

WRITERS' BLOC SHOWCASE

British Council
in association with
Rage and Royal Court Theatre
present

WRITERS' BLOC SHOWCASE

A SPECIALLY CURATED SEASON OF ORIGINAL PLAYS
BY INDIAN PLAYWRIGHTS FROM WRITERS' BLOC

British Council, 737 Anna Salai, Chennai
All are welcome. Please click to register

WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2017

6.30 pm: Dramatised reading of **MUNDHIRIKKOTTE** (Tamil)
Followed by a conversation with the playwright and the director

THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017

10.00 am to 1.00 pm: Workshop on playwriting by Sunandha Raghunathan
To register for the workshop write to aparna.bhattacharya@britishcouncil.org

THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017

6.30 pm: Dramatised reading of **CRAB** (English)
Followed by a conversation with the playwright and the director

MUNDHIRIKKOTTE

Language: Tamil
Duration: 90 min; with Interval
Age restriction: 16+
Written by: Sunandha Raghunathan
Directed by: Anitha Santhanam
Produced by: Guduguduppukkari (Chennai)
The Cast: Kalieswari Srinivasan, Vasanth
Selvam, MD Umar, Prasanna, Niran Viktor,
Charles Vinoth

*Let's bet that I'll make friends before last
period tomorrow.*

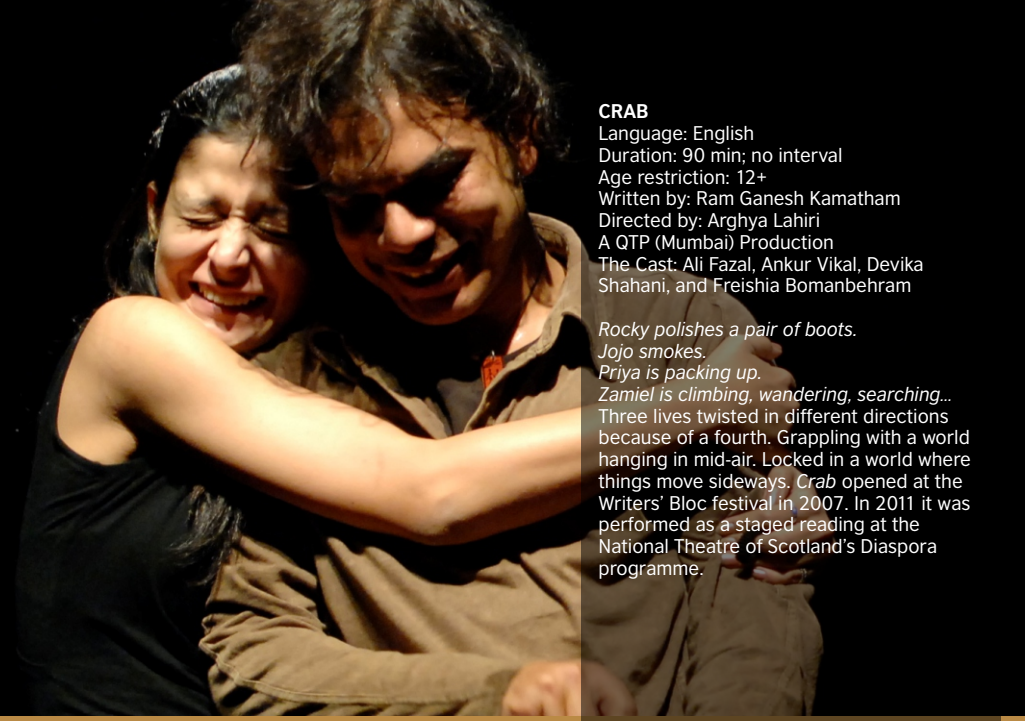
For 12 year old K.P and his mother Pavunu,
Parangipettai in coastal Tamil Nadu, is an
unfamiliar place. As they settle in, they soon
become aware of their invisibility, their
precarious position and the dangers of
ambition for people like them.
Mundhirikkotte asks whether one can make a
right choice in a wrong world. As the lives of
three different communities cross paths,
each will have to make a choice that will
change their lives forever.



CRAB

Language: English
Duration: 90 min; no interval
Age restriction: 12+
Written by: Ram Ganesh Kamatham
Directed by: Arghya Lahiri
A QTP (Mumbai) Production
The Cast: Ali Fazal, Ankur Vikal, Devika
Shahani, and Freishia Bomanbehram

*Rocky polishes a pair of boots.
Jojo smokes.
Priya is packing up.
Zamiel is climbing, wandering, searching...*
Three lives twisted in different directions
because of a fourth. Grappling with a world
hanging in mid-air. Locked in a world where
things move sideways, *Crab* opened at the
Writers' Bloc festival in 2007. In 2011 it was
performed as a staged reading at the
National Theatre of Scotland's Diaspora
programme.



THE PLAYWRIGHTS (Writers' Bloc Alumni)

SUNANDHA RAGHUNATHAN



Sunandha is a playwright, screenwriter, actor and theatre director. She has worked with several theatre companies in Chennai – The Madras Players, Theatre Nisha and JustUs Repertory. A Kalaripayattu and Bharatanatyam student, Sunandha explores the physicality in her characters through the lens of these forms. Sunandha has written several short plays and worked as a Dramaturg with Theatre Nisha. Her short plays have been produced by Theatre Nisha, Strayfactory and have been showcased at the World Theatre Day celebration in Chennai.

She has also adapted and directed Guy De Maupassant and Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid*. Her directing debut at the Short + Sweet Theatre Festival in Chennai won her many awards including best play. Her screenplay for *Irudhi Suttru*, a Tamil film on women boxers, released in January 2016 to critical and commercial acclaim.

In 2014 Sunandha was selected to be a part of Writers' Bloc, the Royal Court Theatre's New Writing workshop in India. During this workshop she developed *Mundhirikkotte*, her first Tamil play. Since its premiere the play has been performed at Rangashankara and Chennai as part of The Hindu Theatre Fest.

RAM GANESH KAMATHAM



Ram is a consultant with a professional background in media and communications, arts and culture, publications, research, and content development. He holds an M. A. in Anthropology of Media from the University of London and a M.Sc. in International Relations from RSIS, Singapore. From 2007-2014 he ran the Actors Ensemble India Forum (AEIF) during which he researched, created and produced critically acclaimed documentary films, stage-plays and public art. His awards include the Charles Wallace Award, the Sultan Padamsee National Playwriting Award, TFA Creative Writing Award, Asif Currimbhoy Playwriting Fellowship, the Robert Bosch Art Grant, the Sarai-CSDS Independent Research Fellowship and the Outstanding Original Script Award at Thespo. His publications include plays, articles published in anthologies by Samuel French, Penguin, Sangam House, Hachette India and OUP. He was also one of twelve international writers in the Royal Court Young Writers Programme/BBC World Service online playwriting project Webs We Weave.

He currently works as a freelance consultant in Singapore.

WRITERS' BLOC SHOWCASE

“ONE MIGHT ARGUE THAT WRITING CAN HARDLY BE TAUGHT AND TENDULKAR AND SHAKESPEARE DID NOT COME OUT OF WORKSHOPS, BUT WRITERS' BLOC IS MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO TUTOR. IT IS A CELEBRATION OF THE THREATENED ART OF PLAYWRITING. IT IS A PAT ON THE BACK, A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SCREAM ‘WE EXIST’ – JUST WHAT THE INDIAN PLAYWRIGHT NEEDS.”

– Pragya Tiwari in the Mumbai Mirror

Playwriting has always faced extinction - the lure of cinema and television tempting the young writer. In 2002, nurtured by Rage Productions, the Royal Court Theatre, UK and the British Council, UK's international organisation for cultural relations, WRITERS' BLOC was created as a unique playwrights' programme, which put the script at the focal point of the theatrical experience. Over the course of these 15 years, we have mentored and trained over 50 young playwrights and premiered 41 plays. This Showcase of 13 plays, staged across all nine British Council centres, is a celebration of this amazing journey.