



Teesri Duniya
T H E A T R E

August, 2011: For immediate release

30th anniversary year: daring, dissenting, dialogue

Teesri Duniya Theatre launches its 2011-2012 season celebrating diversity, promoting dialogue, and erasing barriers across communities. The 2011–2012 season consists of two English language premiers, the reading of culturally diverse plays, a collaboration with Infinitheatre, Montreal's premier independent company, publication of our theatre quarterly including a special expanded issue on Oral History and Performance, a series of community based activities promoting intercultural conversation across our cultural landscape. Artistic Director, Rahul Varma announces the next season for Teesri Duniya Theatre.

1ST Production: *The Poster* by **Philippe Ducros**, artistic director of Espace Libre, translated into English by **Shelley Tepperman**, directed by **Arianna Bardesono** opens Nov. 17 to Dec. 4, 2011 at Bain St-Michel, 5300 St Dominique.

Abou Salem prints posters with pictures of those who die in struggle for Palestine, and these posters are plastered all over the country. One day Abou Salem finds he must print the poster of his only son, Salem. *The Poster* is a close personal examination of Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the people from both sides. *The Poster* is the English language translation of *L'Affiche*, the original French version of the play, which was one of five finalists for the 2009 Grand prix de la dramaturgie (France) and was named Play of the Year in 2009 by the AQCT (Association québécoise des critiques de théâtre).

The original French language production of the play opens at the Espace Libre around the same time. Rahul Varma says, "This is the first time in history of Montreal theatre that a play is opening in both languages simultaneously and we are very happy to be producing this work in partnership with Infinitheatre, Montreal's premier independent English company."

2nd Production: *Unusual Battleground* by **Rahul Varma**, Teesri's artistic director, directed by **Arianna Bardesono**, March 2012. When Odette Uvera, a Rwandan-Canadian, haunted by memories of genocide in her birth country, goes to Turkey to carry out her research, she befriends Shamshaad, a respected Muslim woman in her nineties. It would be merely days before her death that Shamshaad tells Odette a heart-wrenching secret never before told. Why would this old woman reveal this chilling secret now, and why to Odette she barely met a few months ago? *Unusual Battleground* is a story of love, survival, and identity, and when secrets start to spill out, the truth is revealed that is bound to change what we have known about human history.

Unusual Battleground is an outcome of a five-year long CURA research project *Life Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide, and other Human Rights Violations* at Concordia University. The play has been developed at the Banff Center for the Arts, with additional development at the Playwrights Workshop Montreal.

Readings: Our season includes three play-readings of new culturally diverse and aboriginal plays including **Kevin Loring's** *Where the Blood Mixes*.

Publication: *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage*

For 12 years, Teesri has published **alt.theatre** magazine that is Canada's only professional journal tackling intersections between politics, social activism, cultural plurality and the stage. Associate Artistic Director and Editor-in-Chief, **Edward Little** announced that in addition to the regular issues this season, two issues become a two-volume expanded edition featuring articles from internationally renowned writers on Oral History and Performance in conjunction with CURA Montreal Life Stories project.

Jewish-Arab Intercultural Conversations: We are excited to introduce a new initiative that is part of our community based, and multidisciplinary activities designed to promote dialogue across communities. The Friendship Project is a web-based video initiative lead by Associate Artist **Stephanie Lambert** to bring conversations that focus on friends from the Jewish and Arab communities here in Montreal. The project has begun now and mini-docs will be posted on Teesri's website starting in October. Look for the link on our home page.

Artistic Director, Rahul Varma sums up the season this way: "our theme this year is daring, dissenting dialogue. This season represents an uninterrupted history of politically relevant theatre that dares to tackle difficult themes, examines critical issues, with beauty and imagination. We showcase culturally diverse artists, and tell meaningful stories that need to be told." The season demonstrates artistic beauty as well as giving people a platform to talk across differences as equals, free and fearless.

For more information about the 30th year of Teesri Duniya Theatre, visit our website at www.teesriduniya.com or call (514) 848-0238 or email info@teesriduniya.com

Linda Levesque, General Manager

Emilee Veluz, Assistant General Manager/PR Assistant

Rahul Varma, Artistic Director



October 20, 2011: For immediate release

English translation premiere

The Poster

By Philippe Ducros

Translation by Shelley Tepperman

Directed by Arianna Bardesono

Thursday November 17 – Sunday December 4, 2011

Teesri Duniya Theatre launches its 2011-2012 season with English language premiere of *The Poster*, the award winning play by **Philippe Ducros**, with translation by **Shelley Tepperman** directed by **Arianna Bardesono**. “Compelling, challenging, and thought-provoking, this play is a deeply personal look at life on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” says Rahul Varma Artistic Director of Teesri Duniya Theatre. In announcing the cast and creative team, Rahul explained that he was much intrigued by this play when he first saw the original production, *L’Affiche* in Montreal in 2009. “Our mandate is to present the best of original theatre that will provoke and inspire debate while providing opportunities for culturally diverse artists.”

The Poster opens November 17 to December 4, 2011 at Bain St-Michel, 5300 St Dominique. The original French language production of the play opens at the Espace Libre around the same time. Rahul Varma says, “This is the first time in history of Montreal theatre (and perhaps in all of Canada) that a play is opening in both languages simultaneously and we are very happy to be producing this work in collaboration with **Infinithatre**, Montreal’s premier independent English company.”

Creative Team and Cast: Set Design: **Diana Uribe**; Costume Design: **Laurence Mongeau**; Lighting Design: **Eric Mongerson**; Sound Design: **Guido Del Fabbro**; Stage Manager: **Michael Panich**, Assistant Stage Manager: **Brenda Pilatski**. Featuring: **Glenda Braganza, Caroline Brassard, Davide Chiazzese, Abdelghafour Elaaziz, Mohsen El Gharbi, Jade Hassouné, Nada Humsi, Isabel dos Santos and Jean-Moïse Martin**.

Story Synopsis: In Palestine, when someone dies as a direct result of the struggle, they make a poster and plaster them everywhere. Abou Salem prints these posters and one day he must print the poster of his only son. *The Poster* is an intimate deeply human look at the life on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. *L’Affiche*, the original French version of the play, was a finalist for the 2009 Grand prix de la dramaturgie (France), and was also named Play of the Year by the AQCT (Association québécoise des critiques de théâtre).

Look for our latest web-based dialogue with **Jewish-Arab Intercultural Conversations**: a new initiative that is part of our community based, and multidisciplinary activities designed to promote dialogue across communities. The Friendship Project is a web-based video initiative lead by Associate Artist **Stephanie Lambert** to bring conversations that focus on friends from the Jewish and Arab communities here in Montreal. Look for the link on our website www.teesriduniya.com

Preview: Thursday November 17, 2011 8 pm (all tickets are \$10)

Opening Night: Friday November 18 – 8 pm

Tuesday to Saturday – 8 pm (talkback session following Tuesday night performances)

All Sundays – 2 pm (with post performance panel discussions)

Closing Performance – Sunday December 4, 2011

Media Call Wednesday November 16, 2011 at 2:00 pm

Regular Tickets: \$20/Adults; \$18/Seniors; \$10/Students

Group Rate: \$14/Adult (6 or more) and \$8/Student (6 or more)

Special Promotions: Preview Night, November 17th – All tickets are \$10.00

November 19 and 22: Special 2 for 1

Sunday, November 20: Pay-what-you-can

Order online: www.teesriduniya.com

For more information call (514) 848-0238 or email info@teesriduniya.com

Linda Levesque, General Manager, Emilee Veluz, Assistant General Manager/PR Assistant

The Poster

Playwright, Philippe Ducros

Philippe Ducros writes, directs, performs, takes pictures, and hopes. He went to Lebanon and Syria in 2004 with the French organization Écritures Vagabondes. His travel diary *La rupture du jeûne*, was published by Éditions Lansman in 2006, and so was *L’Affiche* in 2009. He has been to Palestine three times, including in 2009 while Gaza was savagely bombarded by Israel. *L’Affiche* was recently nominated for the Grand Prix de la Dramaturgie (France) and was also named Play of the Year by the AQCT (Association québécoise des critiques de théâtre). He is the artistic director of HÔTEL-MOTEL, and has recently been named artistic director of Espace Libre.

Translator, Shelley Tepperman

Shelley Tepperman is a translator and dramaturg with a long history in Canadian theatre specializing in script development, project development and translation for the stage. Her 30 translations—two of which were nominated for the Governor General’s award—have been produced at CBC radio and on stages from coast to coast. Shelley translates from Spanish and Italian as well as from French, and one of her specialties is intercultural dramaturgy--helping cultural works travel to new contexts. She has translated such authors as Wajdi Mouawad, Serge Boucher, Suzanne Lebeau, Sebastien Harrission and Yvan Bienvenue. Her most recent produced translation is *The List* (La Liste) by Jennifer Tremblay (GCTC and Nightwood theatres, 2010).

Artistic Director, Rahul Varma

Rahul Varma is the artistic director of Teesri Duniya Theatre, which he co-founded in 1981. He writes both in Hindi and English, which is the language of his adulthood. His recent plays include *No Man’s Land*, *Trading Injuries*, *Counter Offence*, *Bhopal* and *Truth and Treason*. *Counter Offence* has been translated into French as *L’affaire Farhadi* and into Italian as *Il Caso Farhadi*. *Bhopal* has been translated into French with the same title and into Hindi as *Zahreeli Hawa* by India’s pre-eminent artist Late Dr. Habib Tanvir. Rahul is a member of the editorial board of the theatre quarterly *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage*, where many of his articles on art and culture have appeared. He is recipient of Quebec Drama Festival’s Juror’s award and Montreal English Critic’s Circle Award.

Director, Arianna Bardesono

A native of Italy, Arianna is a graduate of the Directing Program at the National Theatre School of Canada. She has since directed in Montreal, Toronto, Mexico and Italy. She was an invited collaborating director at Springboard Dance Montreal in both 2009 and 2010 and the recipient of the 2010 MAD AIR Residency at the Stella Adler School of Acting in New York. She has been a guest teacher in Commedia dell’Arte at McGill University since 2008. She is the founder of the Montreal-based theatre company Odelah creations, whose latest production *Ties* was featured in the Wildside Festival in January 2010 at the Centaur Theatre. Arianna’s previous collaboration with Teesri was September 2009 as director of the premiere of *Truth and Treason* by playwright and Artistic Director Rahul Varma.



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Montreal, September, 2011

Teesri Duniya Theatre presents
'Writing Peace 2011', 3rd annual essay writing contest
Cash Prizes!

Teesri Duniya Theatre welcomes all students (19 years of age and under) to apply to *Writing Peace 2011*, an essay writing contest. Our company is dedicated to producing socially and politically relevant theatre that supports a multicultural vision of society, promoting interculturalism through works of theatre. Through the essay, we wish to encourage students to come to the theatre as well as be engaged in contemporary, social debate.

A total of **\$500** will be awarded to five selected winners - \$200 for 1st place, \$125 for 2nd place, \$75 for third place, and two honourable mentions of \$50. The contest will close on December 12th, 2011. The winners will be announced on **January 16th, 2012** and the winning essays will be posted on the Teesri Duniya Theatre website, published and available in our main office.

The Poster is the first English translation of the award-winning play *L'Affiche* by **Philippe Ducros**, Artistic Director of Espace Libre, and translated by **Shelley Tepperman**. *L'Affiche* was one of five finalists for the 2009 Grand Prix de la dramaturgie (France) and was named Play of the Year in 2009 by the AQCT (L'Association québécoise des critiques de theatre).

Topics to Consider

Your essay must consider *one* of the following topics:

1. What are the solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict? What can we do from here?
2. Martyrdom: a virtuous act or desperate attempt for a cause?
3. How can 'people to people' contact promote peace?

Contest Rules

- Must view the play (*The Poster*) and write an essay relating to the issues raised in the play
- Limit to 1000 minimum-1500 words maximum, 10-12pt font, 8 ½ x 11 paper
- Be from a personal viewpoint and in your own words
- Students must be 19 years of age or under and registered full-time at a high school or cegep in Quebec*
- Text must be sent by e-mail to info@teesriduniya.com before midnight, December 12th, 2011
- The submission must have a complete name, e-mail address and phone number

*School registration will be verified prior to any prizes being awarded.

For more information, contact Linda Levesque at info@teesriduniya.com
or T: 514.848.0238
www.teesriduniya.com



BRIEF

HISTORY

Teesri Duniya began as a South Asian theatre company (1981). Today it is one of the few theatre companies in Canada, where artists of every culture, color, language and background work together. The company promotes a multicultural-multiracial vision of Canada. Our creations are outward looking and weave together elements of different cultures. We believe this to be the best way to drive the creative process, ensure our artistic development, and build and maintain our relationship with the country's general arts movement.

In the early eighties, the company produced plays in Hindi dealing with issues affecting the lives of South Asian immigrants in Quebec (Julus, Bhanumati ka Pitara, and Ahsaas). Then, in 1985, the company began producing English-language productions with plays such as **Job Stealer, Equal Wages, No Man's Land** and **Divided We Stand**. The result is a theatre that focuses on minority issues, builds solidarity among minorities, and promotes an increasing interaction and dialogue across cultures.

In the early nineties, we received our first arts funding grant from the Canada Council for the Arts. With it came a string of cutting-edge avant-garde plays (**Counter Offence, Reading Hebron, Bhopal, Ali & Ali** and **The Axes of Evil**, and **Miss Orient(ed)**).

Counter Offence, our first funded project, was Mirror critic Gaëtan Charlebois's top pick of the 10 best plays of the decade. In 1999, we produced **L'Affaire Farhadi**, a French translation of **Counter Offence**, earning the distinction of being the first culturally diverse company to produce a French-language play. The Gazette declared: "**L'Affaire Farhadi** could be the vanguard of the revolution in French-language theatre."

From the beginning, we have sought to broaden our cultural reach, collaborating with like-minded companies across Canada, including, Théâtre Sortie de Secours, Cahoots Theatre Projects, newworldtheatre and Black Theatre Workshop. For example, **Bhopal**, has been produced in French, English and Hindi in Canada, the United States and India.

In 2007, Teesri Duniya broke new ground with two original productions in one year including the controversial play, **My Name is Rachel Corrie**. A co-production with newworldtheatre of Vancouver, Teesri committed to this play prior to any other theatre company in Canada. We continue to present two full productions a year as well as publish quarterly **alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage**, Canada's only professional journal dedicated to examining intersections between politics, social activism, cultural plurality and the stage. In 2011, we feature a two-part expanded edition on oral history and performance by national and international writers.

Today, Teesri Duniya, which began as primarily a South Asian group, is an all-inclusive organization whose creative and administrative team as well as audience members come from a wide range of ethnic and racial backgrounds, including the majority cultures. The company reflects the ideal face of Canada and Quebec as multiethnic, multiracial and multilingual.



Teesri Duniya
T H E A T R E

Vision and Mandate

Teesri Duniya Theatre is dedicated to producing socially and politically relevant theatre that supports a multicultural vision of society, promoting interculturalism through works of theatre, and creating theatrical styles based on the cultural experiences of visible minorities living in Canada. The company believes that culturally diverse theatre and artists are an integral part of the theatre landscape of the country. The company is committed to multiethnic casting and stories.

Teesri Duniya Theatre is engaged in four distinct areas of activities:

- **production** (of original works and translations into and from English/French/other languages)
- play development through our **Fireworks** program
- publication of a theatre quarterly *alt.theatre: cultural diversity and the stage*
- **theatre and community collaboration program** designed to develop creative skills among emerging visible minority artists and enhance intercultural interaction.

History

Teesri Duniya began as a South Asian theatre company in 1981. Today it is one of the few theatre companies in Canada, and in Quebec, where artists of every culture, color, language and background work together. In both its creative work and administration, the company promotes a multicultural-multiracial vision of Canada. Our creations are outward looking and weave together elements of different cultures. We believe this to be the best way to drive the creative process, ensure our artistic development, and build and maintain our relationship with the country's general arts movement.

In the early eighties, the company produced plays in Hindi dealing with issues affecting the lives of South Asian immigrants in Quebec (*Julus, Ek the Gadha, Bhanumati ka Pitara, Ghar Ghar Ki Kahani, Ahsaasand Darwaze Khol Do*). Then, in 1985, the company began producing English-language productions with plays such as *The Great Celestial Cow, Job Stealer, Isolated Incident, Equal Wages, Land Where the Trees Talk, No Man's Land* and *Divided We Stand*. This marked the beginning of a radical new approach to engaging with present realities — an approach that analyzed not only the social conditions in which immigrant communities presently live, but also the social and cultural factors and interactions that affect these diverse communities. The result is a theatre that focuses on minority issues, builds solidarity among minorities, and promotes an increasing interaction and dialogue across cultures.

In the early nineties, we received our first arts funding grant from the Canada Council for the Arts. With it came a string of cutting-edge avant-garde plays (*Counter Offence*, *Reading Hebron*, *Bhopal*, *Noah's Arc 747*, *Ms. Oriented*). The company produces a range of plays reflecting diverse cultures, perspectives, themes, and aesthetics. These are united by our common concern with issues of social justice, cultural relevance, and artistic quality. Every one of our plays presents a distinctly Canadian voice. We are proud to have produced works in English, French, Hindi, and Tamil, and we look forward to expanding our linguistic repertoire in the future.

From the beginning, we have sought to broaden our linguistic and cultural reach and scope, collaborating with like-minded companies across Canada, including, among others, Théâtre Sortie de Secours, Cahoots Theatre Projects and the Black Theatre Workshop.

Contact:

Rahul Varma, Artistic Director

1006 rue de la Montagne, Suite 111, Montreal, QC H3G 1Y7

T: 514.848.0238

info@teesriduniya.com

www.teesriduniya.com