



PLEIADES
Proudly Presents

THE ROOF IS LEAKING

ਛੱਤ ਚੌਂਦੀ ਹੈ

BY DAVINDER MALHI & SANSKRÜTI MARATHE DIRECTED BY ASH KNIGHT

BERKELEY STREET UPSTAIRS THEATRE, 26 BERKELEY STREET
MAY 2 TO 18, 2025

Season Sponsor



Government Support



Foundation Support

The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION

The Norman & Margaret Jewison
Charitable Foundation





Artistic Executive Director

Ash Knight

Guiding Stars

Leon B. Aureus Brefny Caribou
Joella Crichton Elizabeth Morris
Dharini Woollcombe Beth Wong

Associate Administrator

Aaheli Mukherjee

Financial Manager

Annette Bakos, Secure Accounting

Audit Services

McCarney Group

Graphic Artist

Leon B. Aureus

IT Manager

Eddie Kastrau

Star Charters (Playwrights Unit)

Peter N. Bailey Stephen Bandera
Ash Knight Davinder Malhi
Sanskriti Marathe Aksam Alyousef

Emeritus,

Artistic Director John Van Burek

Artistic Producer Andrey Tarasiuk

Board of Directors

Jules Bloch (Vice-President)
Liz Everett (Secretary)
Carla Flamer (President / Chair)
Aarti Iyer (Treasurer)
Maryam Khoshyomn
Geoffrey Miller

SHARING 1st & 2nd GENERATION CANADIAN STORIES.

Encourage 1st and 2nd generation storytellers (particularly artists of colour, but through intersectionality also deaf artists, artists with disabilities, artists living with mental illness, New Gen artists, 2SLBTQIAP artists, and Indigenous artists) to create:

- **INSPIRATIONS:** new, relevant stories exploring their experiences;
- **TRANSLATIONS:** sharing stories from other languages for all audiences;
- **ADAPTATIONS:** exploring existing works through their lens.

A tax-deductible donation to Pleiades Theatre may be made by cheque, VISA, MasterCard or, online, through CanadaHelps.org or our website. To make a donation, please mail a cheque to the address below or contact us at:

Pleiades Theatre

**S30 - 401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8**

Tel: 416-203-1227

E-mail: info@pleiadestheatre.org

@PleiadesTheatre on social media

www.pleiadestheatre.org

Pleiades is a diverse organization and its staff, contractors, and board hold a wide range of viewpoints and beliefs, which they are encouraged to voice to ensure that the company delivers on its vision, mission, mandate, and goals. This includes the usage of their bio and/or artist statement as part of Pleiades' digital/published program. At times, those working with the company may have opposing views to each other. It is not the company's position to restrict these contrasting ideas; rather, it is to promote the respectful discussion this may bring about. It is not Pleiades' role to force conformity to any one point-of-view, stance, or opinion. The only statement Pleiades makes is through the work it puts out. Its choice of plays should entertain and challenge audiences to think about the different human experiences in the world and the nuances of Canadian culture. As a theatre company, its job is to ask questions but let the audience come to its own conclusions. Pleiades embraces all communities and points-of-view encompassed in its vision.

Exceptions to this are as defined as illegal in section 319 of the Canadian Criminal Code.





Pleiades Theatre

Proudly Presents

THE ROOF IS LEAKING

ਛੱਤ ਚੌਂਦੀ ਹੈ

By Sanskruti Marathe & Davinder Malhi

Director & Dramaturg – Ash Knight

Chacha/Arjun – Sarabjeet Arora

Gurvur – Harry Gill

Chachi/Kiran – Kiran Kaur

Jaspinder & Dramaturg – Sarena Parmar

Meena – Tia Sandhu

Tayee/Sukhminder – Harpreet Sehmbi

Munni – Harit Sohal

Mummy/Sandeep – Dharini Woollcombe

Sound Designer – Gurpreet Chana

Set Designer – Jackie Chau

Costume Designer – Des'ree Gray

Lighting Designer – Simran Kapoor

Fight Director – Siobhan Richardson

Stage Manager – Jennifer Stobart

Publicist – Katie Saunoris | KSPR

Production Manager – Aheli Mukherjee

Set Builder – Marshall Kidd

Set and Scenic Painter – Alysson Bernabe

Head Technician – Karen Elizabeth

Show Crew – Uri Livine-Bar, Patty Coughlan,

Adam Krula, Brad Lemieux, Ethan Robinson

Running time is 105 minutes with NO intermission.

Please turn off your cell phones before the performance. The taking of photographs or video and use of any kind of recording device is prohibited in the theatre.

We acknowledge that Pleiades Theatre operates in Tkaronto: the traditional and sacred territory of the Wendat, the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee, Métis, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and many other Nations recorded or unrecorded.

This territory is the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant.

These Nations have taken care of this land for countless generations. They continue to do so today, and they will do so for generations to come. We are grateful to be able to work, live, create and grow on this land.



Foundation Support

The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION

The Norman & Margaret Jewison
Charitable Foundation

ONTARIO ARTS
foundation
DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

MG
McCarney Group LLP





PLAYWRIGHTS' MESSAGE

This play began while we were looking through old family photographs. We came across images of our mothers in their younger years and were struck by a question: Who were these women before we met them? What were their hopes and dreams? Were they realized? What was their favourite colour? We started writing in 2020, just after graduating from theatre school, during a time when both of our mothers were stepping into new chapters of their lives. As we were growing into adulthood, we began to see them more fully — as individuals with their own stories, not just as the people who raised us. We wrote this play to tell them: we see you. And through this process, we've come to see them more clearly.

A woman trying to divorce her dead husband never felt like an absurd idea to us. In fact, it felt necessary. The women we've known, the world we live in, and the communities we come from, made this choice feel honest — inevitable, even.

Beyond Mummy's character, this story is about a family that has missed each other. Years of silence, pain, and unspoken histories have kept them from truly knowing one another.

While it may be tempting to frame *The Roof is Leaking* as a cultural lesson, we don't see it that way. This isn't a story meant to teach about Punjabi culture. It's a story about a particular Punjabi family, in a particular moment. Not all Punjabi families — but this one.

We hope you find a piece of your own home in this play. We hope it sparks curiosity about those who raised you. And if you can, we hope you go home and ask your mother what her favourite colour is.

– Sanskruti Marathe & Davinder Malhi





THE ROOF IS LEAKING – CREATIVE TEAM



SANSKRUTI MARATHE

PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Mumbai, India // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

At the End of Kaliyuga / Cold Open Productions / Creator, Performer, Producer

On the Razzle / Shaw Festival / Swing

The Applecart / Shaw Festival / Alice

Twelfth Night / Crane Creations / Sir Toby Belch

Just Pervs / Toroto Fringe / Jill

Awards and Nominations

Kathak Visharad; Bharatnatyam Arangetram; Nominated for Spotlight Canada Pitch in Edinburgh Fringe; Newton Award Shaw Festival; Monologue Slam Award (Comedy, Drama)

Sanskruti Marathe is an Indo-Canadian multidisciplinary artist with a BFA (Honours) from York University's Acting Conservatory and training from the Shaw Festival's Baillie Cohort. Her artistic journey began with dance, leading to a lifelong pursuit of Bharatanatyam and Kathak under the mentorship of esteemed gurus. Passionate about connecting communities through culturally informed storytelling, Sanskruti's work bridges tradition and contemporary expression, inspiring audiences of all ages. Her notable works include *At the End of Kaliyuga*, a compelling solo children's show presented at The Edinburgh Fringe and now set to open at the Toronto Fringe Festival. Furthermore, she is also the Co-Founder of Saawan Collective, a theatre initiative dedicated to creating space for South Asian playwrights.



DAVINDER MALHI

PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Calgary, AB // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Fifteen Dogs / Segal Centre / Actor

Casey and Diana / Soulpepper Theatre / Stratford Festival / Actor

rihannaboi95 / Young People's Theatre / Actor

No Big Deal / Roseneath Theatre / Actor

Concord Floral / Canadian Stage / Actor

Awards and Nominations

META Nomination for Outstanding Supporting Performance for *Fifteen Dogs*

Davinder Malhi is an actor and playwright based in Toronto. He is the co-founder of Saawan Collective, a South-Asian theatre collective focused on developing new plays and creating space for emerging South Asian playwrights. This is his first full length play.



ASH KNIGHT

DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLEIADES THEATRE

Born in Montreal, QC // Lives in T'karonto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Tyson's Song / Pleiades Theatre / Director

Lesson in Forgetting / Pleiades Theatre / Director

Antigone / Stratford Festival – Langham Workshop / Director

Henry VIII / Stratford Festival / Assistant Director

Tragedie of Lear / Ad-Hoc Collective for... / Director

Awards and Nominations

- Dora Nomination, Best Actor - *Brothel #9*
- Theatre Critics Nomination, Best Director - *Tragedie of Lear*
- 2024 Pauline McGibbon Award in Directing, Nominee
- Dora Nomination, Outstanding Direction - *Tyson's Song*





ASH KNIGHT (CONT'D)

Ash moved to London, England at the age of 20 to attend the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art for 3 years on a scholarship. He graduated with a RADA Diploma and a Bachelor's Degree in Acting from the University of London. He's been part of numerous new play productions and development workshops at every theatre in Toronto, regularly works with the Stratford Festival on directing/teaching Shakespeare workshops, and recently completed his first year at The Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Directing.

A special thanks to Zinta. Without you, I could not do any of this.



GURPREET CHANA

SOUND DESIGNER

Born in Toronto, ON // Lives in Hamilton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

The Orchard (After Chekhov) / The Shaw Festival / Cultural Consultant, Punjabi & English Translator, Turban Wardrobe Support

Gimme Shelter / Why Not Theatre / Music Composer

France, Or The Niqab / Old Pirate / Music Composer & Sound Designer

Gurpreet Chana is a musician, engineer, composer and performer; his multi-instrumental musical practice seeks to engage melody and rhythm as a way of supporting interpersonal communion. He was introduced to the Tabla at the age of three & privileged to learn from Professor Parshotam Singh to start understanding the depth of this wonderful musical language. Gurpreet's musical adventures have nurtured his appreciation for creative exploration and innovation. His recent endeavours as Founder & Creative Engineer of SURmUN involve researching and developing novel digital instruments that ergonomically and ethically bridge the world of the traditional with digital, opening new forms of musical expression.



JACKIE CHAU

SET DESIGNER

Born in Scarborough, ON // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits (most recent)

Minuets 12 seconds / Studio 180 / Set & Costume Designer

As I must Live It / Theatre Passe Muraille / Set & Costume Designer

Rockabye / ARC / Set & Costume Designer

Midsummers Night's Dream / CanStage Dream in High Park / Set & Costume Designer

Awards and Nominations

Dora nomination – 2023/24 Outstanding Costume Design for *Storybook Search* (Bad Hats Theatre); Dora nomination – 2021/22 Outstanding Set Design for *Gloria* (ARC Theatre); Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design x4 nominations (Ontario Arts Foundation); Evie Nomination – 2019/20 Outstanding Costume Design for *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Manitoba Theatre for Young Theatre); Broadway World Toronto nomination- 2018 Best Set Design for *Music Music Life Death Music* (One Little Goat).

Jackie has worked as a set and costume designer on over 250 productions and her work has toured internationally. In addition, she is a production designer and art director for film and television. Jackie was named in NOW magazine's Top 10 Theatre Artists of 2009 and has received 10 Dora nominations for outstanding set and costume design. She has mentored many new designers over the years and has taught Theatrical Design at the University of Toronto and is currently teaching Set and Costume Design for Performance at York University.





DES'REE GRAY

COSTUME DESIGNER

Born in Toronto, ON // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

A Case for the Existence of God / Coalmine Theatre / Costume Designer

Tyson's Song / Pleiades Theatre / Costume Designer

Jesus Christ Superstar / Talk is Free Theatre / Costume Designer

Appropriate / Coalmine Theatre / Costume Designer

Frankenstein: Revived / Stratford Festival / Costume Designer

Awards and Nominations

Nomination for 2024 Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Costume

Design; Nomination for 2024 Virginia and Myrtle Cooper Award in Costume Design.

Des'ree Gray is a Toronto based Costume Designer with experience in film and theatre. She is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan University's Production Design Program and takes pride in her abilities in all stages of the design process.



SIMRAN KAPOOR

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Born in Kolkata, India // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Hedda Gabler / Stratford Festival / Assistant Lighting Designer

The Diviners / Stratford Festival / Assistant Lighting Designer

A Tennessee Williams Suite / Stratford Festival – Langham Workshop / Lighting Designer

The Fall of the House of Atreus: A Cowboy Love Song / Stratford Festival – Langham Workshop / Lighting Designer

Do you Think You're Better Than Me? / SmallfriendTallfriend @ Fringe / Lighting Designer

Awards and Nominations

Canadian College Cricket Women's Nationals MVP and Women's Ontario Cup MVP & Best Bowler 2019.

Simran's journey from Kolkata to Toronto reflects her passion for the arts and her dedication to creative excellence. Her early exposure to the vibrant cultural tapestry of her hometown laid the foundation for her artistic aspirations. She pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Production at York University. Simran's work is characterized by its ability to enhance storytelling through light, creating immersive environments that captivate audiences. Her unique perspective is evident in her body of work. Love & gratitude to Mom & Grandma.



AAHELI MUKHERJEE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Born in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia // Lives in T'karonto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Paprika Theatre Festival 2023-present/ Paprika Theatre Festival / Production Manager

Otihew / Shakespeare in Action (now Crossroads Theatre) / Production Manager and Technical Director

Earworm / Nowadays Theatre / Production Manager

Caged Birds / Modern Times Stage Company / Production Manager

A Public Display of Affection / Studio 180 Theatre / Production Manager

Born to Bengali parents from Kolkata, India, and raised in Muscat, Oman, Aaheli now calls T'karonto, Canada, home. Her work in Toronto theatre began as a Production Manager with the Paprika Theatre Festival in 2022. Since then, she has cultivated an extensive practice as a Production Manager, Producer, and Arts Administrator, working with a wide array of theatre companies to support innovative storytelling and inclusive artistic practices.





SIOBHAN RICHARDSON

FIGHT DIRECTOR

Raised in Kitchener, ON // Lives in Etobicoke, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Room / The Grand Theatre (London), Mirvish Productions, Covent Garden Productions (UK) / Fight, Intimacy Director

Orphans for the Czar / Crow's Theatre / Fight Director

Blackout / Musical Stage Company / Fight, Intimacy Director

Nelja Pientä Äikuista (Four Little Adults) / Tuffi Films / Intimacy Coordinator

Spring Awakenings / Sheridan Musical Theatre / Fight, Intimacy Director

The Penelopiad / The Grand Theatre / Actor

Awards and Nominations

Arts Response Initiative - Ontario Arts Council; Chalmers Arts Fellowship

- Ontario Arts Council, Artists in Education - Ontario Arts Council; Best

Ensemble, My Theatre Awards, Romeo and (her) Juliet, Urban Bard

Theatre (now Dauntless City Productions) and Headstrong Collective;

Breakout Action Star, Action On Film Festival

Siobhan Richardson is an internationally-recognized Fight Director, an Intimacy Director (a pioneer in this specialty), and an awardwinning actor/fighter/singer/dancer. Her work has been seen on some of Canada's most well-recognized stages, and her teaching career has spanned Canada, USA and Europe. Along with her continuous work in universities and in professional development programs as an educator and fight/intimacy director, Siobhan has most-recently received an Arts Response Initiative grant (Ontario Arts Council) to bring her unique approach to stage combat to Ontario and the world, through online lessons for skills development and maintenance. Always infusing Joyfulness and Curiosity into the work, Siobhan Richardson is dedicated to the growth and development of the art forms, the artists and the workplaces.

www.SiobhanRichardson.com Instagram: @fighteractress



JENNIFER STOBART

STAGE MANAGER

Born in Fort Erie, ON // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

As You Like It or The Land Acknowledgment / Crows Theatre 2021 to Present

Love and the Trick of Time / Cahoots Theatre

How Coyote and Rabbit Saved The People from the Monsters / Savage Society

Girl Who Loved Her Horses / Centre For Indigenous Theatre

The Chronicles of Sarnia / Blyth Festival Theatre

A veteran of live theatre, having stage managed over 180 professional productions, during her career, Jennifer has toured extensively across Canada and the United States. Her work has taken her to Dublin, Ireland, Brighton & London, England, Sydney, & Perth Australia, & Edinburgh, Scotland. Jennifer is excited to work on her first production with PleiadesTheatre. Sending love to her partner James, and, as always, to her Mom, her adventuring travelling companion.





KATIE SAUNORIS

PUBLICIST: Katie Saunoris | KSPR

Born in Barrie, ON // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

For Pleiades Theatre: *Tyson's Song*, *Lesson in Forgetting*

Katie Saunoris, founder of KSPR, is an Ontario-based publicist and communication strategist with over 15 years of experience in arts and culture public relations. Central clients of KSPR include Buddies in Bad Times, Necessary Angel Theatre Company, Capitol Theatre Port Hope, the Indigenous Voices Awards, the Festival of Literary Diversity, as well as many notable independent theatre and music organisations across Toronto.

THE ROOF IS LEAKING – CAST



SARABJEET ARORA

CHACHA/ARJUN

Born in New Delhi, India // Lives in Brampton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Honsla-Watna Vall Fera / Punjabi Arts Association / Director

Toba Tek Singh / Dramatic Jukebox / Actor

Aahlna / Punjabi Arts Association / Director

Taxi 242 / Punjabi Arts Association / Writer/Actor

Manto / The Hive Performing Arts / Actor

Student Life / Punjabi Arts Association / Writer

Sarabjeet, currently the Artistic Producer of the Punjabi Arts Association of Toronto, has an impressive 30-year journey in theatre. He began as a young actor in New Delhi, India, training under renowned theatre icons and attending workshops at the prestigious National School of Drama. Over the years, he has excelled as a playwright, actor, and director, showcasing his versatile talent. Sarabjeet is also a writer, satirist and cartoonist, finding humour in everything. On a serious note, he co-founded the Mukti Foundation, a nonprofit offering dignified funeral services to those in need, easing financial burdens during difficult times.



HARRY GILL

GURVIR

Born in Mississauga, ON // Lives in Vaughn, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Disventure Camp: Carnival of Chaos / Odd Nation Cartoons / Spencer Lawrence

Cabin Tales / Thomas Halle Productions / Roderick

Check Please! / TDSS Productions / Ken/Brandon

Antigone / TDSS Productions / Haemon

Lion King Jr. / JLPS Productions / Mufasa

Harry Gill is a Toronto-based Punjabi-Canadian actor, classically trained with a Diploma in Acting for Camera & Voice from Seneca Polytechnic. As a voice, on-camera, and stage performer, he has brought characters to life across various mediums. He plays Roderick in the award-winning audio series *Cabin Tales* and is best known as Spencer in the popular TV show *Disventure Camp*. Other roles include the Peacock in the animated series *Prisha and the Peacock* and Vince in Conrad Coates' short film *The Next Lord of the Rings*. Driven by a passion to inspire, Harry uplifts South Asian voices in media.





KIRAN KAUR

CHACHI/KIRAN

Born in New Delhi, India // Lives in Brampton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Viraam / Punjabi Arts Association / Writer & Director

CID / Punjabi Arts Association / Actor

Can't Pay, Won't Pay / Asmita Theatre Company / Actor

The Last Salute / Asmita Theatre Company / Actor

The Knight of Pestle / Villians Theatre Company / Actor

Awards and Nominations

Nominated for Outstanding Actor Award for short film *Dearg* at the Atlantic Film Festival; Outstanding Performance of the Year - *Aalhna*, *The Nest* by Punjabi Arts Association.

Graduated from Asmita Theatre Company, New Delhi, with a diploma in Street Play and Socio-Political Theatre, worked with the theatre company for four years in the capacity of an actor as well as director. Acted in several plays over the years: *Chukayenge Nahi*, *Court Martial*, *Macbeth*, *Refugee*, *Amritsar Aa Gaya*, *Ramkali*, and *The Last Salute* and received awards and accolades for many of them. She recently collaborated with Canadian local theatre companies for various projects viz *Peachy Keen Short Plays* with The Bus Stop Theatre, *The Knight of Pestle* with Villians Theatre. Character Mask workshop with Theatre du Poulet. *Drinking Game* with Dapopo Theatre Company. Students Playwrights Play reading with Theatre Nova Scotia, *Aalna The Nest* with Punjabi Art Association. She also acted in "Dearg" and "The Tales of the Man Who Whispered to the Flowers" both award-winning short films at the Atlantic Film Festival.



SARENA PARMAR

DRAMATURG & JASPINDER

Born in Prince George, BC // Lives in Etobicoke, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

All's Well That Ends Well / Bard on the Beach / Helena

The Orchard (After Chekhov) / Shaw Festival / Playwright and Actor (Annie)

Dancing at Lughnasa / Shaw Festival / Christina

The Winter's Tale / Groundling Theatre / Perdita

Much Ado About Nothing / Tarragon Theatre / Hero

Awards and Nominations

Nomination - Outstanding New Play for *The Orchard (After Chekhov)* - My Entertainment Awards.

Sarena is an actor and playwright, based in Toronto. As an actor, Sarena has performed with theatre companies across Canada, including the Shaw Festival, Stratford Festival, Canadian Stage, Tarragon Theatre and Bard on the Beach. Recent TV appearances include reoccurring roles on *Pretty Hard Cases* (CBC) and *Skymed* (Paramount+). Sarena is an acting graduate of the National Theatre School and Birmingham Conservatory of Classical Theatre (Stratford Festival). Her first full-length play, *The Orchard (After Chekhov)*, premiered at the Shaw Festival and went on to a second production at The Arts Club. She is currently working on new plays for Tarragon Theatre and Theatre Northwest.



TIA SANDHU

MEENA

Born in Brampton, ON // Lives in Brampton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

The Dybbuk / Toronto Metropolitan University / Actor

Harms Way / Toronto Metropolitan University / Actor

Eventually, We Land / Toronto Metropolitan University / Actor

Awards and Nominations

OMFA Acting/Speech Drama Provincials - Placed 2nd place in Ontario; Ontario Drama Festival, District Award - Received an Award of Distinction.

Tia Sandhu, recently graduated from TMU Acting Program and is so excited to jump back into theatre and be a part of this wonderful project! She hopes to continue to shed light on South Asian representation as part of her acting journey.





HARPREET SEHMBI

TAYEE/SUKHMINDER

Born in Scarborough, ON // Lives in Brampton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

The Vagina Monologues Meets The F Word / 360 Productions / Jennifer Phillips -Ensemble cast

Noises Off / Mississauga Players / Andrea Serrador -Dotty/Mrs. Clackett

Harpreet is a Toronto-based comedian, writer, and actor. She's an alumna of Second City Toronto's Longform Improvisation and Sketch Conservatory programs and regularly performs stand-up all over North America. In August 2022, Harpreet released her debut comedy album, *Irregular Harpbeat*, as heard on Kevin Hart's Laugh Out Loud Radio through SiriusXM.

You can catch Harpreet starring in a web series she created called *INDIE-dependent*, performing all over North America, and still trying to figure out left from right.



HARIT SOHAL

MUNNI

Born in Jalandhar, India // Lives in Toronto, ON

Harit is an actor based in Toronto, Canada. She's incredibly excited to join the cast in sharing the beautiful story of *SHUHT CHONDI HAI*.



DHARINI WOOLLCOMBE

MUMMY/SANDEEP

Born in Rajkot, India // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Four Chapters / MAYA South Asian Theatre Company

Awards and Nominations

Winner - *SEE ME NOW* - ACTRA CINEFAM Women of Colour Screenwriting Competition; Africa Channel Spotlight Award CarribeanTales Film Festival - Best Short

Dharini made her debut as a series lead in the critically acclaimed television series *Metropia* (2004). Her diverse career spans stage and screen, where she also lends her voice to animation and gaming projects.

As a writer and screenwriter, she has a short story "Dancing in the Light", published by HarperCollins, a humorous article in "Script to Screen in Six Weeks: Do It At Your Own Risk" in ACTRA Toronto's Performers Magazine, Spring 2017, and an award-winning short film, *See Me Now*, which premiered at festivals across North America and Europe before securing distribution.

Special thank you to my parents and my godmother. And my deepest gratitude to my husband, Chris.





PLEIADES THEATRE INDIVIDUAL DONORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING AND INVALUABLE SUPPORT

THE MILKY WAY (\$5,000 +)

Jules Bloch & Barbara Falk,
Stephen & Wendy Cole & the Cole Family,
Helen Findlay & Reginald Bronskill,
Catherine & Bill Graham

SUPER NOVAS (\$3,000 +)

Michael & Diana Bourassa,
FASKEN
Carla Flamer & Brian Bell,
McCarney Group LLP,
Geoffrey & Elizabeth Miller,
Laura Trachuk & Marty Katz

BIG DIPPERS (\$1,500-\$2,999)

Mimi Kuzyk,
Tannie Ng,
Dorothy Washbern

STELLAR CAST (\$500-\$1,499)

Lisa Balfour Bowen, Daniel Brock, Chubb Insurance, Joan Cranston, Peter & Kathleen Keefe, Maryam Khoshymon, Ash Knight & Zinta Amolins, Charles & Louise Kreiner, Boyd McDonald & Carolyn Arnason, Mark & Judy McLean, Brian O'Leary, Brian Sewell, Andra Sheffer, Robert Sherrin, Karen Tisch-Sloane, Michael Stewart, Andrey Tarasiuk & John Miller, John Van Burek

STARRY NIGHT (\$200-\$499)

Sherri Appell, Sarabjeet Arora, John Campion, Simion Candrea, Dr. Lorie Cappe & Linda Lewis, John Craig, Michel d'Astou & Lily Gaudreault, Liz Everett, Barbara Fingerote, Arthur Kennedy, Greg Leach, John Moreau, Andrew & Linda Palin, Sue & Gregor Read, Tyler Seguin, Patrick M. Stewart, Al Schiappa, Barbara Watson, Bruce Winning & Susan Abbott, Nan Shuttleworth

STAR DUST (\$50-\$199)

Bradshaws, Richard A. Earle, Dr. Iris Gorfinkel, Valerie Thompson, Norman Yeung, Hersh Zeifman



To learn more about our giving
programs or to become a donor, visit
pleiadestheatre.org/support-us.





THE ANNE & JOHN VAN BUREK FUND FOR TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH



John Van Burek retired in 2017 as the Founding Artistic Director of Pleiades Theatre and as a seminal figure in the translations of works by Canadian and international authors especially between French and English.

In parallel with her husband's accomplishments and throughout her own professional career, Anne Nenarokoff-Van Burek, a noted author, identified and translated celebrated works of literature, particularly from original French and Russian texts.

Pleiades Theatre in Toronto has been the beneficiary of the Van Bureks' insights and energies and it is to honour and to build upon these legacies that our Theatre has established a perpetual Fund named for these two important Canadians and designated to carry on their personal specialty, standards and skills.

We gratefully acknowledge support for the Fund by:

Silent Donors, Stephen Akerfeldt, Beth Alexander, David A Angelo, Harry Arthurs, Elizabeth Asselstine, Nina R. Bakan, Jules Bloch & Barbara Falk, Michael & Diana Bourassa, John F Bradshaw, Sarah Bradshaw, Elaine Calder, Janet M Casagrande, Chawkers Foundation, John M Cryan, Michel D'astous & Lily Gaudreault, Joan & David Dehm, Susan Drodge, Helen Findlay & Reginald Bronskill, Barbara Fingerote, Agence Goodwin Inc., Catherine & Bill Graham, Daniel Hall, Linda Intaschi, Anne Kaproff, Peter & Kathleen Keefe, Ava Kitz, Marta Kule, Jeanne Le Gal, Aleks Leszczynski, The Linden School, Brian & Audrey Meeson, Eleanor Moore, John Moreau, Ian Morrison, Richard Mozer, Tannie Ng, Tenny Nigoghossian, Samantha Peng, Allison & Gregor Read, June Anne Reid, Marcie Rosenberg, Margo Siminovitch & Dr. Alan Peterson, Michael Stewart, Suzanne & John Stewart, Mehvish Syed, Andrey Tarasiuk & John Miller, Laura Trachuck & Marty Katz, Michel Tremblay Inc., Sheila Wahl, Tulay Yalcin, Hersh Zeifman.

To make a contribution, please forward cheques, marked clearly for:

"Pleiades Theatre - The Anne and John Van Burek Fund for Translation in English", to:

Pleiades Theatre

S30 - 401 Richmond Street West
Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

Or, please make a donation via credit card through Canada Helps and please clearly state in the comments or notes section that you would like the donation to go towards The Anne and John Van Burek Fund for Translation in English.





SPONSORS

Season Sponsor:



Corporate Sponsors:



Government Support:

Funded by the
Government of Canada's
Community Services Recovery Fund



Conseil des arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF
TORONTO

Foundation Support:

The Catherine and Maxwell
MEIGHEN FOUNDATION

The Norman & Margaret Jewison
Charitable Foundation





Pleiades would like to give a special thanks to:

- Thank you to the ProStars Mentors for their generous engagement with the ProStars Mentorship program:
 - Debashis Sinha as the Sound Mentor to Gurpreet Chana.
 - Andre du Toit as the Lighting Mentor to Simran Kapoor.
- Thanks to Dave De Grow for generously offering his availability and expertise as needed to the Production process.
- Original Dramaturg: Lior Maharjan.
- The wonderful artists who uplifted this work during its development: Becky Ablack, Sehar Bhojani, Marjorie Chan, Malika Daya, Rinchen Dolma, Nicole Eun-Ju B, Rishab Kalra, Ellora Patnaik, Neha Poduval, Asha Ponnachan, Anand Rajaram, Navtej Sandhu, Oksana Sirju, Merlin Simard, Ganesh Thava, Sanya Chaudhry.
- Denise Williams (AD), Avi Sarkar (President), Angela Ng, Danielle Serrano and all the volunteers at No Strings Theatre for their support on this project with volunteers
- Jasmine Sawant and Nitin Sawant at SAWITRI Theatre, Radha Menon at Red Beti Theatre, and the Punjabi Arts Association for their support during the development of the piece.
- Roselyn Kelada-Sedra, Tushar Dalvi, Suchiththa Wickremesooriya, Nautanki Bazaar, and Jagvinder Judge for all their efforts and support.
- Sarmīte Rubenis-Amoliņš, Uldis Amoliņš, and Zinta Amoliņš for their donation of set pieces and furniture.
- **Public Reading of Choti Choti Batain - April 16, 2023**
Co-Produced with Red Beti Theatre, In Association with Sawitri Theatre
 - Playwrights - Sanskruti Marathe and Davinder Malhi
 - Director - Sanjay Talwar
 - Mentor To Playwrights (Dramaturgy) - Jivesh Parasram
 - Mummy Waheeda - Radha Menon
 - Jaspinder - Navtej Sandhu
 - Meena - Supinder Wraich
 - Gurvir - Dhanish Kumar Chinniah
 - Chachi Kiran - Jind Sohila
 - Muni - Becky Ablack
 - Tayee Sukhminder - Jasmine Sawant
 - Papa Balwinder, Chacha Kuljeet - Sarabjeet Arora
- **Public Reading of Choti Choti Batain - October 21, 2023**
Co-Produced with Red Beti Theatre, Sawitri Theatre & Punjabi Arts Association
 - Playwrights - Sanskruti Marathe and Davinder Malhi
 - Director - Ash Knight
 - Dramaturgy - Sarena Parmar
 - Cultural Consultant - Sarabjeet Arora
 - Mummy Waheeda - Kirandeep Kaur Kahlon
 - Jaspinder - Neha Modgil
 - Meena - Bageshree Vaze (workshop); Sanskruti Marathe (reading)
 - Gurvir - Navjot Singh (workshop); Davinder Malhi (reading)
 - Chachi Kiran - Kavita Taluja
 - Muni - Jasleen Kaur
 - Tayee Sukhminder - Anuradha Grover Tejpal
 - Papa Balwinder, Chacha Kuljeet - Jagvinder Judge

Pleiades Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association. Pleiades Theatre also abides by the PACT Agreement with members of the ADC (Associated Designers of Canada), and the Playwrights Guild of Canada. We are also an active member of the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).





IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS?

We can help.

We are friendly, honest, and
professional, and handle all kinds of
immigration matters.
Call today.

contact@canadianimmigrationpartners.com
647-557-2288



ELLIOTT IMMIGRATION CORPORATION
IMMIGRATION CONSULTING

