



Inaugural Day Event of the Partition Series

Date: 14 August 2007

Venue: India Habitat Centre

Readings by Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhter

Javed Akhter recited some of his Hindi poems related to partition while Shabana Azmi read a prose text by a young female writer from Karachi, which was about the view of young Pakistani women on the impacts of partition.

Story telling by Dastan Goi

Dastan Goi is a traditional form of storytelling which involves narrators creating stories as they perform them. The performance by Mahmood Farooqui and Danish Husain moved a little away from the traditional narrative to bring together a Dastan presentation around the Partition of India. It has drawn upon existing writings on Partition as well as new creations to narrate the trauma of Partition.

Toba Tek Singh, performed by the Ajoka Theatre group, Lahore

This short play based on the short stories “Toba Tek Shing”, “Siyah Hashiyae” and “Khol Do” by Saadat Hassan Manto. It is about a mentally challenged person who, when asked to choose between India and Pakistan, dies on the border of the two countries. “Toba Tek Shing” takes place in the Lahore Mental Hospital, which it becomes a metaphor for the insanity unleashed by the partition of India.