

**#MITF24**



**8th-11th May 2024**

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## **Introduction**

### **Brief Introduction to Maas Foundation:**

Established in 2003, Maas Foundation boasts 20 years of experience in the realms of national and international theatre, having delivered over a hundred performances across various countries such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka, China, South Korea, India, Turkmenistan and United Arab Emirates. Notably, it stands out as the sole theatre organization in Pakistan to have showcased theatre performances in multiple languages including Urdu, English, Punjabi, and nonverbal.

Celebrating its two-decade journey, Maas Foundation embarked on a significant endeavor—to organize and host an international theatre festival in Lahore. This grand event promised a fusion of culture, art, and collaborative theatre from around the globe, marking a pivotal moment for the organization and the theatre world in Pakistan.

### **Introduction to Maas International Theatre Festival 2024 (#MITF24)**

Theatre is one of the oldest art forms in the world and the Lahore audience had been deprived of international theatre performances since 2008. Keeping this in mind, Maas Foundation took on this challenge to bring together theatre artists from all over the world to perform at the 1<sup>st</sup> Maas International Theatre Festival 2024. This festival comprised of theatre performances, panel discussions & workshops for both adults and children.

Driven by a deep passion and love for theatre, the Maas festival team envisioned to spread this 4 day colorful festival across the city of Lahore at various locations which included, Alhamra Cultural Complex, University of Central Punjab, The City School Bahria Campus, The City School Ravi Campus and The City School Paragon Campus.

Renowned as the cultural heart of Pakistan, Lahore witnessed the revival of international theatre after 16 years—a significant achievement made possible through the dedicated efforts of our partners, supporters, audiences, and talented artists from across the globe. Together, our international artists and national teams worked in collaboration to present enthralling performances, reinvigorating the theatre scene in the city.

### **A Rendezvous of Culture and Collaboration**

This festival brought together a diverse mix of performances for all age groups from theatre artists from England, Estonia, France, Mongolia, Wales and the host country Pakistan. This festival was also a beautiful hub for cultural exchange and collaboration between artists as they learnt about theatre practices from each other. This rich exchange of ideas and collaboration between teams from different countries makes it the most unique event in Pakistan. Festival also featured Panel discussions with famous performing arts personalities of Pakistan, educationists & thinkers along with vibrant theatre workshops by international theatre facilitators specially designed for kids and young theatre practitioners.

## Participating Teams & Performances

A total of 22 international artists and 80 national artists participated in this festival.

Company Name	Representing	Performance Title	Audience Age
Vertebra Theatre	England	Electra Untitled	12+
R.A.A.A.M	Estonia	The Fugitive	Adults
Compagnie V.O	France	Story of Dance	5+
Bamboo Theatre	Mongolia	The Apple	3+
Cwmni Theatr, Arad Goch	Wales	Where the leaves Blow	3-8 Years
		Pavement Pasture	11+
Maas Foundation	Pakistan	Book of Love	6+
		King of Nothing	Adults
UCP	Pakistan	Dastan	Adults
TFT-BNU	Pakistan	Ritual	Adults

## Workshops

Title	Conducted by:	Representing	Workshop Location
Inner Landscapes: Creating with the Improvised Body	Mayra Stergiou Munneeb Ur Rehman	England & Pakistan	University of Central Punjab (UCP)
Theatre with Young People (For Students)	Brigitte Walk	Austria	The City School, Paragon Campus
Theatre in Education (For Teachers)	Brigitte Walk	Austria	The City School, Paragon Campus

## Panel Discussions

Panel Discussions	Moderator	Panellists
Script in Theatre! Theatre in Script!	Sabeen Inam	Nasir Adeeb (Screen writer), William Pervaiz (Playwright), Ahsan Fazal (Writer), Amna Mufti (Screen writer)
Theatre Aur Sarkaar <i>(Theatre &amp; Government)</i>	Aamir Nawaz	Saleema Hashmi (Educationist), Naveed Shahzad (Educationist), Zulfiqar Ali Zulfi (Former Director Lahore Arts Council & Painter)
Theatre! A Way Forward to TV & Film?	Rabia Hassan	Sarmad Khoosat (Film Maker) Rashid Mehmood (Actor) & Kanwal Khoosat (TV Producer)
Jugaat & Punjabi Theatre <i>(Comedy &amp; Punjabi Theatre)</i>	Ali Usman Bajwa	Goshi Khan (Theatre Actor), Malik Aslam (Theatre Director).
Theatre! Lahore Ki Nazar Say <i>(Theatre from the eyes of Lahore)</i>	Dr. Ahmad Bilal	Dr. Omer Adil (TV Host) Shah Fahad (Theatre Practitioner) Dr. Khalid Manzoor Butt (Educationist) & Mohsin Gilanni (TV Actor)

## Festival Team

Aamir Nawaz	Founder, President & Festival Director
Aamir Ali	Vice President & Delegates Manager
Noreen Nusrat	Festival Manager
Hassan Raza	Festival Lead & Chief Coordinator
Zaheer Taj	Venue Manager
Khalid Ejaz Mufti	Media Manager
Zarak	Technical Director
Zainab Bhatti	Social Media Manager
Imran Nawaz	Sound Engineer
Kashif Nazir	Visual Design
Tanveer Khalid	Props & Set Manager
Ahmad Ali	Props & Set Manager
Faizan Asif	Design & Post
Video & Photography	TSV-The Social Vibe

## **Venues**

The 4-Day festival was spread across the city of Lahore. The main venue was Alhamra Cultural Complex, near Qaddafi Stadium Lahore where most of the performances and discussions took place.

The other venues for the festival were University of Central Punjab, The City School Bahria Campus, The City School Ravi Campus and The City School Paragon Campus where performances and workshops took place.

# Festival Schedule



## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

<b>Wednesday 8th May 2024</b>	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> Maas International Theatre Festival <small>(Open for everyone)</small> Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Time: 05:00 PM to 06:30 PM	<b>Book of Love</b> By Maas Foundation (Pakistan) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: 6+   Time: 07:00 PM to 8:10 PM
	<b>Hangout with International Directors</b> <small>(Open for everyone)</small> Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 2) Time: 08:20 PM to 09:00 PM	<b>Dastaan</b> By UCP Dramatic Club (Pakistan) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: Adults   Time: 09:00 PM to 09:30 PM
<b>Thursday 9th May 2024</b>	<b>Where the Leaves Blow</b> By Cwmni Theatr, Arad Goch (Wales-UK) The City School (Ravi Campus) Age Limit: 3-8 Years   Time: 12:00 PM to 01:00 PM	<b>The Fugitive</b> By R.A.A.A.M (Estonia) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: Adult   Time: 05:00 PM to 06:15 PM
	<b>Discussion Session</b> <b>Topic: Script in Theatre! Theatre in Script!</b> Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 2) Time: 07:00 PM to 08:00 PM	<b>King of Nothing</b> By Maas Foundation (Pakistan) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: Adults   Time: 08:30 PM to 09:30 PM
<b>Friday 10th May 2024</b>	<b>Where the Leaves Blow</b> By Cwmni Theatr, Arad Goch (Wales-UK) The City School (Bahria Campus) Age Limit: 3-8 Years   Time: 12:00 PM to 01:00 PM	<b>Electra Untitled</b> By Vertebra Theatre (England-UK) Auditorium, University Of Central Punjab Age Limit: 12+   Time: 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM
	<b>The Story of Dance</b> By Compagnie V.O (France) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: 5+   Time: 05:00 PM to 05:45 PM	<b>Discussion Session</b> <b>Topic: تھیٹر اور سکرپٹس</b> Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 2) Time: 07:00 PM to 08:00 PM
	<b>Discussion Session</b> <b>Topic: Theatre! A Way Forward to TV &amp; Film?</b> Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 2) Time: 08:00 PM to 09:00 PM	<b>Ritual</b> By TFT-Repertory Theatre-BNU (Pakistan) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: Adults   Time: 09:00 PM to 10:00 PM
<b>Saturday 11th May 2024</b>	<b>The Apple</b> By Bamboo Theatre (Mongolia) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: 3+   Time: 12:00 PM to 01:00 PM	<b>Electra Untitled</b> By Vertebra Theatre (England-UK) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: 12+   Time: 05:00 PM to 06:00 PM
	<b>Discussion Session</b> <b>Topic: جگت اور پنجابی تھیٹر</b> Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 2) Time: 06:00 PM to 07:00 PM	<b>Discussion Session</b> <b>Topic: Theatre! Lahore Ki Nazar Say</b> Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 2) Time: 07:00 PM to 08:00 PM
	<b>ویس اویس</b> by Sangat Lahore Open Ground Alhamra Cultural Complex Age Limit: Adults   Time: 08:00 PM to 09:00 PM	<b>Pavement Pasture &amp; Closing Ceremony</b> By Cwmni Theatr Arad Goch (Wales-UK) Alhamra Cultural Complex (Hall - 1) Age Limit: 11+   Time: 09:00 PM to 09:45 PM



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**Instructions:**

- Gates will be opened 10 mins before performance
- Performances will start at exact time. Late comers will not be accommodated.





# WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

<p>Thursday 9th May 2024</p>	<p><b>Inner Landscapes: Creating with the Improvised Body</b></p> <p>Mayra Stergiou (UK) Muneeb Ur Rehman (Pak) University Of Central Punjab      For UCP Students Only Time: 2:30- 5:00 PM</p>
<p>Friday 10th May 2024</p>	<p><b>Theatre with Young People</b></p> <p>Brigitte Walk (Austria) The City School Paragon Campus      For TCS Students Only Time: 3:00- 5:00 PM</p>
<p>Friday 10th May 2024</p>	<p><b>Theatre in Education</b></p> <p>Brigitte Walk (Austria) The City School Paragon Campus      For TCS Students Only Time: 12:00- 2:00 PM</p>



## Partnerships

Supported By:



**INFORMATION & CULTURE DEPARTMENT**  
Government of The Punjab

Partners:



*The City School*



Media Partner:



## Audience

There were a variety of festival performances, discussions and workshops for different age groups, hence the audience consisted of children, youth, theatre students and adults. Since there was no ticket to this festival, the audience was a diverse mix of people from all socio-economic classes and genders which was another milestone achieved by Maas Foundation as one of our core goals is to have theatre for everyone and not for a particular class or segment of society.

Total audience at this 4 day festival including all locations and 22 events (Theatre Plays, Panel Discussions & Workshops) was **8,610 people**.

### Audience Feedback:

**“The story and subject touched my heart. The actor did really well. Kudos to him”**- Fatima, 23, after watching *The Fugitive* by R.A.A.M, Estonia

**“Powerful performance by the lead actor. Amazing script and beautiful set.”**- Minahil, 41, after watching *The Fugitive* by R.A.A.A.M, Estonia

**“Fabulous”**- Mahnoor, 6 Years, after watching *The Apple* by Bamboo Theatre, Mongolia

**“Very nice. I loved the tree.”**- Uzair, 8, after watching *The Apple* by Bamboo Theatre, Mongolia

**“Wow! I’m absolutely thrilled. Both performers were fantastic and their movements were so elegant”**- Mariam, 31 after watching *The Story of Dance* by Compagnie V.O, France

**“I loved it, especially the last part. Beautiful costumes and fun performance!”**- Eisha, 14, after watching *The Story of Dance* by Compagnie V.O, France

**“Everything was so perfectly choreographed. The music, the dances of both artists and the lights were perfect.”** Azeem, 32, after watching *The Story of Dance* by Compagnie V.O, France

**“Superb!”**- Junaid, 22, after watching *Pavement Pasture* by Arad Goch, Wales

**“So good. I enjoyed every bit of it. The lead actor has so much grace in his movement”**- Aisha, 28, after watching *Pavement Pasture* by Arad Goch, Wales

**“I was hooked till the end. The story is universal and so true.”**- Faiza, 34 after watching *Book of Love* by Maas Foundation, Pakistan

**“Amazing performance. This is a story many of us can relate to.”**- Mina, 21, after watching *Electra Untitled* by Vertebra Theatre, England

**“So gripping. Fantastic. The set, lights, costumes and entire performance was so in-synch”**- Amnah, 24, after watching *Electra Untitled* by Vertebra Theatre, England

“So intense. The team performed really well.”- Ahmad, 33, after watching *Electra Untitled* by Vertebra Theatre, England

“The protagonist did a great job.”- Faheem, 31, after watching *King of Nothing* by Maas Foundation, Pakistan

“Intense character and story. The lead actor did well in portrayal of this very complicated character. Made me think.” - Aiman, 48, after watching *King of Nothing* by Maas Foundation, Pakistan

“Very nice and very true depiction”- Ali, 36, after watching *Ritual* by Beaconhouse National University, Pakistan

“I really liked the ambiance created with the lights, smoke machine, beautiful colours and dances. Well-coordinated.”- Sabeen, 29, after watching *Ritual* by Beaconhouse National University

“I liked it a lot”- Mehreen, 19, after watching *Dastaan* by University of Central Punjab, Pakistan

“Enjoyed it”- Kashif, 20, after watching *Dastaan* by University of Central Punjab, Pakistan

“The venue decor, overall lighting and ambiance is just amazing.”- Maliha, 28, about the Festival Decor at Alhamra Cultural Complex, Lahore

“I just love the atmosphere and vibe of this festival. The music is great and the colourful decor is beautiful.” - Emaan, 22, about the Festival ambiance at Alhamra Cultural Complex, Lahore

“I came 3 out of 4 days to Alhamra Cultural Complex to attend this festival because I am really enjoying the atmosphere here and the variety of international performances.” - Maheen, 51, about the festival.

“I’ve attended all 4 days of this festival because I love theatre. This is such a treat to have all these different kinds of performances where you see work from so many different artists and learn new things.”- Neha, 26, about the festival.

“I’m a student of theatre so I have learnt a lot of new techniques watching the plays.” - Hassan, 19, about the performances at the festival.

“The discussion session was really on-point and raised some good points. Sarmad Khoosat spoke really well and made absolute sense.” -Tania, 27, after the discussion session, *Theatre! A Way Forward to TV & Film*, at Alhamra Cultural Complex, Hall 2.

“Marvellous festival. I loved being part of this.” - Fatima, 22- About the festival.

## Event Breakdown

### Day 1

The first day of the Maas International Theatre Festival was an overwhelming success. Our distinguished guests included all our 22 international delegates, Mushaal Mullick (Former special advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Human Rights & Women Empowerment), Fabrice Disdier (Director, Alliance Francaise de Lahore), Muhammad Asim (Director Admin, Lahore Arts Council), Naveed Bukhari (Director Art & Culture, Lahore Arts Council), Rashid Mahmood (Prominent Theatre, TV & Film Actor), Nair Ejaz (Prominent Film & TV Actor), Azra Aftab (Prominent TV Actor), Zafar Sindhu ( Educationists & Writer) & Malik Aslam (Artistic Director, Azad Theatre) The opening ceremony featured cultural dances representing every province and region of Pakistan reflecting its diversity. This included cultural dance performances from Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Baluchistan, Sindh, KPK and Punjab. The festival also honored Sarfraz Ansari with a Lifetime Achievement Award, celebrating his 34 years of excellence and dedication to theatre in Pakistan.

The opening performance was "Book of Love" by Maas Foundation, Pakistan followed by a performance titled Dastaan from the University of Central Punjab.

### Highlights of Day-1



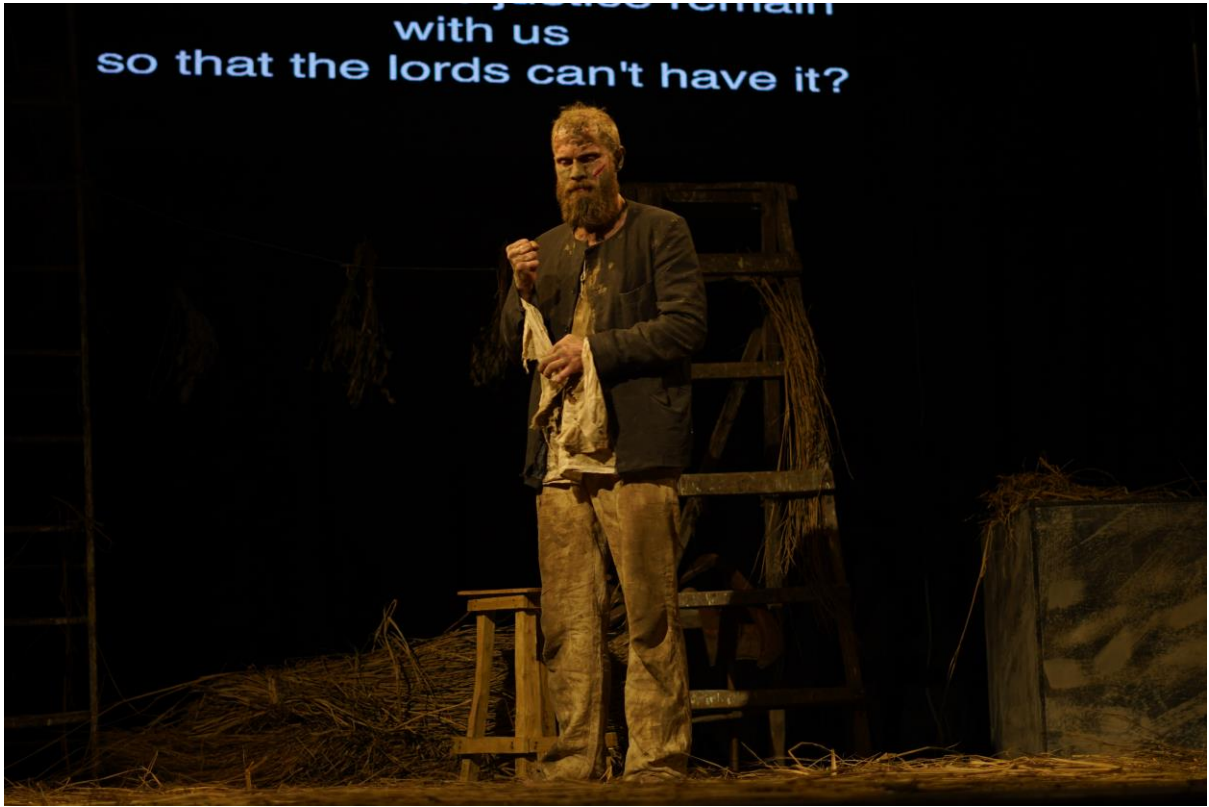


## Day 2

The second day of the Maas International Theatre Festival 2024 will go down in history as an epitome of excellence. The day began with a theatre show for Early Years Students titled "Where the Leaves Blow" by Arad Goch from Wales, United Kingdom at The City School Ravi Campus. This was followed by a workshop at the University of Central Punjab by Mayra Stergiou from Vertebra Theatre, England and Muneeb ur Rehman from Pakistan titled Inner Landscapes: Creating with the Improvised Body. The evening performances featured two powerful monodramas - "The Fugitive" by R.A.A.M from Estonia, a story about the thirst for freedom, and the critically acclaimed masterpiece "King of Nothing" from Maas Foundation, Pakistan. The chief guests for Day Two were Dr. Riina Ruth Kionka, the Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan and Estonian diplomat Lauri Lepik. In Hall 2 of Alhamra Cultural Complex, a discussion session was also held titled "Script in Theatre! Theatre in Script!" which had prominent panelists, Nasir Adeb (Screenwriter), William Pervaiz (Playwright), Ahsan Fazal (Writer) and Amna Mufti (Screenwriter)

## Highlights of Day-2







## Day 3

The third day of the Maas International Theatre Festival featured six diverse activities throughout Lahore. The day began with a captivating performance of "Where the Leaves blow" by Arad Goch from Wales, United Kingdom, at The City School Bahria Town Campus at noon. This was followed by a workshop on "Theatre with Young People" conducted by Brigitte Walk from Austria at The City School Paragon Campus at 3 PM. The day continued with a mesmerizing performance of "Electra Untitled" by Vertebra Theatre from England at the University of Central Punjab. At Alhamra Cultural Complex, the enchanting production of "The Story of Dance" by Compagnie V.O from France took the audience on a breathtaking journey. The day concluded with a powerful performance of "Ritual" by Beaconhouse National University from Pakistan at 10 PM. Additionally, panel discussions featuring prominent Pakistani, theatre, film and TV celebrities were held in Hall 2 of Alhamra Cultural Complex. The first panel discussion titled, "Theatre Aur Sarkaar" featured esteemed names such as Saleema Hashmi (Artist & Educationist), Naveed Shehzad (Educationist), Zulfikar Ali Zulfikar (Former Director Alhamra Arts Council). The second discussion was titled, "Theatre! A Way Forward to TV & Film?" and saw prominent celebrities, Sarmad Khoosat (Film maker), Rashid Mehmood (Actor) & Kanwal Khoosat (TV Producer) as panelists.

## Highlights of Day-3





## Day 4

The final day of the Maas International Theatre Festival was packed with engaging events. At The City School Paragon Campus, Brigitte Walk from Austria led a workshop on "Theatre in Education."

Over at the Alhamra Cultural Complex, the day started with a children's show, "The Apple," presented by Bamboo Theatre from Mongolia. This was followed by the second showing of "Electra Untitled" by Vertebra Theatre from England.

In addition, two panel discussions featuring prominent Lahore-based theatre & media personalities, such as Shah Fahad, Dr. Omer Adil, Ali Usman Bajwa, Mohsin Gillani & more were hosted on that day. A mesmerizing closing performance by Arad Goch from Wales titled Pavement Pasture left the audience spellbound and brought the Maas International Theatre Festival to a captivating conclusion.

## Highlights of Day- 4





## Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony included acknowledgements for the festival's volunteer team, as well as all the theatre companies and countries that participated in the Maas International Theatre Festival 2024.



## Media Coverage:

### Television



### Print Media

DAWN

INTERNATIONAL  
THE NEWS



## **Future Plans**

The Maas International Theatre Festival has provided us, as a team, our guests, and our audiences, with an incredible learning opportunity. Following the overwhelming success, support, and appreciation we've received, we aspire to evolve this festival into an annual tradition in Lahore, Pakistan.

Our vision is to expand and enhance this event each year, turning it into a global gathering for theatre practitioners and spectators. We aim for it to serve as a platform for the exchange of art and culture, uniting people from around the world and promoting learning, empathy, understanding, collaboration, diversity, and personal development.