

FIREWORKS DIGITAL SHOWCASE

Following the Fireworks Playwright Development Program's 2019-2020 year, the Fireworks Digital Showcase was a series of virtual readings of works written by participating playwrights. It featured emerging playwrights Kay Komizara, Kyungseo Min, Zaynab Bourezza, Seeley Quest, Nicole Leroux, Laura Flynn, Azin Mohammadi and stellar directors including Tamara Brown, Michelle Soicher, Quinlan Green and Alessandra Tom.



GOING PUBLIC WITH STUDENTS FOR CONSENT CULTURE: POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FAILINGS

In tandem with our ongoing community based theatre project 'Going Public', Teesri Duniya Theatre and Students for Consent Culture collaborated to bring about the first of a series of virtual discussions aimed to engage and inform members of our community regarding pertinent current social issues. This collaborative discussion addressed policies and institutions in relation to sexual violence, featuring prominent activists, academics, and professionals working in to tackle sexual violence in institutions and campuses across Canada; namely, Connor Spencer, Chantelle Spicer and Sam Rockbrune.



MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK: LAW 21 & SYSTEMIC RACISM IN QUEBEC

In collaboration with Muslim Awareness Week (Semaine de la Sensibilisation Musulmane), Teesri Duniya Theatre organized and hosted a discussion panel to address Law 21, Islamophobia and Systemic Racism in the local context. This event followed up on Teesri's community based activity 'Leave Out Racism' project by directly engaging the public, as well as experts from within the local community in dialogue. The discussion featured speakers Ehab Lotayef, Nadia Naqvi and Nour Farhat.

SSM MAW

MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK
Law 21 and Systemic Racism In Quebec

Teesri Duniya
THEATRE

OUR PANELISTS

Nadia Naqvi

Nour Farhat

Ehab Lotayef

OUR SPONSORS

CONSEIL DES ARTS DE MONTRÉAL | CALQ | The Canadian Council of the Arts | Canada | THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY | RBC Foundation | LUSH FRESH | B/A | Fondation Cole | CHADHA Family Foundation

ARTISTS UNITED AGAINST RACISM: COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

In light of recent events, and the long history of racism across Turtle Island and the globe, Teesri Duniya Theatre collaborated with local artists to hold a discussion panel & virtual space: Artists United Against Racism, moderated by Li Li, with Panelists Carolyn Fe, Janet Lumb, Khosro Berahmandi and Laura Luu. Community members were invited to listen in, speak out against racism, grieve together and share (virtual) space in solidarity.



CULTURAL RESISTENCE IN DARK TIMES: DISCUSSION WITH ANAND PATWARDHAN



Teesri Duniya Theatre collaborated with: Cinema Politica, Center for Study and Research in South Asia (CERAS), Mel Hoppenheim School: Cinema in the Midst of Struggle, Dawson College, Dr. Hari Sharma Foundation, South Asian Film Education Society, South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy (SANSAD), Punjabi Literary and Cultural Association, DESSA Winnipeg (Democracy Equality and Secularism in South Asia) and Geopolitical Economy Research Group, to host this discussion with award winning documentary film maker Anand Patwardhan. The discussion engaged the public in a dialogue about creating and presenting political art to the public, it's challenges, successes, and place in social movements. It followed an asynchronous virtual screening of Anand Patwardhan's film 'Raam Ke Naam'.

AMBICA SHARMA: ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



Ambica Sharma is a Montreal based actor, dancer, and poet. She has been working with Teesri Duniya Theatre as an intern under the Demarté program supported by Conseil des arts de Montréal to develop a Dance Theatre piece incorporating movements, spoken words and poetry. The piece explores immigrant narratives, including their triumphs and tribulations amidst daunting questions of their past and future as they adapt to a new life based on Canadian values. Ambica feels that her position at Teesri has been an intensive on-the-job, hands-on experience and has taught her skills crucial to creating a piece of theatre. The regular feedback sessions with artistic director Rahul Varma and Alessandra Tom have helped her to develop an awareness in culturally sensitive dramaturgy, while ensuring growth and development. Another important aspect of her professional development was Rahul Varma's comprehensive workshop on grant writing, which gave her a vital understanding of the professional theatre world, in addition to providing valuable insight into the process.

GOING PUBLIC: SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

A virtual workshop of the script being developed at Teesri Duniya Theatre by emerging writer Summer Mahmud for the project Going Public, which addresses sexual violence in our community. Directed by Lydie Dubuisson, the workshop featured actors Carolyn Fe, Rouvan Silogix, Rafeh Mahmud, Amaka Umeh, Arun Radhakrishnan and Sophie-Thérèse Stone-Richard.

ENGAGEMENT BY STEPHEN ORLOV: A VIRTUAL STAGED READ

Teesri Duniya Theatre presented a staged read of Stephen Orlov's play 'Engagement':

"A Jewish Agnostic and a Palestinian Muslim journey from Montreal to Jerusalem and Bethlehem in 2018 to seek their activist children's marital blessing, when Trump's inflammatory move of the American Embassy triggers Palestinian protests and Israeli massacres at the Gaza border."

The production was directed by Richart Greenblatt, and featured actors Natalie Tannous, Howard Rosenstein, Amena Ahmad, Raphael Cohen-Derners, and Aladeen Tawfeek. The event included a post-production talk back with Abdelfttah Abusrour; founder and director of Alrowwad Cultural and Arts Society, established in 1998 in Aida refugee camp-Bethlehem. Abdelfattah has developed a philosophy called 'Beautiful Resistance' to inspire hope and promote life for children and youth. He is a social entrepreneur, an author, playwright, actor, trainer and director.

PAXTON RODRIGUEZ: THEATRE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

Through McGill's Arts Internship Office, Paxto Rodriguez is participating in an internship at Teesri Duniya Theatre, which is centred around a research paper that is currently a work in progress. The paper focuses on where and how cultural appropriation is often present in the preparation and performance of theatrical productions. Taken into consideration are various practices involved in the creation and staging of a play, including a special focus on casting. The paper will attempt to discuss the ethical issues that can arise from culturally appropriative theatre, as well as the unfair ethical dilemmas it can thrust upon theatre professionals from marginalized communities, and how this issue can interface with the economics of such a competitive and restrictive industry. It will feature excerpts from interviews with several figures in the local Montreal theatre industry, including both professionals and academics, and its progress will be monitored by Teesri Duniya Theatre, and potentially McGill University professors. The paper is currently following the guidelines and timeline for submission set out by the *Canadian Theatre Review*, though its final place of publication has not been confirmed and is subject to change.



THE ALT.THEATRE ARCHIVAL PROJECT

The *alt.theatre* archival project is an effort to completely digitize the available issues of the magazine and make them accessible through a digital collections service at an English-language library here in Montreal. Finding a collections service to host *alt.theatre* is a process that Teesri has wanted to pursue, and it has recently become apparent that doing so using digital formats of the magazine would be the most prudent course of action. Preparation for this includes collecting all available issues and converting them into a digital PDF format with optical character recognition (OCR), so that the files can be indexed and searched for keywords, a requirement for many digital collections services. Currently, about 75% of the available issues have been located, almost all of which have been digitized and converted to PDFs with OCR. Though several volumes have yet to be located or have not been located in full, an extensive search is underway and the digitization process that would take place after locating them should be fairly swift. A specific digital collections service has not been decided on yet, though it would likely be a choice between those in operation at McGill or Concordia due to their being English language universities with professional and artistic ties to both Teesri and *alt.theatre*.

CONNECT & CREATE PARK POP-UP

A creative space for folks to work on their own projects, make some art, and chat with the Teesri team. The event took place in Parc Jeanne-Mance, where we connected with folks over snacks and artistic prompts.



CANADA SUMMER JOBS

As part of the Canada Summer Jobs program Teesri was able to welcome three wonderful interns to our team: Zoe Marner (Office Manager), Julie Phan (Communications Manager) and Riel Reddick-Stevens (Outreach Director).



NEW STAFF: WELCOMING CAROL-ANNE FRASER

Carol-Anne Fraser is a pianist, coach, and educator with a doctorate in music performance. She also holds a diploma in administrative skills and is joining the Teesri Duniya team as Administrative Officer. "I'm excited to join the Teesri Duniya family. The company's ideals of critical thinking and equal representation align with my own values of diversity and equality. I believe the arts are important to our world, and I am grateful to contribute to the cultural life of Montréal both as an artist and as an administrator."

