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ARTSEMERSON IS HONORED TO PRESENT
A WHY NOT THEATRE PRODUCTION

A BRIMFUL OF ASHA

A REAL-LIFE MOTHER AND SON IN A TRUE, HEARTWARMING STORY
OF FAMILY, MARRIAGE, AND THE QUEST FOR THE PERFECT BRIDE

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY RAVI JAIN AND ASHA JAIN
DIRECTED BY RAVI JAIN

OPENING NIGHT, TUESDAY, MARCH 09 @ 7:30PM ET,
INCLUDES LIVE POST-SHOW Q&A WITH RAVI JAIN

ON-DEMAND STREAMING THROUGH MONDAY, MARCH 22 @ 10PM ET

[Boston, MA – Monday, February 01, 2021] – Toronto’s Why Not Theatre brings **A Brimful of Asha**, an honest and heartwarming portrayal of generational and cultural clash, to ArtsEmerson’s digital venue this March. Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary world theatre and the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, ArtsEmerson will present **A Brimful of Asha** to online audiences with a premiere on Tuesday, March 09 at 7:30PM ET, followed by on-demand streaming through Monday, March 22 at 10:00PM ET.

ArtsEmerson’s Executive Director, David Howse, shares, “During this time of physical distance and social dormancy, we are fortunate to be working with artists like Ravi Jain and Why Not Theatre who invite us into their home to share delightful human stories. **A Brimful of Asha** reminds us that we are part of a human story that is larger than our own personal stories. ArtsEmerson’s commitment is to supporting artists and stories that reveal and deepen our connection to each other, and we believe that our strength as a community lies in our ability to see and share each other’s stories.”



Ravi Jain
Photo: David Leclerc



Ravi Jain & Asha Jain in **A Brimful of Asha**
Photo: Erin Brubacher



Asha Jain
Photo: Cylla von Tiedemann

With sold out runs across the world, **A Brimful of Asha** is a critically acclaimed hit and an instant favorite with audiences everywhere. Real-life mother and son, Asha and Ravi Jain, share the stage and tell this true (and very Canadian) story of generational and cultural clash. When Ravi takes a trip to India, his parents decide it's the perfect time to introduce him to potential brides. Ravi isn't sold on the idea of getting married—at least not yet—but Asha panics that time is running out. Full of laughs and heartache, this delightful family tale perfectly illustrates how, though both parents and children want the best future possible, they often can't agree on the way forward. As Asha explains to her son, "You don't get to choose your family, why should you choose your wife?" The March engagement of **A Brimful of Asha** will mark Why Not Theatre's first time presenting with a Boston theater organization.

"As a touring company, we often share our work with audiences around the world. Sharing stories is an important way to build empathy and understanding and a way of showing us that borders are imaginary lines that separate states, provinces or countries," says Why Not's Ravi Jain. He continues, "We're so grateful to be able to share our work with the audiences of Boston, especially at times when we can't travel and we need more empathy in the world! ArtsEmerson is a phenomenal host and we look forward to meeting you all virtually in weeks to come!"

Tickets for **A Brimful of Asha** are Pick Your Price (options range from FREE – \$100) and may be reserved [here](#).

For production stills and other media kit assets, click [here](#).

LISTINGS INFORMATION FOR A BRIMFUL OF ASHA

Dates:

Opening Night is Tuesday, March 09 @ 7:30PM ET, followed by a live conversation with Ravi Jain. On-demand streaming available through Monday, March 22 @ 10:00PM ET.

Venue:

This event will be streamed on a private web page hosted on ArtsEmerson's website. Those who register will be provided with a link to access the show and the post-show conversation. Any device with internet access will stream, and no special software is required.

Ticket Information:

Tickets for **A Brimful of Asha** are Pick Your Price (ranging from Free to \$100)

Reserve: Tickets may be reserved online [here](#) or by phone at 617-824-8400 (Hours: Tue-Sat 12-6PM).

Production Running Time:

82 minutes

Content:

This performance features some profanity (including one use of the f-word) and is recommended for ages 13+.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Written and Performed by Ravi Jain and Asha Jain
Directed by Ravi Jain
Set Design by Julie Fox
Lighting and Video Design by Beth Kates (Playground Studios)
Tour Production Management by André du Toit
Production Artwork by Cylla von Tiedemann
Photography by Erin Brubacher
Recording by Rodrigo Castro & Jonatan Avila
Editing by Rodrigo Castro

BIOGRAPHIES

RAVI JAIN (Creator and Performer)

Toronto-based stage director Ravi Jain is a multi-award-winning artist known for making politically bold and accessible theatrical experiences in both small indie productions and large theatres. As the founding artistic director of Why Not Theatre, Ravi has established himself as an artistic leader for his inventive productions, international producing/collaborations and innovative producing models which are aimed to better support emerging artists to make money from their art. Ravi has been shortlisted twice for the Siminovitch Prize and won the 2012 Pauline McGibbon Award for Emerging Director and the 2016 Canada Council John Hirsch Prize for direction. He is a graduate of the two-year program at École Jacques Lecoq and he was the inaugural artistic-director-in-residence at The Theatre Centre.

ASHA JAIN (Creator and Performer)

Asha grew up in New Delhi, India. Upon completion of her Master's Degree, she married in 1974, which led to her immigration to Canada. While supporting her husband Ramesh in the founding of his own business, she raised two boys, Anurag and Ravi. She is a wonderful mother, wife and now a very funny actor. She is excited to be sharing this story with the world, in order to finally prove her son wrong.

JULIE FOX (Set Designer)

Since graduating from the National Theatre School in 1994, Julie has worked as a set and costume designer for theatres and dance companies across Canada, including Soulpepper, the Stratford Festival, Crow's Theatre, Buddies in Bad Times, Necessary Angel, Volcano, Tarragon, Canadian Stage Company, NAC, The Segal Centre, MTC, The Citadel, and Theatre Junction. She has received four Dora Mavor Moore Awards for set design, and the Virginia Cooper Award for costume design.

BETH KATES (Lighting and Video Designer)

Beth is a Lighting, Projection, Set and Costume designer and the co-creative director of Playground Studios which created the installations Night Light Travels and The ToyBox, designed projections for the Ross Petty pantomimes The Wizard of Oz, Snow White, and The Little Mermaid; and Ragtime (Shaw Festival). For WYRD Beth designed MacHomer, Bigger Than Jesus (Dora Award), etc. Other highlights: Assassins (Birdland), Bloodless (Theatre20) Yichud /Seclusion (Convergence Theatre), Rob Kempson's The Way Back to Thursday, Same Same But Different (Nightswimming), The Road to Mecca (Soulpepper); Toopy & Binoo, Max & Ruby, The Backyardigans, and Dora the Explorer (Koba). Upcoming: Emily's Piano (YPT), this year's Ross Petty Panto "Cinderella", and continued development on her co-creation with Steven McCarthy - The Memory Play.

ANDRÉ DU TOIT (Technical Director and Tour Production Manager)

Andre du Toit has been traveling the world as the Production Manager for Brimful of Asha since 2012, helping keep the peace between Ravi and Asha Jain across many continents. He is also an award winning lighting designer for live performance and has designed lighting for several Why Not Theatre shows including Prince Hamlet, Now You See Her, Mouthpiece, Dear Liar, SPENT and several productions within their celebrated Riser Project. Andre is also a frequent collaborator with other dynamic Canadian Theatre companies such as the Shaw Festival, Tarragon Theatre, Bad New Days, Canadian Rep Theatre, Soulpepper Theatre Company and Theatre Smith Gilmour.

Why Not Theatre

Their vision is a world with limitless possibilities for all. Their mission is to make things better through art, to reinvent how stories are told, and to inspire new ways of thinking about creativity and civic engagement. Why Not Theatre has created 55 new works, made 81 tour stops in 40 cities throughout the world, and has received 44 awards and nominations for their work. When a well-respected global performer couldn't get an audition in Toronto, we knew it was time for a change. Ravi Jain moved back to Toronto after building a career in theatre in New York and London. After years of growth and creativity, his ambitions came to a standstill when traditional companies wouldn't welcome his voice. When adversity pushed, Ravi pushed back and launched Why Not. Since 2007, Why Not has taken on modern social issues and redefined what it means to be an independent theatre company. Ravi was later joined by Owais Lightwala and Kelly Read, in a unique tri-

leadership team that was key to Why Not's success. Today, this leadership structure is being further expanded into a more collaborative model, with Ravi, Kelly, and Miriam Fernandes at the helm. Together, they are forcing doors open, inventing, encouraging and building a creative community, welcoming stories that look and feel like Toronto, and sharing it all with the world.

PRESENTER INFORMATION

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson's mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and digital performances, films, and conversations invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Executive Director, David Howse. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Emerson College

ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons both operate from within the Emerson College Office of the Arts. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

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