

*South Asian Arts Society Presents*



# MONSOON™

FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

**#WelcomeTheStorm**

**AUGUST 6 – 13, 2017**

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[www.MonsoonArtsFest.ca](http://www.MonsoonArtsFest.ca)

# WELCOME FROM THE PRODUCERS

GURPREET SIAN & ROHIT CHOKHANI

Welcome to the second annual Monsoon Festival of Performing Arts. We are honoured and delighted to be co-producing this multilingual festival, which is presented by South Asian Arts Society. It has been a long time dream of the society and us both to create a festival of this nature, which is the only South Asian mandated theatre festival in Canada and one of just a few in North America. Our hope is to provide a new platform for local South Asian artists and also provide a unique opportunity to the multicultural audiences of BC to see South Asian talent from all over the world. We are grateful to the City of Vancouver, the City of Surrey and the Province of British Columbia for their support. The Cultch has not only supported us through their venue sponsorship but have also provided much needed expertise through their presentation history. Without the support from our funders and venue partners, this festival would not have been possible. We hope you enjoy the festival. Namaste! Sat Sri Akal!

# WELCOME FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VINEETA MINHAS, BOARD CHAIR

Since the inception of the Monsoon Festival of Performing Arts, the South Asian Arts Society has striven to elevate the experience for audiences by increasing diversity on our stages and expanding our offerings. This year we have worked diligently to showcase theatre you will love and workshops that will educate and broaden your horizons.

We gratefully acknowledge all of our sponsors, whose continued support is integral to the future of the Festival. We are truly appreciative to our public and private supporters as we take these steps towards creating inclusive and multi-cultural artistic vibrancy in the city.

We encourage you to share your theatre experience with family and friends. Thank you for coming out to our shows and allowing us the opportunity to Welcome the Storm into your life.



# BURQ OFF!



**Aug 11, 2017 @ 8:00pm**

**Aug 12, 2017 @ 8:00pm**

York Theatre

**Tickets:** Starting at \$20  
(plus s/c & GST)

*Post-show talk back on  
both nights*

## **A BRITISH PAKISTANI MUSLIM'S AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ONE-WOMAN PLAY. One Woman, 21 Characters, A Burqa, A Bikini.**

**Burq Off!**, an autobiographical coming of age comedy about a British Pakistani girl trying to find herself in two madly opposing worlds. Nadia Manzoor was raised a cultural yoyo, bouncing between expectations of her conservative Muslim family and her saucy British school friends. From her discovery of 'sex' at the age of 5, to falling in love with an Irish Catholic boy who must be kept secret, Nadia's search for self is punctuated by fierce Bollywood dance moves, a blackout drinking incident, and an Islamic teacher whose interests range from slapping to pornography. Love, lies, a burqa and a bikini. Nadia has no idea who she is, but she'll try anything to find out.

*"A gutsy, honest, hilarious must-see"* — **Deepak Chopra**

*"Nadia Manzoor's ambitious one-woman show...is a no-holds-barred performance."* — **Vogue India**

**WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY** Nadia P Manzoor

**DIRECTED & DEVELOPED BY** Tara Elliott

**MUSIC COMPOSITION/SOUND DESIGN** J.X. Randall.  
Composition of "Ammi's Song": Arooj Aftab

**LIGHTING DESIGN** Haejin Han

**SET DESIGN** Katja Chan-Mee Frederikson, Mitch Ost

**STAGE MANAGER** Chengyan Boon

# MALAVIKA



**Aug 13, 2017 @ 5:00pm**

Surrey Arts Centre

**Tickets:** \$15 (plus s/c & GST)

*Post-show talk back*

*Performed in Hindi*

## **CO-PRODUCED WITH NRITYENAKATHA DANCE TROUPE**

**Malavika** is an adaptation of Indian poet Kalidasa's first play, which was called Malavikagnimitram. Never before witnessed by the Greater Vancouver area, this mesmerizing love story shall transpire in a grand Hindi dance-theatre production through a unique combination of Kuchipudi and Garba/Raas dance forms. Captivating Hindi dialogues are intertwined with grand dances, sets and costumes to transport the audience to an ancient mythological Indian kingdom, which is the setting for the story of King Agnimitra's love for Malavika, who is an unheard of maid in the royal palace. It is said that Malavika was proficient in dance and music. The diverse plot is carried forward through intense battles, sorrow, comedy, and thrilling dance sequences set to a beautiful classical Hindi soundtrack, creating a movie on stage.

**WRITTEN** Savita Srinivasa

**HINDI TRANSLATION BY** Sobhana Srinivasa

**CHOREOGRAPHED & DIRECTED BY** Savita Srinivasa & Vanita Srinivasa

**MUSIC, SOUND DESIGN, VIDEO EDITING** Savita Srinivasa

**VIDEOGRAPHY/PHOTOGRAPHY** Raymond Kam

**PROPS** Chandni Datta

**COSTUME DESIGN** Sobhana Srinivasa

## CAST

Characters	Actor/Actress	Voice
<b>Malavika Prince Madhavasena:</b> A prince from the kingdom of Vidarbha, fighting with his cousin, King Yajnasena, for the throne	Hemang Shah	Vivek Kumar
<b>Yajnasena's Soldier</b>	Geordie Parappilly	
<b>Sumati:</b> Prince Madhavasena's minister	Aarathi Sunthoram	Vaibhav Kumar
<b>Malavika:</b> A princess (sister of Prince Madhavasena) disguised as a maid in King Agnimitra's kingdom	Savita Srinivasa	Savita Srinivasa
<b>Kaushiki:</b> Sumati's sister who is disguised as a female sage in King Agnimitra's kingdom	Manju Ganti	Nahid Sultana
<b>Commander Virasena:</b> King Agnimitra's commander-in-chief	Vaibhav Kumar	Vaibhav Kumar
<b>King Agnimitra:</b> Ruler of Vidisha and a friend of Prince Madhavasena	Alex Parappilly	Nishant Sharma
<b>Queen Iravati:</b> The younger queen of King Agnimitra	Ashvini Sundaram	Aaushi Rawat
<b>Queen Dharini:</b> The head queen of King Agnimitra	Vanita Srinivasa	Rashmi Rawat
<b>Gautama:</b> King Agnimitra's loyal minister and close friend	Sherry Duggal	Sandeep Singh Tattla
<b>Ganadasa:</b> Malavika's dance teacher in King Agnimitra's kingdom	Aarathi Sunthoram	Amit Srivastava
<b>Haradatta:</b> A dance teacher in King Agnimitra's kingdom and rival of Ganadasa	Hemang Shah	Hemang Shah
<b>Minister</b>	Vaibhav Kumar	Vaibhav Kumar
<b>Guard</b>	Vaibhav Kumar	Vaibhav Kumar
<b>Haradatta's Disciple</b>	Vanita Srinivasa	
<b>Bakulavalika:</b> A maid in King Agnimitra's kingdom and friend of Malavika and Gautama	Chandni Datta	Reeti Soni
<b>Maid 1</b>	Donna Abraham	Mansi Tandon
<b>Maid 2</b>	Prakruti Lodhia	

**Music /Video Content Credit:** Chitchor (Rajshri Productions, Tarachand Barjatya), Mahabharata (B.R. Chopra), Shri Krishna (Ramanand Sagar), Padosan (Mehmood, N. C. Sippy), Bawarchi (Hrishikesh Mukherjee), Bajirao Mastani (Bhansali Productions and Eros International), Jodha Akbar (AGPPL, Ashutosh Gowariker, UTV Motion Pictures), Sholay Holi Ke Din (EROS International), Kati Patang (Shakti Samanta and Rajshri), Paheli (Gauri Khan, Red Chillies Entertainment), Nature 3D Taeuber, Melania Anghel, Skyvision, Aamit Wraj, Roothmens Armageddon, Anoushka Shankar, Manoj Tiwari, Musictoday, Umrao Jaan (1981, Muzaffar Ali), Umrao Jaan (2006, J. P. Dutta), Lekin (Lata Mangeshkar, Hridaynath Mangeshkar), Mere Watan Se Achcha (A.V.M.Ltd, Director: M.V. Raman), Nagin (Rajkumar Kohli, Shankar Movies).

# INDUSTRY SERIES

These **FREE** community based initiatives are excellent opportunities to both view art and also immerse yourself into the artistic process.

Sign up for a **workshop** that will surely get your creative juices flowing, or attend the **spoken word & readings** night and just kick back, relax and take in the beautiful words from our talented presenters.

**Post-show talkbacks** give audience members an opportunity to ask that burning question they may have once seeing one of the performances.

## **IMPULSE, IMPROVISATION & PLAY WORKSHOP WITH CARMEL AMIT** **August 6th - 11am to 4pm at The Cultch, Vancouver**

Explore finding a connection to your bodies and voice through exercises that aim to access your right, thinking free brain. Work with improvisational games that challenge you to play outside of your physical and vocal comfort zone, to create a larger vocabulary and deeper trust in impulse and in self.

**NOTE:** *Please wear clothing that allows for unrestricted physical movement. A small towel and water are also strongly recommended.*

## **AN EVENING OF SPOKEN WORD & READINGS**

### **August 7th - 7pm to 9pm at The Cultch, Vancouver**

**Shekhar Paleja** will be reading excerpts from his highly acclaimed novel, "An Extraordinary Destiny."

**Jotika** will share some SongPoems from her show Brown Body Stories: Searching for Healing/Longing from Home, a project that includes a one-women show & the creation of a ZineAlbum.

**Munish Sharma** will read from his spoken word series "You I Love", created to inspire, promote positivity and growth.

## **POST-SHOW TALKBACKS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH ACTORS & DIRECTORS**

**August 11th - Burq Off! at York Theatre**

**August 12th - Burq Off! at York Theatre**

**August 13th - Malavika at Surrey Arts Centre**

*\*Talk backs will take place in a mix of English, Hindi and Punjabi.*



# ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

THE HEAVY MONSOON RAINS OF INDIA TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

Amidst the damage and destruction, the monsoon season is filled with celebration, including dance, music, theatre, film and festivals. The welcoming of captivating and spiritual force of the monsoon dates back thousands of years in India. Vancouver is also known for its heavy rainfall. With the intersection of these two natural phenomena, the goal is to celebrate the monsoon here in the Lower Mainland by welcoming the storm with the 1st Annual Monsoon Festival of Performing Arts, presented by South Asian Arts Society.

In its second year, the festival has a deliberate spotlight on South Asian theatre. South Asian Canadians are the largest visible minority group in Canada, yet a simple scan of Vancouver's performing arts community suggests that there are very few South Asian theatre professionals currently working in our industry.

Aside from the presentations, community engagement is also key, with multilingual development workshops on dramaturging, playwriting, directing and acting, along with readings and an "industry" series are also in the pipeline.

# ABOUT THE PRESENTER

SOUTH ASIAN ARTS SOCIETY

South Asian Arts Society is committed to creating performance and educational opportunities for professional and amateur artists, while developing artistic forums that act as a platform for building knowledge of South Asian culture via new projects, new ideas, and new collaborations.

*[www.southasianarts.ca](http://www.southasianarts.ca)*



# PRODUCTION TEAM

**CO-PRODUCER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Gurpreet Sian

**CO-PRODUCER & ARTISTIC PRODUCER:** Rohit Chokhani

**MEDIA RELATIONS:** JLS Entertainment

**DIGITAL MARKETING:** Murray Paterson Marketing Group

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Joe Carlson

**VOLUNTEERS:** Thank you to all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work in support of the festival.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Vineeta Minhas** CHAIR

**Harpreet Johal** SECRETARY

**Vishal Hiralal** TREASURER

**Kallol Mitra** PAST CHAIR

**Carmel Amit** DIRECTOR

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to our production team, board of directors, volunteers and sponsors, the festival would not have been possible without the support from many others whom we would like to acknowledge:

Heather Redfern, Kent Gallie, Christina Campbell, Cindy Reid, Nathan Medd, Norman Armour, Pam Patel, Rayman Bhuller, Dipti Mehta, Shubhra Prakash, Arpita Mukerjee and our friends and family.



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