

rifco theatre company



Surinderella, 2026

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

WELCOME TO RIFCO THEATRE

Help Shape the Future of British South Asian Theatre.

For more than 25 years, Rifco has been creating bold, joyful and culturally authentic theatre that puts contemporary British South Asian stories centre stage.

From critically acclaimed musicals and groundbreaking new writing to national tours, artist development and community engagement, Rifco has built a proud reputation for making work that is entertaining, ambitious and deeply connected to its audiences.

We have brought thousands of new audiences into theatres across the UK, championed generations of British South Asian talent and created space for stories that are too often overlooked.

Now, as Rifco enters an exciting new chapter of growth, we are looking for passionate, skilled and ambitious Trustees to join our Board and help shape the organisation's future.

This is an opportunity to bring your expertise, perspective and networks to a nationally recognised company at a pivotal moment in its journey.

Join us and help ensure the next 25 years of British South Asian theatre are even bolder, more ambitious and impossible to ignore.



Mushy: Lyrically Speaking, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Thank you for your interest in joining the Board of Rifco Theatre.

Rifco has always believed that theatre should reflect the richness and diversity of modern Britain. Over the last 25 years, we have become one of the UK's leading British South Asian touring theatre companies, producing ambitious work for audiences across the country while nurturing the next generation of artists.

As we continue to grow artistically and organisationally, we are looking for new Trustees who share our ambition, challenge our thinking and bring fresh perspectives.

You do not need previous board experience. What matters is that you share our belief in the power of theatre, the importance of authentic representation and Rifco's ambition to create lasting change across the cultural sector.

We are particularly interested in individuals who can strengthen our strategic leadership while championing creativity, inclusion and sustainability.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ganan Kanagathurai

Chair of the Board



Britain's Got Bhangra, 2011

ABOUT RIFCO THEATRE

Rifco Theatre Company is one of the UK's leading British South Asian theatre companies, creating bold, joyful and culturally authentic work for audiences across the country.

Founded in 2000 by Artistic Director and CEO Pravesh Kumar MBE, Rifco has spent more than 25 years bringing contemporary British South Asian experiences to the stage with ambition, humour, music, spectacle and heart.

Our work is rooted in the lives of British South Asian communities, but its themes are universal: family, identity, love, ambition, belonging and the glorious chaos of finding your place in modern Britain.

From major musicals and popular comedies to new writing and artist development, Rifco creates theatre that is both artistically ambitious and genuinely accessible. We make work that speaks directly to audiences who have historically felt excluded from theatre, while welcoming people from every background into the room.

As an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, we produce and tour work nationally, build long-term partnerships with theatres and cultural organisations, and invest in the artists, leaders and audiences who will shape the future of British theatre.

Alongside our productions, our work includes:

- National touring plays and musicals
- New writing and artist development
- Associate Artist programmes
- Creative learning and community participation
- Digital storytelling and audience engagement
- Partnerships across the commercial and subsidised theatre sectors
- National and international collaborations

Over the past 25 years, Rifco has brought thousands of new audience members into theatres, created opportunities for British South Asian artists and developed stories that might otherwise never have reached the stage.

We do not believe diverse work is niche. We believe authentic stories, told with confidence and excellence, can connect with everyone.

OUR VISION

To be the UK's leading home for British South Asian stories, artists and audiences.

We want British South Asian creativity to be visible, valued and celebrated at the heart of British culture.

Our ambition is to build a future in which British South Asian artists can develop lasting careers, audiences can see their lives reflected on stage, and the stories we create are recognised as an essential part of the national theatrical landscape.

OUR MISSION

We create exceptional theatre that celebrates, challenges and reflects contemporary British South Asian experiences.

We combine artistic excellence with popular storytelling, creating work that is entertaining, emotionally powerful and culturally specific.

We believe theatre should be:

Inclusive

Our stages, stories, audiences and opportunities should reflect the society we live in.

Ambitious

We think big, take creative risks and refuse to limit the scale of British South Asian stories.

Accessible

We create welcoming, entertaining experiences for regular theatregoers and first-time audiences alike.

Joyful

Humour, music, warmth and celebration are central to our work, even when we are exploring difficult or complex subjects.

Artistically Excellent

We invest in exceptional artists, rigorous creative processes and work of the highest possible quality.

Transformative

We believe theatre can change perceptions, open doors and create a genuine sense of belonging.

WHY WE ARE RECRUITING

Rifco is entering an exciting new phase of artistic and organisational growth.

With more than 25 years of achievement behind us, we are now looking ahead: creating work on a greater scale, reaching more audiences, developing new talent, strengthening our partnerships and building a more resilient organisation for the future.

To support this ambition, we are seeking several new Trustees who can bring fresh thinking, strategic insight and a genuine commitment to Rifco's mission.

Our Trustees play a vital role in helping us make bold decisions, challenge ourselves, manage risk and turn ambition into action. This is not simply about attending meetings; it is an opportunity to help shape the future of one of the UK's most distinctive theatre companies.

Above all, we are looking for people who believe in the importance of British South Asian stories, understand the power of culture to create change, and want to help make Rifco's next 25 years even more ambitious than the last.



Frankie Goes to Bollywood, 2026



Meri Christmas, 2006



Deranged Marriage, 2015

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for people who are excited by what Rifco has achieved and ambitious about where we can go next.

Our Trustees do more than oversee the organisation. They help us think bigger, ask better questions, open new doors and make sure Rifco remains artistically fearless, financially strong and ready for the future.

You may already know the theatre world inside out, or you may bring experience from business, finance, digital media, philanthropy or another creative industry. What matters most is that you believe in the power of British South Asian stories and want to help us build what comes next.

THEATRE LEADERSHIP

We are keen to hear from senior leaders who understand how ambitious theatre is made, produced, financed and shared with audiences.

You might come from a producing theatre, commercial theatre, touring company, venue, festival or wider arts organisation.

This could include:

Executive Directors
Theatre CEOs
Producers and General Managers
Commercial theatre leaders
Senior venue or touring executives

You will bring strategic insight, sector knowledge and an understanding of the opportunities and pressures facing theatre today. You may also help Rifco strengthen partnerships, grow its national reach and develop new models for producing and touring work.

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY

Strong financial leadership is essential to supporting creative ambition.

We are looking for someone with the expertise to help Rifco remain resilient, well governed and confident in its financial decision-making as the organisation grows.

You may be a:

Chartered Accountant
Finance Director
Head of Finance
Financial Controller
Auditor or audit professional

You will be comfortable looking beyond the numbers, helping the Board understand risk, sustainability, investment and opportunity. We are especially interested in people who can combine rigorous financial thinking with an appreciation of how creative organisations work.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

BRITISH SOUTH ASIAN CREATIVE LEADERS

At the heart of Rifco is a commitment to authentic British South Asian storytelling.

We are looking for an artist or creative leader who understands the cultural landscape our work grows from and the barriers that British South Asian artists still face across the industry.

You might be a:

Writer
Director
Producer
Performer
Designer
Filmmaker
Multidisciplinary artist or creative practitioner

We are particularly interested in people who are passionate about developing the next generation of British South Asian talent and who can bring fresh artistic perspectives, cultural insight and creative challenge to the Board.



Glitterball, 2022



Laila – The Musical, 2016

COMMERCIAL GROWTH, PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING

We want to build a company that is creatively ambitious and financially enterprising.

We are looking for people who can help Rifco develop new income, build powerful relationships and create opportunities beyond traditional arts funding.

Your experience might include:

Business development
Commercial partnerships
Sponsorship
Philanthropy and fundraising
Income generation
Entrepreneurship
Brand collaborations

You will help us think imaginatively about how Rifco can grow, diversify its income and build long-term partnerships with people and organisations who share our values.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

DIGITAL MEDIA AND AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Rifco's stories should live far beyond the stage.

We are also interested in people with experience in digital media, content, technology or audience development who can help us reach new communities and tell our stories in fresh ways.

This might include:

Digital strategy
Social media and content creation
Film, television or online platforms
Audience data and insight
Digital marketing
Technology and innovation

You will help us explore how digital thinking can strengthen our productions, grow our audiences and connect Rifco with the next generation.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU...

Believe in the power of theatre
Want to make a difference
Can think strategically
Enjoy working collaboratively
Want to support British South Asian artists
Can bring valuable professional or lived experience

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO TICK EVERY BOX

We are not looking for one person who can do everything.

We are building a Board with a rich mix of skills, perspectives, lived experiences and professional backgrounds. Previous Trustee experience is welcome, but it is not essential.

What matters is curiosity, generosity, good judgement and a willingness to use your experience to help Rifco flourish.

This is a chance to join a creative, ambitious and nationally recognised company at a defining moment in its story.



Pali and Jay's Ultimate Asian Wedding DJ Roadshow, 2024

WHAT DOES A TRUSTEE DO?

Trustees provide strategic oversight rather than day-to-day operational management.

Responsibilities include:

- Helping to set Rifco's strategic direction
- Providing financial oversight
- Supporting strong governance
- Supporting fundraising and income generation
- Championing Rifco and its work
- Acting as ambassadors for the organisation
- Supporting the CEO and Executive Team
- Potential Sub-committee involvement



Britain's Got Bhangra, 2011

TIME COMMITMENT

The role involves:

- Four Board meetings each year (hybrid/in-person), to be agreed by the board in advance
- Occasional committee meetings
- Attendance at Rifco productions
- An annual strategy day
- Advocacy and networking where appropriate

Term: 3-year term, renewable for up to 6 years

While this role is unremunerated, reasonable travel and access-related expenses will be reimbursed.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Rifco believes that diversity strengthens governance, creativity and decision-making.

We welcome applications from people of every background, particularly those currently underrepresented in arts leadership.

We actively encourage applications from:

- British South Asian professionals
- People from Global Majority communities
- Disabled people
- LGBTQ+ people
- People bringing senior professional experience to their first Trustee role

We will provide a formal induction and training for new Trustees. Prior board experience is not required for this role.

HOW TO APPLY

We would love to hear what you could bring to Rifco's future.

Please send your current CV and either:

A cover letter of no more than two pages OR
A short video of no more than five minutes

Please tell us:

Why you would like to join Rifco's Board
The skills, experience and perspective you would bring
Why Rifco's work and future matter to you

Please send your application to Ravleen Beeston, Vice Chair of Rifco Theatre Company, at:
vip@rifcotheatre.com

Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form:

Completing our [equal opportunities monitoring form](#) is voluntary and anonymous. This is a separate document from your CV and covering letter. Information provided is kept confidential and used for monitoring purposes only. For further information regarding the equal opportunities form, please contact Ravleen Beeston at vip@rifcotheatre.com, and return the form with your application if you wish to.

Deadline: 15 October 2026, 12 pm Midday

Timeline for next steps and interviews: 26 October - 27 November 2026

For any access support, please contact vip@rifcotheatre.com



Surinderella, 2026

TRUSTEES 2026

Ravleen Beeston
Ganan Kanagathurai
Ani Kaprekar
Neena Shea

MANAGEMENT TEAM 2026

Artistic Director & CEO - Pravesh Kumar MBE
Associate Director - Ameet Chana
Executive Producer- George Warren
Producer - Amy Mann
Operations Manager - Sweekriti Khatiwara



Mushy: Lyrically Speaking, 2019



Frankie Goes to Bollywood, 2026



Happy Birthday Sunita, 2024



Laila – The Musical, 2016