



Brave new stage drama tackles the issues which affect us all like love, loyalty and duty - from a universal and Islamic perspective

Innovative Nottingham-based film and theatre company, Mona Media, is performing a ground-breaking stage drama entitled 'Branded' on Friday 30th July from 7.00pm, at Djanogly City Academy Theatre, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham – exploring a range of current social, cultural and political issues from an Islamic perspective, including attitudes and beliefs around love, loyalty, brotherhood and duty.

The play is being produced in partnership with Nottingham's Muslim Community Organisation (MCO) and will tell the story of two brothers on two very different journeys.

As the play's title 'Branded' suggests the play also explores the dangers of 'labelling' people as extremists, whilst encouraging open and honest debate around the subject, both within the Islamic and mainstream communities.

Samina Rehman, the play's writer explains:

"The play is set against a very topical and relevant background, with one of the characters having been involved in the recent flotilla incident where Israeli military forces boarded a ship taking aid to Gaza.

By charting the two brothers contrasting lives, attitudes and beliefs – and the conflict that ensues between them – the play aims to explore concepts that are central to the Islamic community, such as brotherhood, loyalty and duty.

As the play will hopefully show, such concepts are noble and should be valued, however they can also become distorted and lead to dogma, confusion, anger and guilt for example."

Samina continues:

"The play also deals with universal issues such as loss of hope and family conflicts and is aimed at everyone, not just the Muslim community.

We want the play to provide a holistic exploration of humans at their best and worst in the context of Muslim identity, in order to create a better understanding between us all."

The play's co-producer Zahoor Mir from MCO agrees:

“One of MCO’s key aims is to help young British Asians explore and celebrate their identity whilst tackling issues such as extremism. We’re delighted to be working alongside Mona Media on ‘Branded’ – it promises to be a highly thought-provoking, influential and entertaining piece of drama.”

The play stars two up and coming actors Yasir Mirza and Adnan Qaiser and is directed by Syed Ali.

Mona Media was established in 2001 with the aim of developing, creating and promoting equality and access to arts and media opportunities for Nottingham’s British Asian communities.

The organisation has been behind a number of boundary-pushing productions and has succeeded in developing a real British Asian voice through the arts in Nottingham.

Established in 2002, MCO works with local communities to address a range of social issues and provides a platform for young people to be heard in mainstream society. One of the organisation’s current aims revolves around the agenda for ‘preventing violent extremism’ which it is facilitating through a dynamic programme of youth centred activities.

Tickets for ‘Branded’ cost just £3.00 and will be available at the door on the night.

To find out more call Zul on 07905 686 898 or email mona_media@yahoo.co.uk.

You can also follow Mona Media on Facebook by searching ‘monamedia’ and on Twitter by searching ‘monamediaplay’. To find out more about MCO search ‘MCO’ on Facebook.