



## PRESS RELEASE

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Teesri Duniya Theatre inaugurates its 2014-2015 Season with the Quebec premier of *Corpus*. Written by playwright Darrah Teitel and directed by Liz Valdez, it has a stellar cast: Holly Gauthier-Frankel, Melissa Paulson, Davide Chiazzese, Susan Bain, Ian Geldart, and Gilles Plouffe. Presented by the MAI (Montreal arts interculturells) as part of their sixteenth performing arts season. the play will run from November 13-20, 2014.

*Corpus* won Darrah Teitel The Calgary Peace Prize (2007), In The Beginning Jewish Playwrights contest (2009), and the Canadian Jewish Playwrights Competition (2010).

Megan is a brilliant Canadian genocide scholar who obsessively collects the stories of war crimes through the internet. She stumbles across an unlikely relationship between a Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz and the wife of a Nazi officer. While investigating their dark and seductive history, Megan is spurred on her quest for academic fame by the unexpected charms of her online lover. *Corpus* is a Holocaust story with a twist, one in which the third generation must confront the legacy of re-telling the personal stories.

The Holocaust, by any measure, is one of the most gruesome events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It illustrates the depths of degradation to which human being can sink when tribalism and greed are allowed to reign. It has seared into our consciousness the expression “Never Again.” The Holocaust serves as a potent warning, in today’s conflict-ridden world, that without constant vigilance, compassion and decency, human beings descend into brutality.

Q&A follows each Friday night performance. Post performance panel-discussions will take place each Sunday matinee. In class activities for schools, with artists from the production and Teesri Duniya Theatre will be available

November 13 – 30, 2014  
Wednesday – Saturday all shows are 8 pm  
Sunday matinees are 3 pm  
\$25-Adult; \$20-Student/Senior; \$15 group (10 or more)  
Montreal arts interculturells, 3680 Jean-Mance, Montreal

Box Office: 514-982-3386  
[www.m-a-i.qc.ca/billetterie/](http://www.m-a-i.qc.ca/billetterie/)

# HISTORY

## PRODUCTIONS

"POLITICAL, PROVOCATIVE, PERSONAL"

Teesri Duniya Theatre (meaning “third world” in Hindustani) began in 1981 as a South Asian theatre company. Today it is one of the few theatre companies in Canada where artists of every culture, color, language and background work together. The company promotes a multicultural-multiracial vision of Canada. Our creations are outward looking and weave together elements of different cultures. We believe this to be the best way to drive the creative process, ensure our artistic development, and build and maintain our relationship with the country’s general arts movement.

In the early eighties, Teesri produced plays in Hindi dealing with issues affecting the lives of South Asian immigrants in Québec (Julus, Bhanumati ka Pitara, and Ahsaas). In 1985, the company branched out to begin producing English-language productions with plays such as Job Stealer, Equal Wages, No Man’s Land and Divided We Stand. The result is a theatre that focuses on minority issues, builds solidarity among minorities, and promotes an increasing interaction and dialogue across cultures.

Counter Offence was Montreal Mirror critic Gaëtan Charlebois’s top pick of the 10 best plays of the decade. In 1999, we produced L’Affaire Farhadi, a French translation of Counter Offence, earning the distinction of being the first culturally diverse company to produce a French-language play, with the Gazette declaring: “L’Affaire Farhadi could be the vanguard of the revolution in French-language theatre.”

Bhopal by Rahul Varma, has been produced in French, English and Hindi in both Canada and India. It is the first Quebecois/Canadian play to have been professionally produced in India. We are a professional theatre company with roots extending to an increasing number of minority communities in Canada—this is where we draw our sustenance.

From the beginning, we have sought to broaden our cultural reach, collaborating with like-minded companies across Canada, including, Théâtre Sortie de Secours (Bhopal), Cahoots Theatre Projects (Ali & Ali and The Axes of Evil), newworldtheatre (My Name is Rachel Corrie, 2007), Black Theatre Workshop (Counter Offence), Carlos Bulosan Theatre (People Power), The MT Space (The Last 15 Seconds), and Native Earth Performing Arts (Almighty Voice and His Wife).

In 2011, Teesri Duniya Theatre celebrated its 30th anniversary. In March 2012, Teesri presented State of Denial, the latest play by artistic director Rahul Varma, in conjunction with the Montreal Life Stories Project. Teesri continues to present two full productions a year as well as publish quarterly alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage, Canada’s only professional journal dedicated to examining intersections between politics, social activism, cultural plurality and the stage.

Throughout Teesri’s history, we have produced and workshopped several plays by aboriginal playwrights and on aboriginal themes, including Land Where the Trees Talk by Rahul Varma, The Unnatural and Accidental Women by Marie Clements, alterNatives by Drew Hayden Taylor, Almighty Voice and His Wife by Daniel David Moses, and upcoming in September 2012, Where the Blood Mixes by Kevin Loring.

Today, Teesri Duniya, which began as primarily a South Asian group, is an all-inclusive organization whose creative and administrative team as well as audience members come from a wide range of ethnic and racial backgrounds, including the majority cultures. The company reflects the ideal face of Canada and Québec as multiethnic, multiracial and multilingual.

# Bio of the cast and production team

## Darrah Teitel / Playwright

Darrah Teitel is a graduate of The University of Toronto and The National Theatre School of Canada's Playwriting program. Her most recent credits include Corpus (Counterpoint Productions 2014) Greek Culture (MagNorth Subdivision, 2013) The Apology (Alberta Theatre Projects 2013, Next Stage Festival 2011) Marla's Party (Screaming Weenie 2011, SummerWorks 2008) Killjoy Cunt (SummerWorks 2009) the CBC radio drama Palliative (2007) She Said Destroy (NTS, 2007) . Her journalism, fiction and poetry have appeared in various periodicals and journals throughout the country. Darrah's play Corpus is the winner of The Calgary Peace Play Prize, In The Beginning Playwrighting Award and the 2011 Canadian Jewish Playwrighting Award. The Apology was nominated for The Dora Mavor Moore Award and the Betty Mitchell Award for best new play. The Apology won the Calgary FFWD Audience Choice Award for 2013. She was a member of the 2007, 2011 and 2012 Banff Playwright's Colony and is a 2010 MacDowell Colony Fellow. Darrah currently lives Ottawa where she is working for The NDP and writing a play about Pierre Trudeau's 1969 Omnibus Bill.

## Liz Valdez / Director

University Theatre Department has been teaching and coaching for 18 years and has directed over 50 productions. Liz has taught many students who have gone on to enjoy successful careers in Film, Television and Theatre and post-graduate studies. She has just come from directing Black Theatre Workshop's Gas Girls alongside, Artistic Director and long time friend, Quincy Armorer, at the Segal Centre. Last January, she directed Rahul Varma's Bhopal for Teesri Duniya and is thrilled to be here again with this production of Corpus by Darrah Teitel. It has been an incredible process and a very tight knit collaboration between all involved from design team to production team to writer to actor to tech team. I have been blessed to have shared this experience with all these magnificent and committed artists. Love and gratitude to my family, without their support and strength, I could not do what I love to do.

## Susan Bain / Eva Wolfe

Susan is extremely excited about working with such a dynamic director on such a terrifically written play. This is her first time taking part in a Teesri Duniya production and she feels enormously privileged and honoured. Past theatrical involvements include "Scientific Americans" (Segal Centre), "Snake in the Grass" and "Girl In the Goldfish Bowl" (Hudson Village Theatre). Film and television credits include "The Best Laid Plans" (mini-series), "A Nanny's Revenge" (TV movie), "Source Code" (feature film), "High Cost of Living" (feature film).

## Davide Chiazese / Eli

Davide is a local actor, director and aspiring playwright. As an Associate Artist of Teesri Duniya Theatre he recently administrated and took part in a directing mentorship, in collaboration with The Other Theatre under the direction of Stacey Christodoulou. Since then, he has been invited by Black Theatre Workshop to take part in their mentorship program as a Director. Davide graduated from the John Abbott Theatre Program in Acting and was a recipient of both the Pamela Montgomery Award and the Karla Napier Scholarship. Recent credits include When Elephant Was King with BTW and The Taming of the Shrew with Repercussion Theatre. Davide is thrilled to be directing Persephone Productions' Spring show Des fraises en janvier/Strawberries in January.

## Holly Gauthier-Frankel / Megan White

Born and raised in Montreal, Holly is a multiple-threat performer, singer, voice actor, writer, dancer, and teacher with a career spanning over 25 years. Some favourite stage credits include: Lillabit in David Fennario's Motherhouse at Centaur Theatre; Mary Snow in Salt-Water Moon at the National Arts Centre; Miss Sugarpuuss in Miss Sugarpuuss Must Die! At the Segal

Theatre Studio; and as Ensemble in Scapegoat Carnivale's Medea and award-winning The Bacchae. This is Holly's first Teesri production and she is thrilled to be working with such an incredible team. She is grateful to her family and friends for all the love and support, always.

#### Ian Geldart / Heinrich

Since graduating John Abbot's Professional Theatre program in 2011 Ian has had the opportunity to work with many inspirational artists and producers. Recent acting credits include Our Creation, Existence, & Destruction in 55 Minutes a one man, self produced show at the 2014 Montreal Fringe; Jabber with Geordie Productions, which travelled to Toronto and Pittsburgh as well as across Quebec and the East Coast; Macbeth with the Montreal Shakespeare Theatre Company; Elizabeth Rex with Tableau D'Hôte, Ian's first experience working with Liz Valdez; To Be and Far From the Madding Crowd with Persephone Productions and The Tin Can People with Janus Productions, which travelled to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2011. He has also made various appearances in commercial and television work such as Fatal Vows and Helix. Ian is honoured to be working with such a down-to-earth company on such a magnificent, touching piece. Enjoy!

#### Melissa Paulson / Eva

Melissa Paulson is a Montreal based actress and producer. Her acting credits include a lead role in Misogyny/Misandry (Erik Anderson), a feature she co-produced that was selected at les Rendez-vous du Cinéma Québécois 2013, Flip the Bird (Adam Leblanc); she can also be seen in the Rolaid's campaign (Emanuel HossDesmarais). On stage, Melissa created her one woman show For the Love of Pie which was nominated for Best Solo Production at the St-Ambroise Fringe Festival 2014. Other theatre credits include Living Room. Dark, Stone Cold Dead Serious (InFurnace Theatre); Dracula, A Lie of the Mind (Fallen Angel Productions).

#### Gilles Plouffe / Homer

Gilles has been performing as a bilingual actor in theatre, film and television for over 20 years. His most recent stage roles include Eutrope in Dark Owl, a Tableau d'Hôte production; Herb Tucker in I Ought to Be In Pictures, an Intentional Dreams production; The King in Les Pleureuses, a Théâtre du XXIIIe Siècle production; Dr. Rank in A Doll's House, a Fareanima production; and Le Boutonnier in Peer Gynt, a Théâtre Décalage production. His recent film and television work includes The Badge, Burden of Evil, Choice: The Henry Morgentaler Story, Les Rescapés and The Foundation.

#### Devon Bate / Musician/Composer

Devon Bate is a sound artist and performer currently stationed in Montreal, Quebec. He holds a degree in Electro acoustics and Communication Studies while working closely with the local film, theatre, and dance community. Currently ongoing work includes a sound art exhibition for the 2015 Biennale Trois-Rivières. He is also working with Jack Kavanagh, a Montreal interdisciplinary artist and performer, on his latest circus production "The Canary's Silence", to be performed in Dikken Theater (Johnson, Vermont), November 2014. Recent work includes the sound design for theatre piece Attawapiskat is No Exception, written by Cree playwright Floyd Favel and composition for 'Pleasure Principle', a dance piece by former member of the Compagnie Marie Chouinard, Gerard Reyes. Devon composes and performs regularly under the pseudonym Buffalo, an experimental electronic music persona.

#### Luciana Burcheri / Stage Manager

Luciana has been working as a stage manager for over 16 years. Last season she was stage manager for Centaur's The St-Leonard Chronicles and Teesri Duniya's Bhopal as well as assistant stage manager on Segal Centre's Othello & Glen Garry, Glenn Ross. She also directed the staged reading of When Blood Ran Red at the Segal Studio. Previous credits also include: Good People, True Nature, Paradise by the River, In Piazza San Domenico (Centaur Theatre); Visiting Mr. Green, Cabaret, The Diary of Anne Frank, Over the River & through the Woods (Segal Centre); Brahm & the Angel, The Peacemaker, A Giraffe in Paris (Geordie Productions); Bye Bye Baby (Imago Theatre); Where the Blood Mixes, Miss Orient(ed) (Teesri

Duniya) and many more. Luciana also translated and adapted for the stage St-Exupéry's fable The Little Prince, premiered and produced in Montreal by Geordie Productions and produced since in Ontario and Australia. She also translated into French The 39 Steps, which toured all over Quebec 2 years ago and was blessed to assist direct and work backstage on this summer's English production at Theatre Lac Brome.

#### Elyse Quesnel / Assistant Stage Manager

Elyse Quesnel is a Montreal based stage manager. Favorite credits include: 8 Ways my Mother Was Conceived (MaryBeth Productions). The Meeting(BTW), Top Girls (Segal Centre) and Spring Awakening: The Musical (Persephone productions). She is very excited to be part of Corpus.

#### Scott Drysdale / Production Manager

Scott loves his job.

#### David de Giovanni / Assistant Director

David di Giovanni is a theatre-maker and teacher. For the past four years, he has worked as a director and dramaturg for MAP Project – a dynamic emerging theatre company based in Montreal. His recent directing credits with MAP Project include Play it Again, Phaedra(November/December 2012), MAP Season One (Sept 2011 – May 2012) mounted at the Mainline Theatre. Other notable directing credits include Holy Tranity! at the historic Cafe Cleopatra in Montreal (June 2013), The Last Days of Karl Nimeni at the ARENA festival.. der jungen Kunst in Germany (July 2012), and assistant director on Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights directed by Nathalie Claude (December 2011). David has made two journeys in the past two years to the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, whose practice is a deep inspiration for his own work. He is currently a dramaturg for the multi-disciplinary and intercultural performance group The Encounters Project, and is incredibly thrilled to be working alongside Liz Valdez and Teesri Duniya with Corpus.

#### Laurence Gagnon / Set Designer

Laurence Gagnon Graduated from the National Theatre School in 2011. After graduation, she represented her work in the Czech Republic for the International Quadriennale of Scenography. She has worked in costume design at the Atelier Lyrique of the Opéra de Montreal. She was the costume designer for Peter Pan, a show created for La Roulotte on their 60th anniversary and Jack et le haricot magique last summer. Laurence was set designer on Les Zurbains 2014. She is grateful to work for the fourth time with Teesri Dunya Theatre, as a designer and to have had the opportunity to collaborate with Liz Valdez in Bhopal and now again in Corpus.

#### Noémi Poulin / Costume Designer

Noémi Poulin is a costume designer for films and theatre. She is Tableau d'Hôte's Artist in Residence and have been involved with the company since One Night, created in 2008. She has designed costumes for productions such as Haunted House, A Line in the Sand and Humans (Tableau d'Hôte), The New Canadian Kid (Black Theatre Workshop) and State of Denial (Teesri Dunya). She was head of wardrobe for Guy Sprung's first feature film The Hat goes Wild and more recently she created costumes for Sarah préfère la course ( Cannes Official Selection, 2013) and Ceci n'est pas un polar. She is also involved in short films, music videos and is currently creating costumes for Rêves d'acteurs, airing on ARTV this fall.

#### Audrey-Anne Bouchard / Lighting Designer

A graduate of the Design for the theatre program at Concordia University (Montréal), Audrey-Anne works mainly as a lighting designer in both worlds of dance and theatre. Particularly interested in new practices and in the collaborative creative process, she also conceives and realizes her own multidisciplinary projects. In 2009, she directs and designs multidisciplinary piece Les mains froides which is selected for the 2010 edition of Vue sur la relève Festival in Montreal. That same year, she migrates to Europe to pursue her artistic research. In a master's thesis, she studies the integration of video projection into current artistic practices and the

interaction arising among moving images of light and the performer. To this day, Audrey-Anne designed the lights for more than thirty different shows and installations. Her recent credits as a lighting designer include Adam's rib (New Groundswell theatre Festival, Toronto), Le dernier rôle (MAI, Montreal), dance performance David (Les Hivernales, Avignon) and Musical Je Chante (Petit Mercelis, Brussels). Flesh Waves, her last personal creation in dance and digital arts has been presented in November 2013 at CynetArt digital arts festival in Dresden. Audrey-Anne's practice is defined in its interdisciplinary and in her collaboration with artists from different cultures.

# Story synopsis

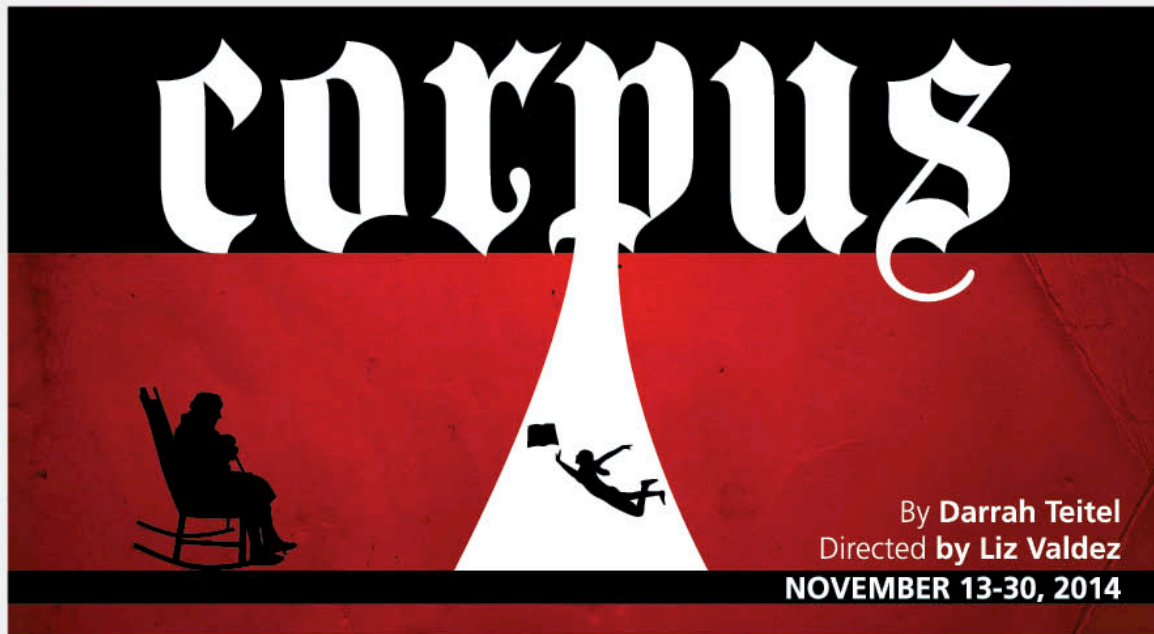
Set in contemporary Montreal and Berlin, and Auschwitz during World War II, Corpus takes as its starting point the personal and academic struggles of Megan White, a graduate student whose dissertation focuses on explaining the “formative conditions” that shaped the attitudes and behavior of Nazi perpetrators and their supporters. Using the internet to track down an ageing unrepentant Nazi woman who feels compelled to talk to someone about her past, Megan penetrates private chat rooms and gains the confidence of the participants as research subjects. She wishes to understand the nature of racism in its totality: what it is to be a Nazi. She aspires, through this work, to become an academic star.

In her research, Megan discovers Eva Wolfe, an ageing Berlin woman with an untold past. Eva wishes to entrust her wartime story to someone who will value it. Smitten with a member of the Sonderkommando – Jewish prisoners forced to aid in the killing and disposal of corpses – she schemes to rescue him and flee with him close to the war’s end. Eva’s memory of unlikely romance between a Nazi and a Jew captivates Megan, not only for its affirmation of the power of love amidst evil, but also for its potential of making her a celebrity.

Technology plays an important part in the play. Without the Internet and the benefits of digitization, Megan’s research would be impossible. Her several digitized identities coalesce when she encounters a self-proclaimed squeegee kid from Berlin, who turns out to be Eva’s grandson. Yet, as Corpus demonstrates, the technologies that seemingly bring us closer can also reinforce distances. These distances remind us of the chasm that separates us from the past, that as much as we attempt to do so, we cannot enter into the past or view it dispassionately.

The play asks difficult questions about the proliferation of academic work on the Holocaust and the public fascination with it, as well as the varied motivations of belated witnesses and those who witness for them.

# Flyer



**Winner of 2007 Calgary Peace Prize,  
In The Beginning Jewish Playwrights contest (2009)  
and the Canadian Jewish Playwrights Competition (2010)**

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**A Teesri Duniya Theatre Production**

presented by

**MAI (Montreal arts interculturels),**

3680 Jeanne-Mance

November 13-30, 2014

Wednesday to Saturday 8:00 pm

Sunday 3:00 pm only

Panel discussions after Sunday matinees

**Tickets:** Regular ..... \$25  
Students/Seniors..... \$ 20  
Groups: 10 or more..... \$ 15 per person

For more information or advance tickets, call  
514-848-0238



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