celebration of diverse festivals.



Aim 5: Improve financial and managerial security

2008 has again been a challenging year, in which we received very little external income. We have no paid staff and so Board members had to take on all of the work, with help from various friends of SAAColl. Apart from the change of name, the Board did not progress any significant governance or management issues.

Despite reducing our operating costs to an absolute minimum, the income from student fees (at current levels) does not cover the cost of classes. This has resulted in a gradual worsening of our financial position.

We received a small number of donations over the year, including a donation specifically to support sitar classes.

Conclusion

Despite the difficult financial position, we have managed to provide a good range of classes and performances over the year. With professional tutors in place for all three music classes we have started to explore the potential of ensemble performances and collaboration between the art forms. We continue to receive very positive feedback from students about the classes.

It has again been heartening to see our students gain in confidence and ability over the year, with some of them performing frequently both in Scotland and overseas. Senior students have continued to undertake formal and informal teaching, passing on what they have learned from their studies with SAAColl and expanding the impact of our work.

We recognize that it will be hard to sustain our activities in 2009 without some external income. We will therefore continue to seek partners and funding opportunities next year, including developing our relationship with the City of Edinburgh Council.



Quotes

‘Being confronted with an instrument with seventeen strings that is not far off your own size is an intimidating prospect. However, it is made easy with the help and support of fifteen other budding sitarists. The group itself is a melting pot of various backgrounds, and because you learn as a group, you are able to support and befriend each other. The Sitar Project brings together people of many ages, nationalities, religions and abilities and provides a place to meet and interact. I am proud to say I have learnt about the Indian culture, I am proud to say I have become friends with some wonderful people, and, above all, I am proud to call myself . . . a sitarist.’ - Andrew Pearson.

‘Anuj's workshops at the school were a huge success last month. We have had lots of positive feedback from the staff and pupils at the school.’ - Fiona Dalgetty.

‘Dave and Miro enchanted the audience with their performance of Indian classical music.’ – Mlawa Gazeta, Poland.

South Asian Arts Collective

Financial report for year to December 2008 Accounts for year ending 31st March 2008

The financial situation has remained broadly as reported last year. The loss of our main funding at that time led to the committee adopting a cautious approach to spending our limited resources and we have focussed on our core activities.

As reported in our annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008 (and shown here), the total assets of the collective were £1691 at the year end. We were concerned that we would not be able to continue beyond the summer at that point, because we run our classes at a small loss when the limited overheads are taken into account. However, a grant of £2563 from the City of Edinburgh Council was very helpful in enabling us to continue during the autumn term.

Funds are now at a point where we can only make very limited provision for classes from January onwards and additional revenue is essential in the near future. The Collective is still well placed, given the skills of our tutors, and the commitment of our trustees and students, to take advantage of any new revenue, and to develop and prosper again.

The accounts for year ending 31st March 2008 have been checked by an Independent Examiner in accordance with the requirements of charity regulations and our constitution.

Indian Music and Dance Collective

Balance sheet as at 31st March 2008

	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible asset		536		1075
Current Assets				
Debtors				3018
Cash at Bank	1394			2795
		-----		-----
	1394			5813
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(250)		(2011)	
		-----		-----
Net current assets		1144		3802
		-----		-----
Net assets		1680		4877
		=====		=====
Funds				
Unrestricted funds		1680		4877
		-----		-----
		1680		4877
		=====		=====

Indian Music and Dance Collective

Statement of financial activities (Incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31st March 2008

	2008	2007
Incoming resources		
Voluntary	63	3477
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objectives	5425	19517
Investment income	69	113
	-----	-----
Total incoming resources	5494	23107
	-----	-----
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	8446	26292
Governance costs	297	153
	-----	-----
Total resources expended	8743	26445
	-----	-----
Net movement in funds	(3186)	(3338)
Total funds brought forward	4877	8215
	-----	-----
Total funds carried forward	1691	4877
	=====	=====