



KWALITY CHAI | Artist Statement

Sapna Chandu

Kwality Chai is a playful and subversive exploration of cultural imperialism in a distinctly Australian context. Set in an alternate reality in which India has taken over Australia, *Kwality Chai* stages a performance that revolves around the making and serving of tea. This work features fictional story about an ascendant Indian diaspora who use “*new world*” gestures and vernacular and reinvent the cultural identity of (what becomes known as) “*Post Australia*”. This work was first presented as a live art intervention, staged for three weeks at Flinders street Station in September 2014.

GRANTS/SUPPORTERS

This work would not exist without the generous funding and support of The Australia Council for the Arts (OZCO), City of Melbourne, Creative Victoria (formerly Arts Victoria), The Besen Family Foundation, Creative Partnerships Australia, and Metro - for the development and the presentation of *Kwality Chai* in 2014.

LIST OF WORKS

Kwality Chai

2017

Video

8:48 mins

(video and ambient sound sourced from the documentation of the live art event, soundtrack from *Chat Pat Radio*)

Kwality People

2017

Video

9:00 min



Kwality Cart

2014

Vintage hospital Guernsey, steel pots, steel kettles, gas burners, utensils, spices, tea, milk crates, gold paint

Chat Pat Radio

2014

Sound

4hours

Atmos

2014

Sound

4hours

Vox Pops

2014

Sound

Kwality Times

2014

newspaper, ink

Kwality Archive

2014-2107

(This archive brings together a selection of development processes that went into creating the alternate reality. From the background narrative, to the creation of the characters, chai cart scenarios, costumes, stage and logo design.)

Chai Moments

Video

3:18 min



Kwality Lingo

Video

6:44 min

Chaimasters

Video

1:46 min

Kwality Journal

Folder, paper, photographs, posters

(contents: *Kwality Chai* background narrative, rehearsal resources, “look book”, posters)

CREDITS

My gifted collaborators who enabled the realisation of this epic work are:

Kwality Chai & Kwality People

Producer and Drama Director: Shash Lall

Actors: Sharon Johal, Luke D’Emanuele, Dushan Philips,
Jan Di Pietro

Narration: Vinod Vijayan

Character development: Michael Warnock

Kwality Chai

Set design: Eugyeene Teh

Videography: James Wright

Chat Pat Radio & Atmos

Sound Design and installation: Byron Scullin

Kwality Times writing: Aarti Betigeri & Sonia Nair

Kwality Times editing: Annisa Dharma

Vox pops' characters: Mary Soderiou, Kavitha Reddy, Indira Narayan, Clement Paliguru, KP Saratchandran

