



For Immediate Release

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Teesri Duniya Theatre: Weaving Diversity

Teesri Duniya Theatre proudly announces its 33rd season that weaves diversity of culture, languages and communities through its productions, readings, publications, special events and is our artistic response to the Quebec Charter of Values exploring what does it mean and how can we live together in Quebec.

Our 2014-2015 season consist of the following

Production (Quebec premiere)

Corpus: playwright Darrah Teitel, Director Liz Valdez, November 13 to November 30, 2014. Presented by Teesri Duniya Theatre and the MAI (Montréal, arts interculturels).

A young Canadian scholar Megan stumbles across the mysterious relationship between a Jewish prisoner in Auschwitz and the wife of a Nazi officer. Megan is torn between her quest for academic fame and the unexpected charms of her online lover. *Corpus* is a Holocaust story with a new twist, one in which the third generation must confront the legacy of re-telling the personal stories of survivors.

Corpus is the winner of the 2007 Calgary Peace Prize, and the 2011 In The Beginning Jewish Playwrights contest sponsored by Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company.

Fireworks Reading

Fireworks is Teesri Duniya Theatre's play-reading series featuring culturally diverse plays and playwrights. This season we will present the following readings:

- *The Refugee Hotel* by Carmen Aguirre, as a part of the ``Have we forgotten yet `` play festival
- *Difficult Bride* by Rahul Varma

Special Events

Encounters: director Rachael van Fossen

Personal stories of the performers in a series of intertwined documentary theatre episodes – stories of genocide survival, of prejudice, of political strike, of individual and institutional racism, of gay-bashing and other stories told in a living tapestry of shifting and evolving relationships.

Storyline: Artist in the Community project

Kya Khoya Kya Paya (*Something lost, something gained*) by Ranjana Jha

Officially, Canada is multicultural-bilingual, in reality it is multicultural-multilingual. We are proud to present Ranjana Jha's bilingual play *Kya Khoya Kya Paya* presented in Hindi and English in collaboration with Aangan and the South Asian community of Montreal.

Publication

alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage, Editor Nikki Shaffeeullah

Teesri will publish 4 volumes of *alt.theatre*, Canada's only theatre quarterly where politics, social activism and cultural plurality meet the stage.

Special Event

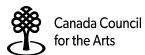
The Quebec Charter of Survival: director Jessica Bleuer

A multi-disciplinary series that will take place throughout the year, exploring questions of home, identity, belonging, diversity, and trauma ... What does it mean to live together in Quebec?

Teesri Duniya Theatre (www.teesriduniya.com)

Founded in 1981, Teesri Duniya Theatre is dedicated to producing, developing and presenting socially and politically relevant theatre, based on the cultural experiences of diverse communities. Multicultural diversity, intercultural relations, relevance and compelling stories are defining features of our work. We are committed to multiethnic (as opposed to color-blind) casting.

We acknowledge and thank the following for their support this season:



Canada Council
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BIOS

Darrah Teitel: is a graduate of The University of Toronto and The National Theatre School of Canada's Playwriting program. Darrah's play *Field of Rye* was first produced when she was 11 (Young People's Theatre 1993). Her most recent credits include *The Apology* (Alberta Theatre Projects 2013, Next Stage Festival 2011), *Killjoy Cunt* (SummerWorks 2009), *Marla's Party* (SummerWorks 2008) the CBC radio drama *Palliative* (2007), *She Said Destroy* (NTS, 2007). Darrah is the winner of The Word Play Contest, The Gordon C Johnson Award, The YTV Achievement Award and The Calgary Peace Play Prize, In The Beginning Playwrighting Award and was named the 2011 Canadian Jewish Playwright.

Liz Valdez: Co-owner of Shift Space and part-time faculty lecturer at Concordia University Theatre Department has been teaching and coaching for 18 years and has directed over 50 productions including new works by Montreal playwrights, poets, and her own collective creations. She received a MECCA for her direction of "Humans" by Daniel MacIvor produced by Tableau D'Hote in 2011. She directed Rahul Varma's international hit play *Bhopal* at the Segal Centre for the Performing Arts (2014)

Rahul Varma: Born in India, Rahul is a playwright and artistic director of Teesri Duniya Theatre which he co-founded in 1981. In 1998, with Kapil Bawa, he co-founded the theatre quarterly *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage*. He writes both in Hindi and English, a language he acquired as an adult. Some of his recent plays are *Land Where the Trees Talk*, *No Man's Land*, *Trading Injuries* (radio drama), *Counter Offence*, *Bhopal*, *Zahreeli Hawa*, *Truth and Treason*, *State of Denial* and *Khamosh Chiragan Di Dastaan*. His plays have been translated into French, Italian, Hindi and Punjabi. He is honored to have worked with India's pre-eminent artist Late Dr. Habib Tanvir.

Jessica Bleuer: MA, M.Ed, CCC, RDT, works as a therapist, theatre artist and full-time lecturer and supervisor in the Masters of Drama Therapy Program at Concordia University. Jessica has a particular interest in cross-cultural dialogue and she looks at how cultural identity impacts our sense of belonging, safety and how we live together in the Quebec context. She is pursuing doctoral studies at Concordia University exploring the benefits of using drama therapy techniques to create a cultural dialogue model for the Quebec context.

Nikki Shaffeeullah: Nikki is an artist, activist, researcher, and the Editor-in-Chief of *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage*. She recently completed an MFA in Community-based Theatre at the University of Alberta, where her research explored de-colonial practices of theatre creation. Nikki is originally from Toronto, took an undergraduate degree at McGill University. Her research has taken her across Canada and the world. She currently works in Edmonton as a director, actor, improviser, facilitator, teacher and editor

Rachael van Fossen: is a playwright, director, arts consultant and teacher. She has won several awards as a pioneer in socially engaged and intercultural performance since the early 1990's. She was founding artistic director of Common Weal (1992-1999), artistic director of Black Theatre Workshop from 2001-2005, and co-founder and associate artistic director of the Collectif MOYO from 2007-2010. Rachael teaches in Theatre and Development at Concordia University, and is a faculty member in the MFA-Interdisciplinary Arts program at Goddard College.

Ranjana Jha: has been an active member of the Indian community in social, educational and cultural fields over the last 35 years in Montreal. She has been performing on stage as a hobby since her childhood in India. In Montreal she has produced variety shows, choreographed dance shows, and organized Dance-Dramas. She has acted in various plays as an active member of Quebec Hindi Association, Kala Bharati Dance School and Teesri Duniya. Some notable plays are "Ramayana", "Meera Bai" and "Counter Offence". She has also played roles in films titled "Stardom", "Surface Texture", "Desperately Seeking Helen", "Berlin" and "Useless Things". Ranjana Jha has a Master's degree in Education from McGill University and professionally works as a psychotherapist at the Argyle Institute of Human Relations.