



Ms Rekha Waheed

Place of Residence: **London**

Sector: **Arts (Novelist)**

Ms Rekha Waheed is currently one of the most talented British Asian writers. Born in West London, Ms Waheed became an instant success after releasing her debut novel, 'The A-Z Guide to Arranged Marriage'. Her distinct style has been described as bridging the gap between old world traditions with new world savvy.

From an early age Ms Rekha Waheed excelled as a student, by taking her exams early and even attending University summer school for the Advanced at age fifteen. She completed her MSc in Economic Development at SOAS, University of London and during her time there held the position of treasurer of the Islamic Society. Whilst pursuing her passion for

writing Ms Waheed travelled the world as a Corporate Consultant. However, she soon caught the attention of a literary agent delivering public readings at the Harrow Writers club. She has since released her debut novel with Monsoon Press. Through Monsoon Press, she is also working with the Arts Council and Penguin to raise the profile of British Ethnic and Muslim literature.

Ms Rekha Waheed has previously sat on the board of Women in Publishing and is an active promoter of improved literacy programs in the British Bengali Community. In addition, Ms Waheed has worked voluntarily as a treasurer for a Bengali community organisation.

Since the successful launch of her debut novel, Ms Rekha Waheed is continuously generating interest after reading at the London 2006 and Spitalfield's 2007 Literacy Event. Her unveiling of the intricacies of Brit-Asian experiences for the mainstream in an adept manner has resulted in her being cited as one of Asiana's Faces to Watch in 2006. A regular guest for the BBC Asian network, Ms Waheed consistently stresses the need for literature that caters for diverse urban ethnic communities that exposes the challenges of British-Asian culture. With an upcoming sequel already in the pipe line, Ms Rekha Waheed is set to become a familiar face in the publishing industry.