

**Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings
and a Funeral**

Based on Rajshri Productions' film Hum Aapke Hain Koun

Adapted for the stage by

Sudha Bhuchar and Kristine Landon-Smith

Methuen Drama

Methuen

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

First published in Great Britain in 2001 by Methuen Publishing Limited
215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EJ

Copyright © Sudha Bhuchar, Kristine Landon-Smith 2001

Sudha Bhuchar and Kristine Landon-Smith have asserted their rights
under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, to be identified as
the authors of this work.

Methuen Publishing Limited Reg. No. 3543167

A CIP catalogue record is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 413 76480 X

Typeset by SX Composing DTP, Rayleigh, Essex
Printed and bound in Great Britain by
Cox & Wyman Ltd, Reading, Berkshire

Caution

All rights in this play are strictly reserved and application for
performance etc. should be made to Tamasha Theatre Company,
Unit E, 11 Ronalds Road, London N5 1XJ.
No performance may be given unless a licence has been obtained.

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of
trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out, or otherwise circulated in
any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and
without a similar condition, including this condition, being imposed on
the subsequent purchaser.

Barclays stage partners
with THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

Tamasha Theatre Company
with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre
and the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith
present:

Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings and a Funeral

Adapted from Rajshri Productions'
Hum Aapke Hain Koun
by Sudha Bhuchar and Kristine Landon-Smith

First performance of this production,
Wednesday 14th February 2001



Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings and a Funeral will tour to the following venues:

Week beginning:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 14 th Feb 2001 | Lyric Theatre Hammersmith |
| 5 th March 2001 | Nottingham Playhouse |
| 12 th March 2001 | Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield |
| 19 th March 2001 | The Lowry, Manchester |
| 26 th March 2001 | Bristol Old Vic |
| 2 nd April 2001 | Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford |
| 9 th April 2001 | Birmingham Repertory Theatre |

This play was first performed in the studio at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, Wednesday 11th November 1998 with the following cast members:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Laloo | Rajesh Bedi |
| Arun/Dilip/Doctor | Ajay Chhabra |
| Pooja/Rita | Meneka Das |
| Kaka/Gautam | Shiv Grewal |
| Rajesh | Raza Jaffrey |
| Bhagwanti/Radha | Shobu Kapoor |
| Prem | Pravesh Kumar |
| Nisha | Parminder Nagra |
| Professor/Karan | Rehan Sheikh |
| Kamla/Nandini | Sameena Zehra |

Front cover painting: Andrew Greenfield

CAST

(in order of appearance)

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Prem | Pushpinder Chani |
| Nisha | Mala Ghedia |
| Laloo | Rehan Sheikh |
| Bhagwanti | Sameena Zehra |
| Arun | Ajay Chhabra |
| Kaka | Shiv Grewal |
| Rajesh | Shammi Aulakh |
| Pooja | Meneka Das |
| Kamla | Harvey Viridi |
| Professor | Archie Lal |
| Dancer/company | Melody Woodhead |
| Dancer/company | Rachel Tanh |
| Dancer/company | Sara Leone |
| Dancer/company | Nadia Boussir |

All musical numbers sung by the original cast

All other parts are played by members of the company

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Director</i> | Kristine Landon-Smith |
| <i>Designer</i> | Sue Mayes |
| <i>Lighting Designer</i> | Paul Taylor |
| <i>Lighting Assistant</i> | Fay Laflin |
| <i>Musical Arrangements</i> | Barrie Bignold |
| <i>Sound Design</i> | Mike Furness |
| <i>Sound Operator</i> | Marcel Gussmann |
| <i>Song Lyrics</i> | Shaun McCarthy and Felix Cross |
| <i>Choreographers</i> | Sneha Mistri and Kristine Landon-Smith |
| <i>Dance Tutor</i> | Indiana Seivright |
| <i>Production Manager</i> | Dennis Charles |
| <i>Company Manager</i> | Claire Gossop |
| <i>Deputy Stage Manager</i> | Ros Terry |
| <i>Costume Supervisor</i> | Bushy Westfallen |
| <i>Wardrobe Mistress</i> | Isolde Walker |

Tamasha wishes to thank Kathy Bourne and Nicky Jones for their help with this production. Special thanks also to Clickwalla.com, Chetna Kapacee, Anant Shah, Sarah Chambers, Mr G K Noon, Leeds Centre for Indian Music and Dance and Milap Festival Trust.

The Company

Shammi Aulakh (Rajesh)

Shammi's many and varied credits include: *Bina's Choice* (Dominion Centre), *Survivors* (Orange Tree Theatre) and Tamasha's *Balti Kings*. His work in commercials includes Kodak's Moments campaign. Shammi is also a photographer.

Sudha Bhuchar (Adaptor)

Sudha is co-founder of Tamasha Theatre Company. She is both an actor and a playwright. Her many acting credits include: *Eastenders* (BBC), *The Archers* (BBC Radio) and *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* (Royal National Theatre). Her writing credits for Tamasha include: *Untouchable*, *A Tainted Dawn* and *Balti Kings*. She also writes regularly for BBC Radio drama.

Barrie Bignold (Musical Arrangements)

Barrie's music for television includes: *The Shop*, *The Builders*, *Burgled* (all BBC), *Time Team* and the acclaimed documentary *Road Raj* (for Channel 4). His composing work traverses all aspects of the media and his many theatre scores have included *Peter Pan* (Chichester Festival), *Twelfth Night* (British Actors' Shakespeare Company) and Tamasha's *Balti Kings*.

Nadia Boussir (Dancer)

Born and trained in Finland, Nadia has worked in commercials, radio, films and TV across Europe. She works frequently as a model and also has a physiotherapy qualification.

Pushpinder Chani (Prem)

A graduate from Birmingham's School of Speech and Drama, Pushpinder's recent theatre work includes: *Skeletons*, *Blissful Ignorance* and *The Party* (Birmingham Rep), *Flying Colours* (Greenwich Theatre) and *Monkey Magic* (Midlands Arts Centre). He recently made his TV debut in *Brum*.

Ajay Chhabra (Arun)

Ajay performed in Tamasha's first production, *Untouchable*, and was also a member of the original cast for *Fourteen Songs*. His many theatre credits include: *Indian Ink* (Aldwych), *Arrange That Marriage*, *Helmet* (Traverse) and *Bollywood 2000* (Riverside Studios). Film and TV credits include: *The Bill*, *Casualty* (BBC) and *Roots* (Channel 4). Ajay has also directed several award-winning productions and is Artistic Director of the East London Mela.

Meneka Das (Pooja)

Returning to this show from the original cast, Meneka's many theatre credits include: *Voyeurz* (Whitehall Theatre) and *Hamari Kahani* (Theatre Royal Stratford East). For television: *Firm Friends* (ITV) and *It Might Be You* (BBC). Meneka is a member of *Spellbound*, a band signed to Polygram Records in India.

Mike Furness (Sound Design)

This is Mike's sixth sound design for Tamasha, having also designed for companies such as Paines Plough, the Tricycle Theatre and the Edinburgh and Brighton Festivals. Other designs include several shows for the RSC and the West End. Mike produces talking books and is also a consultant for Cameron Mackintosh Consultants.

Mala Ghedia (Nisha)

Brought up in Australia, Mala is a recent graduate of the Webber Douglas School in London. Her television credits to date include: *Home and Away* and a presenter and reporter for *MTN News* in Australia. This is Mala's first production with Tamasha. Mala is dedicating her performance to her parents, Prem and Damyanti.

Shiv Grewal (Kaka)

Shiv has worked with Tamasha on four other productions and is returning to this show from the original cast. His many television appearances include: *The Liver Birds*, *2.4 Children*, *Family Pride*, *The Bill* and *In a Land of Plenty*. His most recent theatre work includes Tamasha's *Balti Kings* and *Baywatch Cymru* for the Sherman Theatre. Extensive radio credits include BBC's *The Archers*.

Archie Lal (Professor)

Trained at the East 15 Drama School, Archie's many theatre credits include: *Roberto Zucco*, *Bartholomew Fair* and *Measure for Measure* (all RSC). His film and television appearances include: *Big Kids* (BBC), *Silent Scream* (Channel 4) and as a presenter for *Eastern Mix* (Central). Archie has also worked in radio and commercials.

Kristine Landon-Smith (Director)

Kristine is joint founder and Artistic Director of Tamasha and has also directed all of the company's shows. Other companies she has worked with include the Royal Court Theatre, Hull Truck Company and she has been an Associate Director of the Bristol Old Vic. Her 1996 production, *East is East*, was nominated for an Olivier award and the original production of *Fourteen Songs* won the Barclays Theatre Award for Best New Musical. Kristine produces regularly for BBC radio.

Sara Leone (Dancer)

Born in Italy and trained in both Rome and Milan, Sara has worked extensively as an actor, dancer and singer both abroad and in the UK. Recent credits include: *Swing* (Riverside Studios), *In Our Time* (Palladium) and *White Folks* (Tricycle).

Sue Mayes (Designer)

Sue has designed all of Tamasha's shows. Her career started with residencies at Ipswich Rep, the Belgrade Theatre and the Liverpool Everyman and her other freelance work has included designs for Talawa Theatre Company, Bristol Old Vic, Theatre Royal Stratford East and the Southwark Playhouse.

Rehan Sheikh (Laloo)

Rehan has worked with Tamasha on many occasions, most recently with *Balti Kings*. His film and TV work includes: *The Bill*, *The Drive* and *How I Became an Indian*. He is a well-known television actor and presenter in Pakistan, where his most recent TV serials include: *Bisaat*, *Kiran Kahani* and *Saath Saath Alag Alag*. Rehan has written plays for the stage, short films and a radio adaptation for the BBC. He also penned *Roomi's Diary*, a regular humorous column for the Daily Jang and News International. Rehan rejoins Tamasha from the original cast of *Fourteen Songs*.

Rachel Tanh (Dancer)

Rachel has worked extensively in theatre with her many credits including: *Miss Saigon* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), *Aladdin* (Brighton Theatre Royal) and *Joseph* (Leicester Haymarket). Her TV and video work includes appearances with Leftfield, Michelle Gayle and guest appearances on various shows and national sports events.

Paul Taylor (Lighting Designer)

Paul's theatre and opera credits include: *A Servant of Two Masters* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Don Giovanni* (Music Theatre London) and *I Have Seen Someone* (world premiere at Riverside Studios). He has also worked extensively on ballets across Europe. This is Paul's fifth production for Tamasha.

Harvey Virdi (Kamla)

Harvey first worked with Tamasha on *A Yearning*. Since then, her many other theatre credits have included: *When We Are Married* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Leicester Haymarket), *Airport 2000* (Riverside Studios) and *Exodus* (Tara Arts/BAC). Her TV and film appearances include: *Staying Alive*, *The Bill*, *Casualty* and *Guru in Seven* (Balhar Films). She has also worked extensively for BBC Radio.

Melody Woodhead (Dancer)

Trained in RAD classical ballet, Melody has an extensive list of dance credits, from pop promotional videos (with acts such as the Spice Girls, Toploader, Lionel Ritchie and Martine McCutcheon) to commercials and road shows.

Sameena Zehra (Bhagwanti)

Sameena has a degree in psychology and literature. Born in India, she has been living in the UK now for five years where a large part of her work concentrates on using role-playing for theatre in training to promote an understanding of equal opportunities issues. Sameena is delighted to be joining this cast, having played the role of Kamla in the original production.

tamasha

theatre company

Tamasha is one of Britain's leading theatre companies on the national touring circuit. We provide a unique experience of theatre, with stories drawn from the Asian community both in Britain and the Indian sub-continent. Our work traverses beyond the Asian community and is accessible to a growing culturally diverse audience. From adaptations of literature to new commissions, Tamasha has a firm commitment to nurture and produce the work of British Asian writers.

Tamasha was formed in 1989 by Kristine Landon-Smith and Sudha Bhuchar to adapt *Untouchable*, a classic Indian novel by Mulk Raj Anand. Over the past eleven years, the company has produced nine plays, five of which have been adapted for Radio Four and two of which have won the CRE Race in the Media Awards. Their 1997 production, *East is East* transferred to the West End and has since been made into a highly successful film.

Tamasha is funded by the Arts Council of England, London Arts and the London Borough Grants scheme. The company has collaborated with prestigious producing houses including Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, the Royal Court Theatre, the Bristol Old Vic and the Theatre Royal Stratford East.

Acting General Manager: Bryan Savery
Head of Marketing and PR: Suman Bhuchar
Education Consultant: Sita Brahmachari
Press Consultant: Ben Chamberlain
Marketing Consultant: Mark Slaughter
Production Photographer: Charlie Carter
Bollywood Dance Workshops: Anand Kumar
Billboard talks: Christopher Stevens

Tamasha Theatre Company

Unit E, 11 Ronalds Road, London, N5 1XJ

T: 020-7609 2411

F: 020-7609 2722

E: info@tamasha.org.uk www.tamasha.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1001483

Lyric Theatre Hammersmith

Originally designed by Frank Matcham and opened by Lillie Langtry in 1895, the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith has a vivid theatrical history, surviving closure, demolition and rebuilding. Over a century later the Lyric continues to be a vibrant part of West London life, bringing leading contemporary artists into an historic setting, and supporting its core repertoire of 'in house' productions with a programme of new work in the Lyric Studio, and a range of national and international touring shows.

The Lyric's commitment to its West London audience is demonstrated by the theatre's wide-reaching community and education programme, which aims to throw open the doors of this historic theatre to new artists, new audiences, local schools, community groups and young people. We look forward to continuing to serve the community whilst celebrating the Lyric as a London Landmark with an international reputation.

We hope you enjoy the performance.

Sue Storr, *Director*

Simon Mellor, *Director*

Neil Bartlett, *Artistic Director*

'The Lyric dramas are well acted and produced. The plays illustrate the terrible consequences of a life of sin. Virtue always triumphs over evil. There is no need to travel to the West End when you have the perfect theatre in your locality.'

Mr J M Levy, *Outfitter, King Street, 1895*

'The Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, neither leads the fashion nor follows it; it is neither high-brow nor low-brow. It is simply a theatre which thinks for itself.'

A A Milne, *1925*

'These days the Lyric is the people's theatre.'

Independent, 1998

Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, King Street, London W6 0QL

Box Office: 020 8741 2311

Fax: 020 8741 5965

E-mail: enquiries@lyric.co.uk

Website: www.lyric.co.uk

Lyric Theatre Hammersmith is a Registered Charity No. 27851



Bhagwanti So you should be.

Laloo Oh – hello, Auntie.

Bhagwanti Don't you dare call me Auntie!

Laloo Sorry, Auntie.

Bhagwanti Huh! God – the way you people treat your servants – they think they own the place.

Karan Prem – catch you later. We're going to practise over the other side.

Prem OK – I'll just join you. Laloo is part of the family, Auntie.

Bhagwanti What on earth were you all doing anyway?

Prem Playing cricket, Auntie.

Bhagwanti Cricket is far too dangerous a sport to be played in the garden. Every Tom, Dick and Harry these days thinks they're Kapil Dev.

Arun They're kids, Bhagwanti – let them enjoy themselves.

Bhagwanti Even if I die into the bargain?

Arun (*under breath*) Chance would be a fine thing.

Bhagwanti What did you say?

Arun Nothing, darling.

She exits.

Prem Uncle, why is Auntie in such a hurry?

Arun She has been matchmaking. She has a proposal for your brother.

Prem I don't think Bhaiya's and Auntie's taste is quite the same.

Arun You know your auntie – she doesn't give up. But don't worry – I also have someone up my sleeve . . .

4 Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings and a Funeral

Prem Oh – did you hear that, Lalloo? Uncle has found someone for Rajesh.

Lalloo You mean I'm going to get a bhabi?

Arun If Prem's Kaka agrees.

Lalloo I'll go and get the laddoos.

Prem Who is she, Uncle?

Arun A very pretty, simple girl.

Prem But won't Auntie object?

Arun She's not to know that I have suggested someone.

Prem But how can you keep it a secret?

Arun Leave it me, Prem. Now come on – let's go and have some fun.

Scene Two

Interior of Kaka's house. Kaka is a rich industrialist and the house reflects his success. Kaka and Bhagwanti are walking into the living room.

Kaka Bhagwanti – it's so nice to see you. How are you?

Bhagwanti Fine – apart from being attacked by mad cricketers.

Kaka Come in – sit down. Where's Arun?

Bhagwanti Lagging behind as usual.

Kaka So, to what do we owe this visit? Not that we are not always happy to see you.

Bhagwanti Well, I was speaking to my brother in Delhi . . .

Kaka Yes?

Bhagwanti And I was just saying – you can't praise our Rajesh enough. Managing such a big business at such a young age – it's no joke.

Kaka Yes – we are all very proud of him.

Bhagwanti It's high time he got married.

Kaka And have you got someone in mind?

Bhagwanti Well, as it happens, my brother's daughter, Sweetie. She's such a pretty girl and so clever.

Arun and Prem *enter.*

Bhagwanti Isn't she darling?

Arun What's that?

Kaka Bhagwanti was just telling me about her niece, Sweetie.

Arun Oh yes? The girl is BA failed – too modern – and I hear she's broken off two, maybe three engagements . . .

Bhagwanti So what? Anyone can make a mistake. Look at me – but it wasn't so easy to break off in our day.

Prem You'd be lost without Uncle, Auntie.

Bhagwanti Huh!

Prem So, is she pretty, this Sweetie?

Bhagwanti She's rolling in it. You should see their house and the family business is worth carores . . .

Arun Money isn't everything, darling.

Bhagwanti You are always interrupting and contradicting me. Here I am, trying to see my nephew settled and you are meddling into something you know nothing about. Just think of the dowry she would bring. Oof! – why am I wasting my time? You are a college professor – your head is in the clouds – what would you know about worldly matters? Bhai Sahib – it would be the

6 Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings and a Funeral

most talked about wedding of the season. It would be such a valuable alliance of the two families. Promise me you will think about it before you reject it?

Kaka Of course I will.

Bhagwanti Now – I am getting late for my kitty party.

She makes to go. Lalloo enters.

Lalloo Auntie – won't you have a laddoo before you go?

Bhagwanti Not for me.

Lalloo Oh, I forgot – you are reducing.

Bhagwanti Donkey! You talk to me like that – what a rude servant. Why don't you sack him at once? Now get out of my way!

She exits. Prem makes to see her out.

Arun Kailash Nath – I'm sorry about my wife. As you know, she is totally dazzled by money. Her spoilt niece will not fit in to this family. We want a simple, pretty girl for Rajesh. Someone who will make this house blossom with their love and warmth. And in that one thing I agree with my wife. This house needs a woman. Rajesh and Prem were so young when their parents died – my beloved sister and your respected brother. You left your education halfway through and took on the responsibility of your brother's children. You got a humble job and with hard work as your motto, you are now one of India's leading industrialists.

Kaka God has been very kind to me.

Arun You have provided so well for the boys' future. You even sacrificed getting married for their sake. And now it is my turn to do something. I have seen a girl for Rajesh.

Kaka Aatcha?

Arun A few days ago, I was in Poona for a conference. There I met a Professor S. S. Chaudhury.

Kaka Not Siddarth Chaudhury?

Arun Do you know him?

Kaka Han – of course. We studied together in college. He was a good friend.

Arun Aré vah! Well – I met his eldest daughter, Pooja. I saw her only once, but she stayed in my mind. I liked her so much, I asked for her photograph. Here it is.

He hands Kaka the photograph.

Kaka Bahut sunder hai . . .

Prem Let me see, Uncle. Oh – she is pretty!

Arun Not just pretty. She's BA passed and what a sweet nature.

Kaka Sounds promising . . .

Arun I hope so – if they meet and like each other then we can go ahead. At the moment, the Professor is on a pilgrimage at Ram Thakri with his family. As soon as he returns we can go and visit them. He only lives three hours away.

Kaka But there is one problem, Arun bhai. The moment marriage is mentioned, Rajesh runs a mile.

Prem Kaka – I have an idea.

Kaka Yes, beta?

Prem Why don't we go to Ram Thakri? Rajesh Bhaiya will never suspect our motives for going on a pilgrimage and we'll kill two birds with one stone. God will be satisfied, and you never know, I might get a sister-in-law into the bargain.

Kaka Good idea.

Arun Excellent.

Prem But Rajesh musn't have an inkling. Top secret. Henna Lalloo?

8 Fourteen Songs, Two Weddings and a Funeral

Rajesh *enters.*

Laloo Rajesh bhaiya – have a laddoo.

Rajesh What are we celebrating?

Laloo We are all very happy today.

Prem We've decided on our holiday destination – Ram Thakri.

Rajesh Ram Thakri?

Prem Yes.

Rajesh But Kaka, I thought we were planning on going to a hill station?

Kaka Yes, but . . .

Laloo Ram Thakri is a very sacred place – if you pray there, your dearest wishes will be fulfilled.

Prem So, programme fixed. Oh, and bhaiya – don't forget to pack your silk kurta.

Rajesh Why would I need my silk kurta at a holy place?

Prem You never know . . .

Scene Three

Manager *of hotel at the religious retreat comes on and sets up desk and chair. Nisha roller-skates on.*

Manager You always have to enter like a hurricane! Have some respect. The people staying at this guest house have come for a pilgrimage. They want peace.

Nisha Sorry, Manager Cha Cha.

She takes off her skates.

Manager Look – can you mind the desk for me for a minute?