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-World Premiere-

State of Denial

By Rahul Varma, Directed by Deborah Forde

When the need to remember confronts the struggle to forget, explosive secrets are revealed ...

Teesri Duniya Theatre presents the world premiere of artistic director **Rahul Varma's** newest play ***State of Denial***. The final play of the company's 2011-2012 season, ***State of Denial*** marks the directorial debut of Montreal's **Deborah Forde**.

State of Denial is a fictional play inspired by personal testimonies, historical research, and the work and spirit of the project, *Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide and other Human Rights Violations*. Playwright **Rahul Varma** says, "It's a play about hidden identity, survival, and the power of love and hope. The stories in the play speak to the urgent need to counter denial, and to recognize that women's bodies continue to be used as a primary battleground for political and racial violence and rivalry."

When Odette, a Rwandan-borne Canadian filmmaker, travels to Turkey to investigate stories of genocide and hidden identity, she interviews Sahana, an elderly and respected Muslim woman who has devoted her life to assisting Armenian survivors. On her deathbed, Sahana confesses a chilling secret to Odette - a secret that challenges a long-standing state of denial - a secret that Odette must promise to make public at any cost.

State of Denial is an outcome of the SSHRC-funded CURA project, *Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide and other Human Rights Violations*. The play has been developed at the Banff Centre for the Arts, with additional development at Playwrights Workshop Montreal. This play is part of the Montreal Life Stories Rencontres, a series of events that will be taking place during the month of March 2012 at various locations throughout the city of Montreal. In addition to ***State of Denial***, the Rencontres will include: an international academic conference, a press conference, exhibitions, a multimedia installation, round table discussions, various artistic displays and performances and workshops. For more info: <http://www.histoiresdeviemontreal.ca/rencontres>

In ***State of Denial***, **Deborah Forde** directs a multiethnic cast featuring **Davide Chiazese, Rachelle Glait, Matthew Kabwe, Helen Koya, Olivier Lamarche** and **Natalie Tannous**, and a talented production and design team of Montreal artists; **Noémi Poulin, Eric Mongerson** and Stage Manager **Luciana Burcheri**.

March 16 to April 1, 2012

Wednesday to Saturday 8:00pm

Saturday and Sunday Matinee 2:00pm

*Thursday, March 29, 2012 (no show)

McCord Museum 690 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal QC H3A 1E9

Box Office: 514 848 0238 Adults: \$22, Seniors: \$20, Students: \$12

