

THE MAHARAJAH & THE KOHINOOR

created by ZeroSeefr in a co-production with
The Drum commissioned by
Anglo Sikh Heritage Trail

*“Thoroughly enjoyed it.
Our children would not usually
have the opportunity to see
a performance like this.
The year 5 and 6 children
enjoyed the workshop”*

Inderjit Paddam. Regents Park School, Birmingham

The Maharajah and the Kohinoor

is a great opportunity for schools to introduce this unique episode of South Asian and British heritage, offering creative and accessible activity to encourage discussion, appreciation and engagement in Anglo Sikh Heritage.

***A unique opportunity for
Keys Stages 2 and 3...***

- ***a play***
- ***workshops***

*Available from
January 2010 through June 2010*



THE MAHARAJAH & THE KOHINOOR



The Maharajah & The Kohinoor (1838-1893) charts the story of Maharajah Duleep Singh an iconic figure whose life is critical in understanding the relationship between Sikhs and the British.

This story dramatically journeys through the life of Duleep Singh, and how at the tender age of six he became the Maharajah of Lahore following the death of his father, Maharajah Ranjit Singh. After being deposed and sent to England, Duleep Singh soon became a court favourite with Queen Victoria.

What does the package consist of?

The Maharajah & The Kohinoor will be aimed at and cover 5 areas on the National Curriculum:

Religious Education - exploring key aspects of religion, the people, stories and traditions of others, how this reflects on community and the interface with others and their own responses, reflecting on sources of inspiration.

History - the placing of events and people and the changes this brought within a timeline and social, cultural, religious and ethnic changes in the past both in British and world history.

Geography - a knowledge and understanding of place, and the patterns and processes involved.

Citizenship - reflecting on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues using imagination to understand and reflect on other people's experiences.

Drama – supporting techniques to develop confidence, social skills through to listening skills and creative expression through role-play improvisation and performance skills.

The play consists of

Play: 60 minute play with workshop for up to 120 students, total package up to 2 hours.

Technical: The play is performed by 4 actors and includes a workshop or Q&A session. A quick assemble set requires a space of 4m x 4m plus nearby power supply.

Budget: The package is priced from £400 upwards and is negotiable

Dates: Tour dates available from January 2010 to June 2010

Booking: All bookings to be received by December 15th 2009

Why should you choose this play?

The Maharajah and the Kohinoor is a great opportunity for schools to introduce this unique episode of South Asian and British heritage, offering creative and accessible activity to encourage discussion, appreciation and engage in Anglo Sikh Heritage.

The theatre company and producers:

ZeroSeeFr is the education wing of zeroculture, an arts production company, with over three decades of experience in production and young peoples/schools activity.
www.zeroculture.co.uk

The Anglo Sikh Heritage Trail is a groundbreaking initiative promoting a greater understanding of the heritage shared between Sikhs and Britain. www.asht.info

The Drum one of the West Midlands leading contemporary arts centres, facilitating arts development, performance exhibition and celebration within diverse arts. www.thedrum.org.uk

Background

The life of Maharajah Duleep Singh



Above: Duleep Singh reunites with his mother Maharani Jind Kaur 'Maharajah and the Kohinoor'

Duleep Singh was the Maharajah of Lahore, (King of the Sikh Empire), who was exiled by the British at the age of eleven and sent to England. He arrived on the shores of England and immediately became a court favorite of Queen Victoria, who showered affection upon the turbaned Maharajah, so beginning an unlikely relationship of love and loyalty. The Maharajah was looked upon as an adopted son of Her Majesty, encouraged to mingle with the household, play with the younger Princes and holiday with them at Osborne House. His princely appearance and native ways 'were a sheer joy' for the Royal Family.

Even Her Majesty drew sketches and watercolors of the handsome Sikh king in her sketchpad. The Maharajah's fondness of the weak Prince Leopold was touching, whilst his friendship with the Prince of Wales remained until the end. The Queen and Prince Consort became the godparents to the Maharajah's eldest son Prince Victor, who the Maharajah named after his 'most gracious sovereign'. Encouraged by Her Majesty, the ex-Maharajah established solid relationships with the Royal family over the years. However, injustices and insincere intentions eventually drove him into the arms of exploitive foreign meddlers who offered allegiance but left him isolated—he died penniless and alone in 1893.

Maharajah Ranjit Singh

Perhaps the most legendary of all the Indian Maharajahs, 'the lion of the Punjab' Ranjit Singh, Duleep Singh's father, takes a special place in Sikh and British colonial history.

A ferocious warrior, a just King, and a masterful tactician, he belongs to those extraordinary men who create empires out of nothing. At its peak, between 1825 to 1839, the Sikh kingdom was worthy of European rivalry and one of the most attractive destinations for any European; travellers, artists and writers flocked to the Lahore Durbar for its style and its arts patronage.

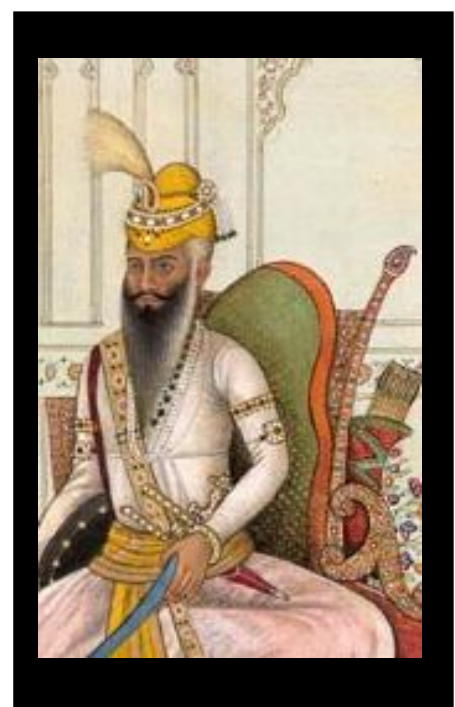


Image courtesy of British Library

What audiences have to say

'The Maharajah and the Kohinoor' was piloted last year October/November 08 and toured to critical acclaim in schools.

A review and images are available at <http://www.asht.info/>

"Wow! What can I say? We have just had ZeroSeeFr in to do their play and workshop and it was fantastic!"

"The students watched the play for an hour then took part in a workshop - their understanding of the history and story of the Maharajah and the Koh-i-Noor was brilliant - the group really explained the history so well and in such an entertaining way!"

The workshop afterwards was so much fun, all students were fully engaged and were encouraged to talk about their feelings and express their emotions through 'freeze frame' activities.

The members of the group were a pleasure to have here this afternoon and would welcome them back any time, their interaction with our students was outstanding!"

Jo Potter
The Stourport High School & V1th Form Centre



ZeroSeeFr



For further information contact:

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West Midlands WS4 2DZ

Maharajah and the Kohinoor Booking Form
Touring January- June 2010

School Details:

Name of School _____

Address _____

City/Town _____

County _____

Postcode _____

Contact Details:

Contact Name _____

Contact Telephone _____

Contact Email _____

Preferred Dates

Please indicate the month for which you would like to book the play:

January February March

April May June

Please state, if known, the preferred date(s) for which you would like to book the play within the month you have indicated _____

Please send booking forms either by email to admin@asht.info or by post to Anglo Sikh Heritage Trail, 2 Victoria Mews, Walsall, West Midlands, WS4 2DZ,

All forms should be received no later than **December 15th 2009**

For further queries contact **0845 600 1893**

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