

# TARRAGON THEATRE

2008-2009 SEASON

Press release # 6

for immediate release

## TARRAGON THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS THE ENGLISH WORLD PREMIERE OF EVELYNE DE LA CHENELIÈRE'S BASHIR LAZHAR

*Bashir Lazhar* by Evelyne de la Chenelière  
translated by Morwyn Brebner

English Premiere

**Starring: Raoul Bhaneja**

**Directed by Jennifer Tarver**  
**Set and costumes designed by Camellia Koo**  
**Lighting designed by Rebecca Picherack**  
**Sound designed by E.C. Woodley**  
**Stage manager: Lindsay Marriner**

**Media support:**



*Bashir Lazhar* opens in the Mainspace on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 8:00 pm. Previews from October 28, 2008.

Bashir Lazhar (**Raoul Bhaneja**) has fled Algeria to begin a new life in Canada. When an article in a local newspaper profiles a school in crisis, he discovers his calling in his adopted homeland: he presents himself to the school principal as the ideal substitute teacher for a traumatized grade six class.

Equal parts teacher and student, Bashir learns quickly that his colleagues have underestimated his precocious students. They are wise and perceptive, and cope with tragedy in their own child-like way. Buoyed by the response from his class and spurred on by the memories of his family in Algeria, Bashir resolves to show parents and teachers alike the reality their children are living in now even though it might cost him dearly.

Playwright and actor **Evelyne de la Chenelière** has written several plays, including *Des fraises en janvier* (*Strawberries in January*, also translated by **Morwyn Brebner**), which was produced in Montreal by Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui and remounted at Théâtre Jean-Duceppe. Her theatrical home remains Le Nouveau Théâtre Expérimental, where she has premiered three plays: *Henri et Margaux*, as well as *Nicht retour*, *Mademoiselle*, conceived with Daniel Brière, and *Aphrodite en 04*, conceived with Jean-Pierre Ronfard.

**Raoul Bhaneja**, who has recently garnered wide critical acclaim for his performance in the solo tour de force of *Hamlet {solo}*, takes on the role of Bashir. Returning to the Tarragon to direct the play is **Jennifer Tarver** who directed this summer's highly praised *Krapp's Last Tape* at Stratford Shakespeare Festival starring Brian Dennehy. **Camellia Koo** designs the sets and costumes, lighting by **Rebecca Picherack** and sound by **Eric Woodley**. **Lindsay Marriner** is the stage manager.

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***Bashir Lazhar*** previews in Tarragon's Mainspace on Wednesday, October 28, opens November 5 and runs until Sunday December 7, 2008.

Preview tickets:	Oct. 28 – Nov. 4	\$19
Regular run:	Tuesday through Saturday at 8 pm	\$32 - \$38
	Saturday & Sunday matinee at 2:30 pm	\$32
	Friday Night Rush	\$10

Seniors' and students' prices for regular performances, except Saturday night: \$20 - \$27

Tickets for ***Bashir Lazhar*** are available online [tickets.tarragontheatre.com](http://tickets.tarragontheatre.com).

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