



PRESS RELEASE: Saturday, 20 June 2015

A **Gallery 133** Event at St George's Theatre on Sunday June 14th at 5pm

Review of **Bhopal A Prayer For Rain (with Q and A)**

By Michael Sutton:

Gallery 133 and St George's Theatre Help With 'Prayers For Rain'.

On Sunday June 14th at St George's Theatre, I was deeply moved at seeing, for the first time in a theatre outside of London, New York and film festivals: Bhopal A Prayer For Rain.

Shown for free with funds collected for the Bhopal Medical Appeal and local film initiatives, this intelligently written, directed and acted film tells a story based on the manufacturing disaster in Bhopal India on the 2nd December 1984.

It was followed afterwards by a question and answer session with David Brooks (Writer, Director and 'Shane' opposite Martin Sheen in the film) and the owner of Gallery 133, Liam Murphy.

Both David and Liam were fluent, informative and highly responsive to questions about the making of the film and the ongoing tragedy surrounding contamination from pesticide manufacture.

One campaigner from the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal (ICJP) which raises awareness globally about the ongoing death and illnesses caused without any apology or corporate acknowledgement has suggested: "We are all from Bhopal now", Highly relevant here in rural East Anglia.

In a major coup, Great Yarmouth has placed itself beside New York and Cannes as David is in discussion with Martin Sheen and the films producers, about a return to Bhopal, to screen the film on its general release and broadcast it in selected venues live across the world - including St George's Theatre in Yarmouth!

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The film's narrative centres around Dilip (brilliantly portrayed by Rajpal Yadav as a fictional poor unemployed local man, under pressure from his family to earn enough to buy a transistor radio as dowry for his sister's marriage) and the (real) independent journalist Rajkumar Keswani, who wrote several articles, from 1982 through 1984, about inadequate safety standards at the factory and the potential disaster.

Martin Sheen gives a characteristically masterful performance as Warren Anderson - the highly conflicted son of a plumber and head of Union Carbide ("my other collar is blue") who died as a fugitive from justice due to international legal complications last year. The campaign now focuses on Dow Chemical, the world's second largest manufacturer of chemicals, who bought out Carbide in 2001.

After the free film and Q and A a large table of cinema-goers enjoyed tapas and drinks with David at The Patio restaurant opposite St George's who had remained open specially in support of the event.

David Brooks is currently working on The Dark Lady - a new film about the discovery of DNA. He will also be returning to Yarmouth this winter to host a series of professional screen writing sessions for Gallery 133.

For more information please go to [gallery133.net](http://gallery133.net) and register your details.

Michael Sutton's new collection of Poems will be out next year published by 133 Editions.

Notes to Editors: (Cont)

#### About **Gallery133**:

1. **Gallery133** is an outlet for arts and culture based in Great Yarmouth. It aims to promote new work in the region and provide opportunities to engage with the best of current practice. **133** also aims to provide facilities for developing new work in film, digital media, print and and offers a real environment for active learning and practice in arts and arts development - for example with it's own framing studio and arts marketing activities. 133 is developing a programme of events to support these activities and are working closely with key partners to assist in the regeneration and promotion of Great Yarmouth and it's emerging 'cultural quarter'.
2. **Gallery133** also houses 3 artists studios available for rent on flexible terms
3. **Gallery133** is housed in a 17th century merchants house restored and now owned by the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust - a not-for-profit

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registered charity working to preserve, save, enhance and promote the historic built environment. The trust has been delivering projects since its foundation in 1979, both directly and in partnership with Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

4. 133 King Street was featured in Episode 4 of the current BBC1 series of Britain's Empty Homes, transmitted on 17th October, 2013. It included an extensive interview with Darren Barker about the property and its refurbishment, along with plans for its end use.
5. Work took place between September 2013 and May 23, 2014. The project has seen two of the trust's buildings conservation apprentices work alongside Wellington Construction, helping to develop a local pool of conservation skills, which are much-needed in the borough.



**David Brooks.**

**With Martin Sheen On Set...**



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