

NEWS HEADLINES

Teesri Duniya Theatre presents
Untold Histories

Courageous life stories of making home anew in Montreal

A community engaged cultural project based on stories of genocide, displacement, and human rights violations as well as narratives of survival and adjustment.

We invite you to experience the many faces of storytelling through evenings of theatre, music, poetry, dance, and documentary film meant to inspire greater understanding and appreciation of where we come from, where we are, and where we are going.

Event will include presenters from the following communities: Armenian, Palestinian, Iranian, South Asian, Latin American, First Nations.

Centre culturel Calixa-Lavallée, 3819, rue Calixa-Lavallée
(Metro Sherbrooke, Bus # 24)
March 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th, 2009
Presentations begin at 7:30 PM
(to be followed by round-table discussions)
7:00 PM - 7:30 PM book table
Pay-What-You-Can

Untold Histories is part of the *Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide and other Human Rights Violations Community University Research Alliance (CURA)* project led by Steven High of Concordia University.

Contact: 514-848-0238
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For more information: Teesri Duniya Theatre
<http://www.teesriduniya.com>
Life Stories CURA project <http://www.lifestoriesmontreal.ca/>

If you have a story or know someone who might want to share his/her story, please contact us.

Teesri Duniya Theatre is proud to announce success in receiving a Capacity Building Grant from the Canada Council for the Arts. This grant will support new initiatives that build cultural alliances with culturally diverse artists, communities and social marketing over a two year period that will enhance the existing programming for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 seasons.

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Journey continues....

For a playwright, one of the most enriching experiences is when a director extracts new layers in the text that the playwright had not thought of. That is what Arianna Bardesono gave *Truth and Treason* when she directed its reading at the Monument in November 2008. Her deep insights, the actors' giving voices to their characters, and passionate feedback from the audiences encourage me to further improve the text in preparation for my journey to India as a Shastri Indo-Canadian fellow to work under the guidance of India's renowned director Habib Tanvir. It's a rare privilege to work with Habib Tanvir, which was made even richer when actor David Francis joined us there. Dr. Tanvir conducted a workshop providing his critical feedback page-by-page, scene-by-scene and character by character. Now back in Canada, my creative journey continues as I work with Arianna in shaping the play to its final draft. Having received much informed feedback from directors such as Soheil Parsa, Guillermo Verdecchia, Habib Tanvir and now in preparing the text for its premier production (September 2009) under the direction of Arianna Bardesono, I couldn't be happier.

During my stay in India, I gave talks at the University of Kerala and Lady Sri Ram College, New Delhi. I participated in seminars and interacted with theatre artists which included towering personalities such as Shri Kavalam Narayana Panikkar, director of Sopanam Center of Performing Arts at Trivendrum, playwright and actor Girish Karnad, Dr. Anuradha Kapur, Director of the National School of Drama, New Delhi and Sanjana Kapur, director of Prithvi Theatre Mumbai. David, Dipti, and I also visited Sambhavan Clinic in Bhopal, which treats survivors of the Bhopal Gas Disaster of 1984. Our play *Zahreeli Hawa* (the Hindu translation of Bhopal) was staged in many cities across India and Satinath Sarangi, the director of the Sambhavan Clinic, commented that *Zahreeli Hawa* was the strongest theatre production on the subject he has seen.

The local newspaper in my home-city of Lucknow interviewed me on a range of issues related to Teesri Duniya Theatre as well as my feelings about returning to the city where I spent my formative years.

The Canadian High Commission hosted David Francis and I for a lunch and lecture and complimented Teesri Duniya Theatre for taking the lead in developing and encouraging cultural exchange in theatre productions between India and Canada.



Rahul Varma at the lecture at Lady Shri Ram College organized by The Canadian High Commission.



Participants at the lecture at Lady Shri Ram College.

My trip to India was very useful - soon after *Truth and Treason's* premiere in Montreal, we will start working on plans to tour the play to India - we have a standing invitation from two important theatre festivals in New Delhi.