



MOTHER INDIA



**BIRMINGHAM CITY
University**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

'MI21 - MOTHER INDIA 2021/22'

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant Awarded

Kala Phool is delighted to have been awarded an Arts Council National Lottery Project Grant for their new project '**MI21 - Mother India 2021-22**'. This award is for a Research and Development phase of the project in partnership with Professor Rajinder Dudrah and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire at the Faculty of Arts, Design and Media at Birmingham City University.

Mother India, directed by Mehboob Khan and released in 1957, is arguably one of the most culturally and artistically important films in popular Indian cinema. Praised for its innovative and iconic cinematography, epic story and powerful performances, the film represents postcolonial Indian society embodied by the compassion, ambitions and endurance of the main character, Radha, played by the actress Nargis.

Our project 'MI21' views *Mother India* as a globally significant work of art. It has the power to be instructive and transformative, not least around issues of gender and culture in the Indian subcontinent and its related South Asian diasporas. The film is able to engage and inspire both audiences and artists way beyond its original reach. Our ambition is to bring this work to a global audience through a range of new projects that will be developed as a result of this research and development funding.

The projects we aim to research and develop are inspired by the *Mother India 21st Remix* (aka MI21) concept - **originally conceived, produced and toured by Kala Phool**. This latest version of the MI21 project will result in the production of one new musical composition, a new arrangement of the original *Mother India* score, the restoration and digital transfer of the original film and a series of live performances/ tour/workshops.

We welcome any queries of interest in our project and in our vision to potentially work collaboratively with other creatives on MI21. You can contact us at: info@kalaphool.com

Kala Phool is a collaborative studio which develops and delivers a range of projects which take place across the UK and internationally. Our work on MI21 was first seeded in 2006 and demonstrates a longterm commitment of working with Artists and organisations with a value on co-production.

Professor Rajinder Dudrah is Professor of Cultural Studies and Creative Industries in the Birmingham Institute of Media and English at Birmingham City University. He has researched and published extensively on Bollywood cinema and is the founding Co-Editor of the journal *South Asian Popular Culture*.