



Teesri Duniya  
T H E A T R E

For immediate release

### 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year: daring, dissenting, dialogue

Teesri Duniya Theatre launches its 2011-2012 season celebrating diversity, promoting dialogue, and erasing barriers across communities. The 2011–2012 season consists of two English language premiers, the reading of culturally diverse plays, a collaboration with Infnitheatre, Montreal's premier independent company, publication of our theatre quarterly including a special expanded issue on Oral History and Performance, a series of community based activities promoting intercultural conversation across our cultural landscape. Artistic Director, Rahul Varma announces the next season for Teesri Duniya Theatre.

**1<sup>ST</sup> Production:** *The Poster* by **Philippe Ducros**, artistic director of Espace Libre, translated into English by **Shelley Tepperman**, directed by **Arianna Bardesono** opens Nov. 17 to Dec. 4, 2011 at Bain St-Michel, 5300 St Dominique.

Abou Salem prints posters with pictures of those who die in struggle for Palestine, and these posters are plastered all over the country. One day Abou Salem finds he must print the poster of his only son, Salem. *The Poster* is a close personal examination of Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the people from both sides. *The Poster* is the English language translation of *L’Affiche*, the original French version of the play, which was one of five finalists for the 2009 Grand prix de la dramaturgie (France) and was named Play of the Year in 2009 by the AQCT (Association québécoise des critiques de théâtre).

The original French language production of the play opens at the Espace Libre around the same time. Rahul Varma says, “This is the first time in history of Montreal theatre that a play is opening in both languages simultaneously and we are very happy to be producing this work in partnership with Infnitheatre, Montreal’s premier independent English company.”

**2<sup>nd</sup> Production:** *Unusual Battleground* by **Rahul Varma**, Teesri’s artistic director, directed by **Arianna Bardesono**, March 2012. When Odette Uvera, a Rwandan-Canadian, haunted by memories of genocide in her birth country, goes to Turkey to carry out her research, she befriends Shamshaad, a respected Muslim woman in her nineties. It would be merely days before her death that Shamshaad tells Odette a heart-wrenching secret never before told. Why would this old woman reveal this chilling secret now, and why to Odette she barely met a few months ago? *Unusual Battleground* is a story of love, survival, and identity, and when secrets start to spill out, the truth is revealed that is bound to change what we have known about human history.

*Unusual Battleground* is an outcome of a five-year long CURA research project *Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide, and other Human Rights Violations* at Concordia University. The play has been developed at the Banff Center for the Arts, with additional development at the Playwrights Workshop Montreal.

1006 rue de la Montagne, Suite 111 Montreal, Qc H3G 1Y7  
514.848.0238

[info@teesriduniya.com](mailto:info@teesriduniya.com) [www.teesriduniya.com](http://www.teesriduniya.com)

**Readings:** Our season includes three play-readings of new culturally diverse and aboriginal plays including **Kevin Lorings's** *Where the Blood Mixes*.

**Publication: *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage***

For 12 years, Teesri has published **alt.theatre** magazine that is Canada's only professional journal tackling intersections between politics, social activism, cultural plurality and the stage. Associate Artistic Director and Editor-in-Chief, **Edward Little** announced that in addition to the regular issues this season, one issue will become an expanded special issue featuring articles from internationally renowned writers on Oral History and Performance in conjunction with CURA Montreal Life Stories project.

**Jewish-Arab Intercultural Conversations:** We are excited to introduce a new initiative that is part of our community based, and multidisciplinary activities designed to promote dialogue across communities. The Friendship Project is a web-based video initiative lead by Associate Artist **Stephanie Lambert** to bring conversations that focus on friends from the Jewish and Arab communities here in Montreal. The project has begun now and mini-docs will be posted on Teesri's website starting in October. Look for the link on our home page.

Artistic Director, Rahul Varma sums up the season this way: "our theme this year is daring, dissenting dialogue. This season represents an uninterrupted history of politically relevant theatre that dares to tackle difficult themes, examines critical issues, with beauty and imagination. We showcase culturally diverse artists, and tell meaningful stories that need to be told." The season demonstrates artistic beauty as well as giving people a platform to talk across differences as equals, free and fearless.

For more information about the 30<sup>th</sup> year of Teesri Duniya Theatre, visit our website at [www.teesriduniya.com](http://www.teesriduniya.com) or call (514) 848-0238 or email [info@teesriduniya.com](mailto:info@teesriduniya.com)

Linda Levesque, General Manager

Emilee Veluz, Assistant General Manager/PR Assistant

Rahul Varma, Artistic Director



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