

South Asian Arts Society Presents



MONSOON™

FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

#WelcomeTheStorm

AUGUST 9 – 19, 2018

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www.MonsoonArtsFest.ca

WELCOME FROM THE PRODUCERS

GURPREET SIAN & ROHIT CHOKHANI

Welcome to the third 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. We are grateful for this opportunity and privilege to gather and create our work on the traditional and unceded territory of Coast Salish Peoples, specifically the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo, Tsawwassen, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, and numerous Stó:lō Nations.

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 Government of Canada, the City of Vancouver, and the City of Surrey for their support. The Cultch, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Surrey Civic Theatres have also supported us through these first three years of the festival, providing venue sponsorships and partnerships and also much needed expertise through their presentation history. This year we are excited to also be working with the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Without the support from our funders and venue partners, this festival would not have been possible. And of course last, but certainly not the least, this festival would not exist without the artists and the audience members who attend and engage with us year after year. We hope you enjoy the festival. Namaste! Sat Sri Akal!

WELCOME FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VINEETA MINHAS, BOARD CHAIR

In our third year, the Monsoon Festival of Performing Arts has expanded to continue to elevate the experience for our audiences and provide a platform for performers to showcase their talents, as well as learn from those within the industry. This year, talent lives within our own home as we showcase Canadian theatre through productions and workshops.

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.

THE UNDOCUMENTED TRIAL OF WILLIAM C. HOPKINSON

BY PANEET SINGH



Aug 10 - 12, 2018 @ 8:00pm

Aug 12, 2018 @ 5:00pm

Vancouver Art Gallery

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

Post-show talk back after each show (except Aug. 12th 5pm show), facilitated by The Nameless Collective.

REVISIT THE VANCOUVER PROVINCIAL COURTHOUSE IN OCTOBER OF 1914 TO RE-EXAMINE THE TRIAL OF MEWA SINGH. Along with being the closing chapter of the infamous **Komagata Maru** story, the assassination of Inspector Hopkins by Mewa Singh was the culmination of a simultaneous transnational struggle seeking independence for colonized British India, and a struggle for civil rights for South Asians living on the West Coast of North America. An unexpected defense from Mewa Singh's attorney takes the proceedings from an open-and-shut case, to a surreal debate of conscience. Drawing inspiration from historical events and documents, *The Undocumented Trial* blurs the lines of reality in narrative and aesthetic to create an analytical historical dialogue to explore political, sociocultural, and humanistic themes. The story of **Mewa Singh** isn't just Sikh history, it is Canadian history. *It is important to note that this play is being staged at the same venue where the original trial took place over 100 years ago.*

"In a stroke of brilliance the play is staged in a preserved courtroom in the very courthouse where both the murder and Mewa Singh's subsequent trial and sentencing took place" — Vancouver Observer

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY Paneet Singh

PERFORMED BY Patrick Nagel, Roopinderjit Sharma, Bradley Bergeron, Andrew Wade, Michael Strickland, Daniel Juozaitis, Andy Kalirai, Arshdeep Purba, Eryka Alanna, David C. Jones*

SARANGI MUSICIAN Arwant Kang

THEATRICAL DESIGNER Adelaide Wilder

COSTUME DESIGNER Wontae Kim

ART DIRECTOR Skye Dyken

SET DECORATOR Lauren Jamie Homeniuk

HAIR & MAKEUP Kaeko Fujiyama and Tiera Murray

STAGE MANAGER Teala Penner

** The participation of this Artist is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the **Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT)**.*

THE FISH EYES TRILOGY

BY ANITA MAJUMDAR



Aug 18, 2018

Surrey Arts Centre

Tickets: Starting at \$19

**Co-Presented by
Surrey Civic Theatres**

Part 1 @ 4:00pm

Dinner @ 5:45pm

Part 2 @ 7:30pm

ANITA MAJUMDAR'S ONE-PERSON TRILOGY IS A WINDOW INTO THE LIVES OF CANADIAN SOUTH ASIAN TEENS. High school. The years that propel you toward adulthood. Sometimes you're forced to navigate rocky terrain. Meet Naznin, Candice, and Meena who go to the same high school in **Port Moody**. Separately, they share a passion for dance and a struggle for identity within their families and at school. Then their lives intersect and cultures collide.

Provocative and audacious, *The Fish Eyes Trilogy* opens the door for important and timely conversations. Using razor-sharp words and spellbinding dance that raise the temperature of every moment, Anita innovatively tackles universal themes of identity, cultural heritage, and finding one's place in the world.

AUDIENCE ADVISORY: Mature themes (content note: description of a sexual assault) and strong language.

"The Fish Eyes Trilogy's tales of high school tribulations are still relevant" — **Toronto Star**

"The Fish Eyes Trilogy is an essential, timely work" — **Now Magazine**

WRITTEN, CHOREOGRAPHED, AND PERFORMED BY Anita Majumdar

DIRECTED BY Brian Quirt

DEVELOPED BY Nightswimming

PRODUCER Brittany Ryan

SOUND & VIDEO DESIGN Christopher Stanton

LIGHTING DESIGN Rebecca Picherack

SET & COSTUME DESIGN Jackie Chau

STAGE MANAGER Sandy Plunkett

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 one of the **reading nights** 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.

WORKSHOP CULTIVATING ORGANIC PERFORMANCE WITH PANEET SINGH

August 11th - 1pm to 4pm at The Cultch, Vancouver

August 15th - 4pm to 7pm at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey Cedar Bldg, Rm 1205 (Conference Centre)

Directors have the ability to elevate an actor's natural talent to a new height to create powerful storytelling. This workshop with Paneet Singh provides practical tools and knowledge which can be implemented into any storyteller's creative practice. In this workshop, attendees will learn about techniques for strong actor-director communication, how to develop a relationship of trust with performers, how to give actable direction, as well as participate in scene study work.

READING THE WRONG BASHIR BY ZAHIDA RAHEMTULLA

August 11th - 5pm to 7pm at The Cultch, Vancouver

Bashir Ladha, UBC philosophy major leaning towards Buddhism, is mixed up with Bashir Ladha, religious all-star with an outstanding track-record of good deeds in his community. The wrong Bashir has accidentally been selected to assume an important religious position, and his parents have dutifully accepted on his behalf. A family conflict ensues over the mistaken young man's reaction to his appointment, taking the family on a comedic journey towards understanding their inter-generational migratory identity in Canada.

The Wrong Bashir is a work-in-progress in its very early stages. Special thanks to Playwrights Theatre Centre, Project SAT, VACT, and the Arts Club LEAP Playwriting Program for their support. The Wrong Bashir is currently receiving development support through Vancouver Asian Canadian Theatre's (VACT) 2018 MSG Lab in association with Playwrights Theatre Centre.

WRITTEN BY Zahida Rahemtulla **DIRECTED BY** Rohit Chokhani

READING CHIVALRY IS DEAD BY MUNISH SHARMA

August 15th - 7pm to 8pm at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey Cedar Bldg, Rm 1205 (Conference Centre)

Chivalry is Dead is the working title for **Munish Sharma's** first one person show. Using a concert format, Chivalry is Dead delves into the importance of dance, friendship, love, and growth, combining important dance moments in Sharma's life, poetry, and a bit of standup comedy.

WRITTEN BY Munish Sharma

WORKSHOP DIGITAL MARKETING FOR ARTISTS WITH AMNEET ATHWAL

**August 16th - 5pm to 7pm at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey
Cedar Bldg, Rm 1205 (Conference Centre)**

Whether you're a marketing novice or a seasoned vet, take your marketing game to the next level with this digital marketing workshop. The world of marketing and promotions has changed, and will continue to change rapidly, so it's important to stay at least one step ahead. Artists often find it difficult to manage the task of marketing themselves, while continuing to be immersed in their artistic practice. Learn some simple tricks, ideas, and philosophies of marketing that will surely help you expand your profile!

WORKSHOP IMPULSE, IMPROVISATION & PLAY WITH CARMEL AMIT

August 18th - 11am to 4pm at School Creative Institute of The Arts, Vancouver

Finding freedom and trust in the moment and in self. In this workshop, you will explore finding a connection to your bodies and voice through exercises that aim to access your right, thinking free brain. Led by Carmel Amit, you will 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.

WORKSHOP THEATRE CREATION & STORYTELLING WITH ANITA MAJUMDAR

August 19th - 12pm to 5pm at The Cultch, Vancouver

Leap into the chaos of theatre creation and storytelling with award winning actress, choreographer and playwright, Anita Majumdar, who will share her own process and lead you through exercises that will explore your creation process. In this workshop you will discover the simplicity of creation with Anita and the rest of the participants by creating something together.

POST-SHOW TALKBACKS WITH ACTORS AND DIRECTORS, FACILITATED BY THE NAMELESS COLLECTIVE

August 10th - Undocumented Trial at Vancouver Art Gallery

August 11th - Undocumented Trial at Vancouver Art Gallery

August 12th - Undocumented Trial at Vancouver Art Gallery (8pm show only)

**Talkbacks will take place in a mix of English and Punjabi (as needed).*

ABOUT THE NAMELESS COLLECTIVE

The Nameless Collective Podcast is hosted by Naveen Girn, Milan Singh & Paneet Singh - a trio of historians, researchers and explorers who travel to the archive to rediscover history, solve mysteries, and provide a space for the untold histories of Vancouver's South Asian community.

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 the 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 Monsoon Festival of Performing Arts, presented by South Asian Arts Society.

In its third year, the festival has a deliberate spotlight on Canadian 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.

This festival is unique, given that no other broadly-focused South Asian performing arts festival exists in Canada. Aside from the presentations, community engagement is also key, with development workshops on dramaturging, playwriting, directing and acting, along with directed readings, which together combine to make our Industry Series offering complete.

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. We are active in promoting South Asian dance, music, and theatre via dance and music classes, professional performances and workshops, guest lectures, as well as presenting comedic plays, musicals, and dance dramas across the Lower Mainland.

www.southasianarts.ca

PRODUCTION TEAM

CO-PRODUCER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Gurpreet Sian

CO-PRODUCER & ARTISTIC PRODUCER: Rohit Chokhani

MEDIA RELATIONS: Kelly Phelan Media Relations

DIGITAL MARKETING: Murray Paterson Marketing Group

PHOTOGRAPHER: Joe Carlson and Raymond Kam

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

Carmel Amit DIRECTOR

Rosanne So 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, Brittany Ryan, PTC, Brian Quirt, Cindy Reid, Rayman Bhuller, Diane Purvey, Shushma Datt, and our friends and family for their constant love and support.

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Dilbar Kang
Punjabi Edition/Focus Punjabi
7:00/7:30pm

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