

MEDIA RELEASE

TARRAGON THEATRE PRESENTS *A BRIMFUL OF ASHA*, A WHY NOT THEATRE PRODUCTION

*"You don't get to choose any member of your family: your brother, your father, your mother.
You are stuck with them till death do you part. Why do you need to choose your wife?"*

TORONTO, January 16, 2012 – **Tarragon Theatre** presents the **Why Not Theatre** production of *A Brimful of Asha*, directed by **Ravi Jain**, written and starring **Asha** and **Ravi Jain**. *A Brimful of Asha* previews **January 24**, opens January 26 and closes February 19, 2012 in Tarragon Theatre's Extra Space. Tickets range from \$15-\$22 (inclusive of HST) and are available by calling the box office at 416.531.1827 or by visiting www.tarragontheatre.com

Special performances also take place Sunday, February 5, 12 and 19 at **Dish Cooking Studio** (390 Dupont Street) and include a cooking class with Asha, the performance, and a shared vegetarian Indian meal. Tickets for this event are \$75.

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. Asha believes it's time for Ravi to get married and it's up to her to help him find a bride. Ravi, however, is not so sure. He's just embarked on an exciting new phase in his professional life that means marriage will have to wait – at least for a little while. Having just graduated from school in Paris, an opportunity that's impossible to pass up comes his way – a trip to India to work as an artist. Ravi is too naive to see that this is an "impossible-to-pass-up" opportunity for his parents as well. His parents decide that his trip to India is the perfect time to introduce Ravi to potential brides. Ravi doesn't suspect a thing, but his mother is determined to marry her son. Ravi knows what he's up against: a whole way of life cherished by his mother's generation and those before her. Can we balance respect for the old world and love for the new? Can he remain true to himself and bring Asha some peace?

A Brimful of Asha was developed back in 2010 when Ravi Jain was Tarragon Theatre's Urjo Kareda Emerging Artist. Working on this story as part of the Playwright's Unit, Ravi approached Artistic Director **Richard Rose**, to ask if there was room in the unit for another member: his mother, Asha, who had never worked as a professional artist until that point. Asha and Ravi Jain developed the story collaboratively, to create a heart-warming story of maternal love and the immigrant experience in our modern world.

Ravi Jain is a multi award-winning actor, director, producer, educator, arts-activist and Artistic Director of Why Not Theatre. Selected Acting credits include the Dora Award winning *SPENT*, and Aluna Theatre's *Nohayquiensepa*. Ravi was the Urjo Kareda Resident artist at Tarragon Theatre, in residence at the Theatre Centre where he developed *I'm So Close* (winner of Spotlight award-Summerworks 2009, and toured to Dublin and Vancouver). Selected directing credits include his adaptation of *Hamlet*, *The Prince* and *Greenland* written by Nicolas Billon, which won the top two prizes at the Summerworks Festival 2009 and toured to New York City. He has assisted notable directors Daniel Brooks (*Hardsell*), Richard Rose (*Courageous*) and Jennifer Tarver (*King of Thieves*) as part of the inaugural Michael Langham workshop for Classical Direction at Stratford. Ravi is engaged in many different arts organizations and creations across the city and the globe, including the programming committee for the Regent Park Arts and Culture Centre as well as the Artist Advisory Committee for ArtReach Toronto.

Currently Ravi is among the 10 resident artists at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts and a member of the DiverseCity Fellows program, which aims to diversify leadership across sectors for the Toronto region. This past

summer Ravi taught alongside Jim Calder, head of movement at New York University's Graduate Acting Program, teaching commedia dell'arte in Florence, Italy.

Asha Jain 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.

TARRAGON THEATRE presents a WHY NOT THEATRE production

A Brimful of Asha

Written by: Asha and Ravi Jain

Director: Ravi Jain

Starring: Asha Jain, Ravi Jain

Set and Costume Designer: Julie Fox

Lighting and Projection Designer: Beth Kates

Stage Manager: Sarena Parmar

Opens January 26 and runs to February 19, 2012 (Previews from January 24)

Tarragon Theatre's Extra Space, 30 Bridgman Avenue

Tuesday-Saturday 8pm, Saturday matinees beginning February 11 at 2:30pm

Previews: \$15; Tues-Thurs 8pm and Sat & Sun 2:30pm matinees: \$18; Fri & Sat 8pm: \$22

(Discounts for students, seniors and groups)

Special performances also take place Sunday, February 5, 12 and 19 at 4:30pm

at **Dish Cooking Studio** (390 Dupont Street) and include a cooking class with Asha, the performance, and a shared vegetarian Indian meal. Tickets for this event are \$75.

For all tickets, call the box office at 416.531.1827 or visit www.tarragontheatre.com

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Tarragon Theatre's presentation of *A Brimful of Asha* is supported by **Secor Consulting**.

Tarragon Theatre's 2011/12 Season Sponsor is **BMO Financial Group**.

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ABOUT TARRAGON THEATRE

Tarragon Theatre is known for its creation, development and production of new Canadian work. Over our 40 years, more than 190 plays have premiered at Tarragon, including work by Morwyn Brebner, Kate Cayley, David French, Brendan Gall, Michael Healey, Ravi Jain, Wendy Lill, Joan MacLeod, Daniel MacIvor, Hannah Moscovitch, Morris Panych, James Reaney, Erin Shields, Jason Sherman and Judith Thompson, among many others. Tarragon presents new plays from all parts of the country, revives significant Canadian plays and produces international work, contemporary and classical. Tarragon has also been a pioneer in presenting Quebecois plays in translation notably works by Michel Tremblay, Carole Fréchette, and most recently, Wajdi Mouawad. The theatre offers extensive play development programs and an active outreach and education department. For more information visit www.tarragontheatre.com

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