

« De la Perse à l'Iran » 20h50 Arte

Exploration de l'histoire de la Perse au travers de sa culture et de ses œuvres artistiques et architecturales les plus emblématiques. Les Perses forment le seul peuple du Moyen-Orient à avoir su préserver sa langue et sa culture, malgré les vagues d'invasions et les révolutions. Ce premier volet remonte notamment au temps des Elamites, durant l'Antiquité. La journaliste Samira Ahmed, dont le réalisateur suit les pas, s'intéresse aussi au Shâhnâmeh ou Livre des Rois, poème épique, fondateur de l'identité perse et écrit au 10e siècle par Ferdowsi.

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This article is about the British journalist.

Samira Ahmed	
	
Ahmed in 2016	
Born	15 June 1968 (age 54) Wandsworth, London , England ^[1]

Alma mater	St Edmund Hall, Oxford City University, London
Occupation(s)	Journalist , documentarian and news presenter
Website	www.samiraahmed.co.uk 

Samira Ahmed (born 15 June 1968) is a British journalist, writer and broadcaster at the [BBC](#), where she has presented [Radio 3's *Night Waves*](#) and [Radio 4's *PM*](#), [The World Tonight](#), [Sunday](#) and [Front Row](#) and has presented the [Proms](#) for [BBC Four](#).^[2]

Her writing has appeared in several British publications including [The Guardian](#), [The Independent](#), [The Spectator](#), and [New Humanist](#).^[3] She was a reporter and presenter on [Channel 4 News](#) from 2000 to 2011. She presented [Sunday Morning Live](#), a topical discussion programme on [BBC One](#) from 2012 to 2013.

Early life^[edit]

Ahmed was born in [Wandsworth](#), south London,^[4] to Athar^[5] and Lalita (née Chatterjee, born 1939, [Lucknow](#))^[6] Ahmed. Her mother is a TV presenter, actor, chef and writer on Indian cookery^[7] who previously worked for the Hindi service of the [BBC World Service](#) in [Bush House](#) as well as [All India Radio](#) in India.^[8] Samira attended [Wimbledon High School](#), an independent day school for girls, and edited the school magazine.^{[9][10]}

Ahmed read English at [St Edmund Hall, Oxford](#), which made her an honorary fellow in 2019.^[11] While an undergraduate she edited [Isis](#) and the *Union* magazines, both Oxford University student publications,^[12] and won the [Philip Geddes Journalism Prize](#) for her work on student newspapers.^[13] After graduation she completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Newspaper Journalism at [City University, London](#).^[14] She recalls that [Lucy Mathen](#), the first female Asian reporter on BBC television,^[15] who worked on [John Craven's Newsround](#), was an inspirational figure for her, as was broadcaster Shyama Perera,^[14] who was

working in [Fleet Street](#) at around the same time.^[16]

Journalism career

Ahmed talks with [Francesca Stavrakopoulou](#), [Giles Fraser](#) and [Adam Rutherford](#) at [Conway Hall](#).

Ahmed became a BBC news trainee in 1990. After two years on attachments, she began to work as a network radio reporter in 1992 on such programmes as [Today](#). Fearful her short BBC contract would not be renewed after a mishap in a difficult situation,^[17] Ahmed applied for, and was taken on, by [BBC World](#) for work as a presenter, which led to her becoming a reporter for [Newsnight](#).^{[2][18]} She was the BBC's Los Angeles correspondent during 1996-97 and filed reports on the [O. J. Simpson civil trial](#).^{[2][19]}

Ahmed briefly worked for [Deutsche Welle](#) in [Berlin](#) as an anchor and political correspondent, but then returned for a brief spell with BBC World and as a night shift presenter for [BBC News 24](#) before taking maternity leave.^[18]

Ahmed joined [Channel 4 News](#) in April 2000, and became a presenter in July 2002. In June 2011 Ahmed left Channel 4, and went freelance.^[20]

In 2009 she won Broadcaster of the Year at the annual [Stonewall Awards](#) for her special report on "[corrective rape](#)" of lesbian women in South Africa.^[21] The report was made after [ActionAid](#) contacted her about their campaign against [homophobic](#) crime.^[22] She won the BBC's [Celebrity Mastermind](#), with a specialist round on [Laura Ingalls Wilder](#), the author of the [Little House on the Prairie](#) books, in December 2010. Again, in 2019 Ahmed won the *Celebrity Mastermind* Champion of Champions, she wore a [Space 1999](#) costume.^{[22][23]}

Since October 2011, she has been a regular newspaper reviewer on [Lorraine](#).^[6] From June 2012 to November 2013 she presented the third and fourth series of [Sunday Morning Live](#) on [BBC One](#).^[12] In October 2012, Ahmed succeeded [Ray Snoddy](#) as presenter of [Newswatch](#) on the BBC News Channel.^[24]

She is a Visiting Professor of Journalism at [Kingston University](#) and a regular contributor to [The Big Issue](#).^[25]

In September 2019 she interviewed [Margaret Atwood](#) about the novelist's new book [The Testaments](#) at the [National Theatre](#), which was simulcast to more than 1,000 cinemas around the world as part of [National Theatre Live](#).^[26]

In June 2020, [BBC Four](#) aired [Art of Persia](#), a three-part study of the history and culture of [Iran](#).^[27] A long time admirer of the [Supermarionation](#) works of [Gerry Anderson](#) and [Sylvia Anderson](#), Ahmed voiced a character in the similarly produced [Nebula-75](#). The character, Juliette Destiny, was also modelled to resemble the journalist.^[28] She reprised the role for a second episode in 2021.^[29]

In November 2021, Ahmed interviewed [Paul McCartney](#) and poet [Paul Muldoon](#) about their book 'The Lyrics: 1956 to the Present' at the Royal Festival Hall.

Equal pay tribunal

Ahmed filed legal proceedings against the BBC under the [Equality Act 2010](#) in October 2019.^[30] The London Central Employment Tribunal unanimously found in her favour on 10 January 2020.^{[31][32]} On 24 February 2020 it was announced that a settlement had been reached with the BBC, but no figure for this was made public.^[33]

Personal life

Ahmed lives in London and has a son and a daughter.^[34]

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