

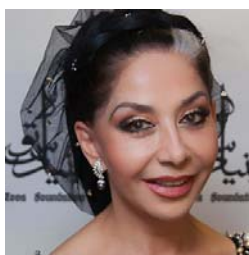
TOOS FOUNDATION
presents
'ALONG THE SILK ROAD'

Marco Polo's travels through music and dance

Sunday June 23rd – London Artsdepot 5 Nether St London N12 OGA

020 8369 5454 www.artsdepot.co.uk

5.30pm-7.30pm English performance; 8:30pm-10:30pm Farsi performance



Toos Foundation, a UK registered charity founded and chaired by Jamileh Kharrazi (left), promotes Persian and Iranian arts and culture to audiences in the UK and abroad. On Sunday June 23rd the Foundation will present its hugely popular, vibrant dance/music production, **'Along the Silk Road – Marco Polo's travels through music and dance'**, at north London's **artsdepot** when a cast of dancers, musicians, poets and actors will take the audience on a musical and historical journey along the Silk Road of ancient times, dropping into different countries along the way to sample their art and culture.

The art of countries such as Persia, Afghanistan, China, India and modern day Iran will be performed by an international cast from the UK, Iran, Italy, Spain, and India. The first performance at 5.30pm will be in English; the second performance at 8.30pm will be in Farsi. **'Along the Silk Road'** is the perfect show for families, audiences who love performance art and music, lovers of history, art and culture from ancient times and artsdepot's regular theatregoers.

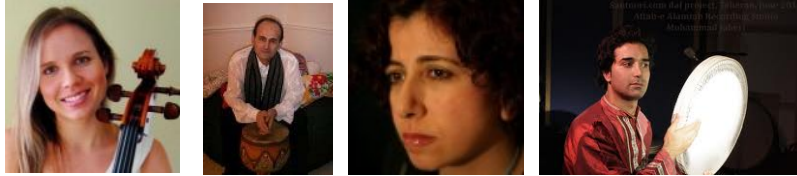


'Along the Silk Road' is a tribute to the great Italian traveller and trader Marco Polo (Sama Kalaveh, left) whose travels along the Silk Road between 1276 and 1291 and his experiences at the court of the Mongol leader, Kublai Khan were recounted to Rustichello da Pisa with whom Polo shared a prison cell in Genoa – one of the scenes in the production. Da Pisa wrote down the stories in Old French and the subsequent book, **'The Travels of Marco Polo'**, did much to introduce Europeans to Central Asia and China. For over a thousand years the Silk Road was the most significant international trade route across the Afro-Eurasian landmass that connected East, South, and Western Asian with the Mediterranean and European worlds as well as parts of North and East Africa. Extending 4,000 miles the Silk Road gets its name from the lucrative Chinese silk trade along it. It brought goods and services, technology, religion and philosophy to many countries along the way and promoted the global exchange of art and culture.

The evening will be presented and narrated by **Clifford Allison**; with actors **Sama Kalaveh** as Marco Polo and **Darioush Alvand** as Rostichello da Pisa

Dancers include: Fancesco Mangiacasle, Ghamzeh Mehdizadeh, Julia Naidenko (Xfactor finalist), Jesus Munoz, Bhagya Lakshmi, Cid Shaha.

Live music will be performed on the night by a group of international musicians conducted by **Farnosh Behzad**, who has also composed much of the music for the show. Musicians include cellist **Andrea Mundy** who moved to the UK from her native New Zealand in 2010 to continue her studies; **Nasser Kondazi** (tonbak/Persian drum) from Tehran; **Somaye Zadeh** (tonbak/vocals), London-born singer, filmmaker and musician and **Mohamad Jaberi** (daf/Iranian Kurdish frame drum) from Kermanshah, in west Iran.



Andrea Mundy, Nasser Kondazi, Somaye Zadeh, Mohamad Jaberi

Publicity: judy.lipsey@premiercomms.com or robbie.wilson@premiercomms.com 020 7292 8330



Persia was re-named Iran in 1935. Situated in Western Asia it is bordered on the north by Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan; on the east by Afghanistan and Pakistan; on the south by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and on the west by Iraq and Turkey. Population is 77 million.

The Toos Foundation, which was founded in 2006, initiates a wide range of activities to facilitate the study and understanding of Iran's history and culture supported by multi-disciplinary events that present wide aspects of Persian culture, both ancient and modern. The supporters and patrons of the Toos Foundation include Baroness Caroline Cox of Queensbury, Professor Colm A. O'Muircheartaigh, Professor Susan E. Mayer, Dr Raja Kamal, Mahmoud Khoshnam, Shiva Shafighian, Jane Lewisohn, and Dr Leonard Lewisohn.