



# LAST OF THE DICTIONARY MEN:

## STORIES FROM THE SOUTH SHIELDS YEMENI SAILORS

Thursday 19 November 2015 at 6pm



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You are warmly invited to the opening reception of the exhibition with an introductory talk by Iranian film director, Tina Gharavi.

The Street Gallery, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4ND on Thursday 19 November 2015 at 6pm

Exhibition open: 9am – 5pm.

Monday 24 November 2015 – Friday 29 January 2016 (closed at weekends).

For more information please telephone Jane Clark:

**01392 724040**

[www.exeter.ac.uk/iais/events/exhibitions](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/iais/events/exhibitions)

UNIVERSITY OF  
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**BRIDGE  
TUNNEL**

Bridge + Tunnel Productions has developed a unique project, engaging two international artists (Tina Gharavi and Youssef Nabil) to work collaboratively with 14 Yemeni sailors, the last survivors of the first-generation who settled in South Shields.

The North East of England boasts a proud maritime and industrial heritage that has all but disappeared from today's landscape along the River Tyne. Within this heritage lies a remarkable Middle Eastern connection – South Shields is the *Land of the Arabs*!

Over the course of 100 years, thousands of seamen from Yemen settled in the small town of South Shields and made it their home.

Successful integration of the Yemeni community, it is argued, is one of the key multiculturalism stories that the region has to offer to the nation.

In 2005, the Iranian film director, Tina Gharavi, embarked on a journey to discover the legacy of Mohammed Ali's visit to South Shields in 1977. While filming she met with the Yemeni elders at the Al-Azhar mosque who shared glimpses of their amazing lives, previously unknown and untold.

A series of thirteen hand-coloured portraits by the internationally renowned photographer, Youssef Nabil, captures the first generation of Yemeni sailors with the pride they embody as individuals and as a community.