



Co-Produced with



Proudly Present a Public Reading of

CHOTI CHOTI BATAIN

BY SANSKRUTI MARATHE AND DAVINDER MALHI
DRAMATURGY BY: SARENA PARMAR DIRECTED BY: ASH KNIGHT

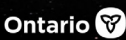
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Part of the Decolonise Your Ears Festival

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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
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Tel: 416-203-1227

E-mail: info@pleiadestheatre.org

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DIVERSE TALES | WOMEN'S VOICES

Artistic Director

Radha S. Menon

Producer

Suchiththa Wickremesooriya

Associate Producer

Tushar Dalvi

Chair of the Board

Shahrook Sadequa

Land Acknowledgment:

We want to acknowledge the Aboriginal people of Turtle Island, especially in this place now called Hamilton, covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, as well as, the Between the Lakes Purchase 1792, which was an agreement between the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Crown, but also, the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Wendat, Neutral and other Nations acknowledged and unacknowledged, recorded and unrecorded.

This acknowledgement isn't enough.

How can it be? Only action will suffice. As settlers on Turtle Island, it's our duty to respect and protect its living beings, human, non-humans, forests, lakes and mountains.

We wish and hope for Indigenous Sovereignty, knowing it will never right the wrongs inflicted in the name of progress under Colonialism: It will never return children home.

Red Beti Theatre is the first not-for-profit Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (IBPOC) Theatre company in Hamilton, Ontario.

RBT commissions and presents live performances created and written by IBPOC Women in order to contribute bold and relevant artistic voices to the Canadian theatrical landscape.

Our vision is to develop and produce work reflecting the diversity of contemporary Canadian culture. We believe in theatre that considers difficult, international, and cultural issues, and by providing space through our creative endeavours, providing IBPOC artists and communities a safe space to convene, share stories, and be entertained.

Founded in 2011 by Radha S. Menon, Red Beti Theatre is now led by Artistic Director Radha S. Menon and Chair of the Board, Shahrook Sadequa.

Red Beti Theatre
74 West Avenue South
Hamilton, ON L8N 2S3

info@redbetitheatre.org
www.redbetitheatre.org
@redbetitheatre on social media



www.redbetitheatre.org



Artistic Co-Directors

Jasmine Sawant & Shruti Shah

Assistant Artistic Director

Abhimanyu Acharya

Producer & Technical Director

Nitin Sawant

Board of Directors

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SAWITRI Theatre Group is the only women-centric South Asian Theatre organization in Mississauga, ON.

Founded in 2003 by Jasmine Sawant and led by Jasmine and Shruti Shah, SAWITRI Theatre Group is an award-winning, not-for-profit organization presenting original works featuring emerging and established artists.

SAWITRI’s mandate is to educate, inform, entertain, and heal through South Asian theatre arts that foreground women and the new generation, and highlight issues of socio-political importance in some of India’s many languages including English.

SAWITRI has recently launched the Mississauga Multilingual Fringe Festival (MMFF) to include Pan Asian theatre.

SAWITRI’s annual Shorts Theatre Festival provides a platform for many newcomers to Canada as well as emerging and established artists.

Mailing only: 6988 Amour Terrace,
Mississauga, ON L5W 1G5

Office and Studio: 2465 Cawthra
Road, Unit #132, Mississauga ON

Email: info@sawitri.ca
@sawitritheatre



www.sawitri.ca



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Rajat Manchanda

Creative Core Team

Preet Sangha

Navjot Singh Narula

Kirandeep Kaur Kahlon

Anuradha Grover Tejpal

The Punjabi Arts Association of Toronto operates as a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers, passionately dedicated to showcasing the experiences and relevant issues of the South Asian Punjabi immigrant community through the performing arts. Our goal is centered on producing contemporary Canadian Punjabi plays and providing enriching workshops, seminars, and discussions within the realms of theater and creative writing.

We have been dedicated to the community of GTA for over 30 years. Our first play was mounted in May 1992.

Our overarching mission revolves around honoring and exploring the rich tapestry of Punjabi culture, particularly its intricate relationship with the wider Canadian society. We are resolutely devoted to tackling the unique and multifaceted challenges arising from generational gaps and family dynamics.

Office & Rehearsal Space

58 Sedgegrass Way,
Brampton, ON L6R 3E3

Admin Office

7050 Bramalea Road, Unit #11
Mississauga ON L5S 1T1

Email - admin@punjabiarts.com

Instagram - [punjabitheatre](https://www.instagram.com/punjabitheatre)

Facebook - [punjabiartsassociation](https://www.facebook.com/punjabiartsassociation)

Website - www.punjabiarts.com

Pleiades Theatre
Co-Produced with
Red Beti Theatre, Sawitri Theatre & Punjabi Arts Association

Proudly Presents a Public Reading of

CHOTI CHOTI BATAIN

By 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)
Gurviri - Navjot Singh (workshop); Davinder Malhi (reading)
Chachi Kiran - Kavita Taluja
Muni - Jasleen Kaur
Tayee Sukhminder - Anuradha Grover Tejpal
Papa Balwinder, Chacha Kuljeet - Jagvinder Judge

Running time is 2h 15min including a 15min 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.

Season Sponsor

Government Support





DAVINDER MALHI

PLAYWRIGHT

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

Selected Theatre Credits

Casey and Diana / Stratford Festival / Actor

No Big Deal / Roseneath Theatre / Actor

rihannaboi95 / Young People's Theatre / Actor

Towards Rebirth / Shakespeare in the Ruff / Actor

Concord Floral / Canadian Stage / Actor

Davinder Malhi is an actor and playwright based in Toronto. Furthermore, he co-founded Saawan Collective, a theatre collective focused on creating space for emerging South Asian playwrights. His writing credits include *Towards Rebirth* (Shakespeare in the Ruff) and *if the world ends tell lady gaga i loved her* (NTS Art Apart Series). He is currently working on writing *choti choti batain* with Saawan Collective and Pleiades Theatre. Davinder was a participant in the 2021 Banff Playwrights Lab.



SANSKRUTI MARATHE

PLAYWRIGHT

Born in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India // Lives in Brampton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

At the End of Kaliyuga / Theatre Direct Forward March Festival / Creator, Performer

On the Razzle / Shaw Festival / Ensemble & Swing

Just Pervs / Toronto Fringe / Jill

Twelfth Night / Crane Creations Production / Sir Toby Belch

Bharatnatyam Arangetram / Meadowvale Theatre / Ram, Vishnu, Krishna, etc.

Sanskruti Marathe is an Indian Canadian multidisciplinary artist. As a playwright, she seeks answers about queerness, existence, and human connection through mythology. Her exploration involves breaking the boundaries of playwrighting by using different languages, movement work, and concepts from Indian Classical Dance to offer works that connect with the present and future generations of Canadian audiences. She is a Co-Founder of Saawan Collective, a theatre collective focused on creating space for South Asian Playwrights. She is currently working on *choti choti batain* with Saawan Collective and Pleiades Theatre and *At the End of Kaliyuga* in association with Theatre Direct. participant in the 2021 Banff Playwrights Lab.



SARENA PARMAR

DRAMATURGY

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

Selected Theatre Credits

Alls Well That Ends Well / Bard on the Beach / Helena
The Orchard (After Chekhov) / Shaw Festival / Playwright, Annie
Dancing at Lughnasa / Shaw Festival / Christina
The Winter's Tale / Groundling Theatre / Perdita
Much Ado About Nothing / Tarragon Theatre / Hero

Awards and Nominations

My Entertainment Awards Nomination for Outstanding New Play for *The Orchard (After Chekhov)*; Recipient of Bulmash-Siegel New Development Award from Tarragon Theatre for *Hunger*; Dora Award for Outstanding Production of *The Winter's Tale*

Sarena is a graduate of the National Theatre School and the Birmingham Conservatory (Stratford Festival) for acting. Sarena has worked in theatres across Canada as an actress and playwright. On television, she can be seen on *Pretty Hard Cases* (CBC) and the upcoming season of *Skymed* (Paramount +). Currently, Sarena has plays in development with Tarragon Theatre and Theatre Northwest.



ASH KNIGHT

DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLEIADES THEATRE

Born in Montreal, QC // Lives in Toronto, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Lesson in Forgetting / Pleiades Theatre / Director
Henry VIII / Stratford Festival / Assistant Director
Tragedie of Lear / Ad-Hoc Collective for... / Director
Carried Away on the Crest of a Wave / Tarragon Theatre / Actor – Father Thomas
Much Ado About Nothing / St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival / Actor – Benedick

Awards and Nominations

Theatre Critics Award Nomination, Best Director of *Tragedie of Lear*; Dora Award Nomination for Best Actor in *Brothel #9*

Ash began acting at age ten and attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art for three years on a scholarship, graduating with a RADA Diploma and a Bachelor's of Acting from the University of London. He's worked with talented artists in the U.K., the U.S.A., Canada, and Uganda. He has been part of countless productions and new play development workshops at every theatre in Toronto and recently completed his first year at the Langham Workshop for Classical Directing. Thanks to my beautiful partner, Zinta. Without you, I couldn't do any of this. Up next: Directing *Tyson's Song* in May 2024.



CRISTINA HERNANDEZ

STAGE MANAGER

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

Selected Theatre Credits

& Cleopatra / Groundling Theatre / Stage Manager

Rent / Stratford Festival / Assistant Stage Manager

Glory / Chemanius Theatre Festival / Assistant Stage Manager

The Music Man / Thousand Island Playhouse / Assist. Stage Manager

Singalong Jubilee / Geordie Brown Productions / Stage Manager

Cristina Hernandez started her stage management career by volunteering for Vanier College Productions and Theatre Glendon at York University. After graduating, Cristina stage managed on various Fringe Festivals, workshops, and indie productions until becoming an Equity member in 2019. She works in musicals, contemporary plays, and more workshops in Toronto and across Canada. She thanks all her friends, mentors, and colleagues for all the support, lessons and memories.



ANURADHA GROVER TEJPAL

TAYEE SUKHMINDER

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

Selected Theatre Credits

The Vagina Monologues / The Hive Performing Arts / Actor
Happy Anniversary, Darling! / SAWITRI Theatre Group / Actor, Writer
Badboo / Punjabi Arts Association / Writer, Director
Thoda Jiha Soch / Soch Mental Health / Writer, Director
Modern Zindagi / Kahaani Kollektive / Writer, Director, Actor

Anuradha Grover-Tejpal wears multiple hats as a writer, actor, and director. Her artistic ethos centres on the timelessness of simplicity and relevant content, resulting in a diverse body of work encompassing short plays and films tailored to multiple community organizations and theatrical production houses. Anuradha's storytelling, marked by its unique wit, has garnered accolades from prominent GTA theatre community figures. She is proficient in English, Hindi, and Punjabi. Tejpal is diligently preparing for her upcoming role in the Fall 2023 production of *The Vagina Monologues* in GTA. Additionally, her five short educational films highlighting the experiences of immigrant students are all set to be showcased at the IFFSA film festival in October 2023.



JAGVINDER JUDGE

PAPA BALWINDER, CHACHA KULJEET

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

Selected Theatre Credits

Wait Until Dark / The Hive Performing Arts / Actor
Supne Da Political Murder / Punjabi Arts Association / Actor
Student Life / Punjabi Arts Association / Director
Adha Glass Paani / Punjabi Arts Association / Actor
Aahlna / Punjabi Arts Association / Actor

Jagvinder Judge is a well-established Actor and Director. Jagvinder is well known for adapting physically and mentally to suit every character he performs. Born and raised in Punjab, India, Jagvinder has been performing for 35 plus years and has an extensive performing arts portfolio, ranging from film, TV and on-stage work. He is also a well-known lighting designer and has helped many directors in their productions.



KIRANDEEP KAUR KAHLON

MUMMY WAHEEDA

Born in Punjab, India // Lives in Brampton, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Aalna – The Nest / Punjabi Arts Association / Shinder

Adha Glass Pani / Punjabi Arts Association / Director

Student Life / Punjabi Arts Association / Simran

The Last Salute / Asmita Theatre Group / Actor

Can't Pay, Won't Pay / Asmita Theatre Group / Mala

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 2018.



NEHA MODGIL

JASPINDER

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

Selected Theatre Credits

Kissmiss / Kahani Collective / Tanya

Badboo / Kahani Collective / Mrs. Sandhu

Walk With Amal / Luminato Festival, Community Theatre / Mother

The Untold Story / Dir: Anju Malhotra / Sarah

Neha Modgil is an established Actor and Published Model. Her passion for the Performing Arts has been the foundation of her work. While keeping her Canadian and Punjabi roots close, she aims to feature in films/theatre productions that reflect both cultural experiences and those that challenge the status quo and bring new perspectives to light. She was recently featured in ‘Walk With Amal’, a live theatre event hosted by the Toronto Luminato Festival and her short film titled CUSTOMIZED premiered at TIFF: Next Wave, IFFSA TORONTO 2022, VISAFF 2022 and the Kalakari Festival in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India. Modgil can be seen in “The Vagina Monologues” adapted and presented by The Hive Performing Arts as a part of the “Brampton On Stage” Fall 2023 Theatre Showcase.



NAVJOT SINGH

GURVIR, WORKSHOP

Born in Kapurthala, Punjab, India // Lives in Mississauga, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Notes From An Introvert's Journal / Punjabi Arts Association /
Writer, Actor, Director

Dil Hi Udaas Hai / **Punjabi Arts Association** / Writer, Actor,
Director

Aahlna – Apne Paraye / Punjabi Arts Association / Assistant
Director

Bebay Sutti Payi Ae / Punjabi Arts Association / Director

Ik Supne Da Polital Muder / Punjabi Arts Association / Assistant
Director

Awards and Nominations

Punjabi Arts Association Debutant Director of The Year 2022

Nothing fascinates Navjot more than a profound story and being part of telling that story in any form, be that an assistant to a director or a director himself, an actor on stage or a writer behind the scenes. He's been associated with the Punjabi Arts Association of Toronto for the last two years and has been part of numerous productions with them in different roles.



SARABJEET ARORA

CULTURAL CONSULTANT

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

Selected Theatre Credits

Gallan Terian / Punjabi Arts Association / Director

Student Life / Punjabi Arts Association / Playwright

Taxi 242 / Punjabi Arts Association / Playwright, Actor

Manto - Toba Tek Singh / The Hive Theatre / Actor

Aahlna / Punjabi Arts Association / Playwright, Director

Currently, the Artistic Producer of the Punjabi Arts Association of Toronto, a not-for-profit theatre group, Sarabjeet, has been associated with theatre for over 30 years. Starting as a young actor in Delhi, India, he trained under many theatre stalwarts. Later, he had the opportunity to learn the craft and theatre techniques at the prestigious National School of Drama. Sarabjeet has a varied experience in theatre that ranges from being a playwright, an actor, a director and everything in between. Fluent in English, Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu, Sarabjeet dabbles in voice acting and has lent his voice to over 1000 radio and TV commercials.



JASLEEN KAUR

MUNNI

Born in Karnal, India // Lives in Mississauga, ON

Selected Theatre Credits

Kandhaan Rait Diyan / Punjabi Arts Association / Actor

Galaan Terian / Punjabi Arts Association / Actor

Eh Lahoo Kisda Hai / Punjabi Arts Association / Director

Panj Dollar Da Note / Punjabi Arts Association / Director

Bebe Sutti Payi Ae / Punjabi Arts Association / Actor

Jasleen has been reading and interpreting Classic English plays for years. She was assistant directing the Punjabi Plays for Youth Festivals. She has been part of PAA productions since moving to Toronto in 2011 and has acted in short films like Apne. Jasleen has played diverse roles in her acting career and has hosted several literary and cultural events.



KAVITA TALUJA

CHACHI

Born in Talwara, Punjab, India // Lives in Markham, ON

Kavita Taluja is an accomplished actor with a diverse range of experience in stage, theatre productions and short films. With an innate ability to embody characters authentically, she brings a natural and realistic style of acting to every performance. Fluent in English, Hindi, and Punjabi, she effortlessly navigates the nuances of language, enhancing her performances and connecting with diverse audiences on a profound level.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR STANDING BY US DURING THE PANDEMIC

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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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pleiades gratefully acknowledges support from the following Foundations:

- The McLean Foundation
- The Norman and Margaret Jewison Charitable Foundation
- The John McKellar Charitable Foundation
- The Catherine and Maxwell Meighen Foundation

Red Beti Theatre gratefully acknowledges support from the following organizations:

- Theatre Aquarius
- The City of Hamilton



SAWITRI Theatre Group gratefully acknowledges support from the following organizations:

- The Open Space
- AN1
- The Mississauga Arts Council
- Desi News



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).

Up Next



FESTIVAL OF ARABIC
MUSIC & ARTS



المسرح الملكي الأردني
ROYAL JORDANIAN

بعد نساء طروادة - قراءة مسرحية

After the Trojan Women - Play Reading

By Amena Shehab & Joanna Blundell

28 OCT	7:30 PM	MISSISSAUGA	Unitarian Congregation
29 OCT	6:00 PM	MISSISSAUGA	Unitarian Congregation
8 - 9 NOV	7:30 PM	TORONTO	Buddies in Bad Times Theatre



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