

ANOSH IRANI'S

BEHIND THE MOON

DIRECTED BY RICHARD ROSE TARRAGON

FEB 21 - MAR 19, 2023

BEHIND THE MOON BY ANOSH IRANI

DIRECTED BY RICHARD ROSE

CAST

Ali Kazmi Ayub **Husein Madhavji** Jalal **Vik Sahay** Qadir Bhai

Behind the Moon is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, www.ggagency.ca. Behind The Moon was originally commissioned by Tarragon Theatre, Richard Rose, Artistic Director and is premiering in Toronto in March 2023

BEHIND THE MOON BY ANOSH IRANI

DIRECTED BY RICHARD ROSE

CREATIVE TEAM

Anosh Irani Playwright

Richard Rose Director

Deivan Steele Assistant Director

Michelle Tracey Set & Costume Designer

Sarah Yuen * Set & Costume Design Assistant

Jason Hand Lighting Designer

Echo Zhou Associate Lighting Designer

Thomas Ryder Payne Sound Designer

John Stead Fight Director

Meghan Speakman Stage Manager

Kayla Thomas Apprentice Stage Manager

Emma Burnett & Kayleigh Mundy Sheridan College Work Placement Interns

*The services of Sarah Yuen were made possible through the Associated Designers of Canada Assistant Designer Program funded by the Government of Canada.

Rug Embroidery by Michelle Tracey, Karen Elizabeth and Sarah Yuen Based on calligraphy by Israa Moneka Welcome back to Tarragon, and to *Behind the Moon* written by Anosh Irani, and directed by Richard Rose. It is a pleasure to welcome Anosh, award-winning playwright and novelist, and Richard, former Artistic Director, back to Tarragon to tell this beautiful story.

Behind the Moon offers us a glimpse into the hidden world of coming into Canada and the painful separation of families that often follows. It tells a story about connection and community, about loss and rediscovery. It is a magical depiction of Ayub's journey to a new life, blocked by forces beyond his control, and then opened through the kindness of a mysterious stranger. Ultimately, it is through this relationship that our heroes seek comfort and emerge to meet their destiny.

This is the untold story of so many peoples who have migrated to Canada, beautifully told, and powerfully presented. Thank you for being with us and for championing new work that celebrates the scope of Canadian voices. As we seek to empower our own voices and those around us, it is a privilege to share this story with you.

Mike Payette and Andrea Vagianos

Artistic Director & Managing Director | Tarragon Theatre

Tarragon Theatre acknowledges that we all are a part of a larger ecosystem within our community, Tkaronto, where our theatre lives and operates – and that we also commit ourselves and in turn energize our audiences to continually reflect on and respond to our relationship to the land around us. This country has been cared for by generations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nations, and the land on which Tarragon rests and is able to share this story has been cherished and protected by, the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat, and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Toronto is a word that originates from the Mohawk word "Tkaronto," meaning "the place in the water where the trees are standing," which is said to refer to the wooden stakes that were used as fishing weirs in the narrows of local river systems by the Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat. The paths we still walk today, from Davenport to Dupont, are built on the portage trails first established and walked by Indigenous peoples. It is in the spirit of being on the portage route that we invoke our local Indigenous oral history – though covered up by the industrial progress of Toronto – and maintain that those stories are not lost.

We are committed to engaging with these communities in meaningful ways that open dialogue, while acknowledging our own history. We look towards a recognition of our shared humanity to create deeper community connection and accountability. Tarragon's recognition of the contributions and the historic significance of Indigenous peoples to this land is directly connected to our promise to meet the challenge of Truth and Reconciliation. Making our commitment real in our work and through our community building. Please do check out the QR codes in the lobby to find out how you can extend your support.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTE:

My plays seem to have strange trajectories in terms of how they evolve. My previous play, *Buffoon*, began way back in 2005 as a commission. I wanted to write a circus play; it was called *Manja's Circus* back then. It had a cast of about 7. The play turned out fine, and I was even offered a production by a theatre company, but something told me to wait. It was the clown in the play. He walked out of the play and demanded his own show. That's when I realized: "Oh, this is a one person show."

With *Behind the Moon*, one of the characters from an earlier play of mine, *The Men in White*, kept haunting me. Ayub is a version of that character. I was extremely interested in his inner life. Why did he come to Canada? Who did he leave behind? Does he sleep well at night? What does he dream of? So, I wrote a short story about him called Behind the Moon, which was published in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. The deeper I dug, the more he revealed himself. Until, eventually, he showed up on stage, cleaning the glass counter of the restaurant that he works in. If characters refuse to leave me, I just follow them. And listen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The playwright is extremely grateful to the following individuals for their help during the development of this play:

David Adams, Sohail Ansari, Raoul Bhaneja, Rachel Ditor, Rawi Hage, Faisal Hawa, Nazanine Hozar, Cameron Johnston, Sam Kalilieh, Ali Kazmi, Kayvon Khoshkam, Husein Madhavji, Justin Miller, Maryam Najafi, Nadeem Phillip, Myekah Payne, Vik Sahay, May Seigneurie, Jai Singh, Ivan Smith, Meghan Speakman, Deivan Steele and Nidhi Tulli.

Special thanks to Mike Payette, Andrea Vagianos and Richard Rose for their guidance and support; the fabulous cast, crew, and design team for their inspiring work, and the Canada Council for the Arts for its generous financial assistance during the writing of this play.

Jalal's quote in English is from an epigraph to a short story by Naiyer Masud. The original Farsi quote belongs to the 10th century Persian poet Kisa'i Marvazi. English translation by Muhammad Umar Memon. Arabic translation by Ahmed Moenka and Israa Moneka.

Anosh Irani



ALI KAZMI AYUB

For Tarragon: Debut

Selected Theatre: Uncle Vanya, Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo (Crow's Theatre)

Select Film and Television: *Funny Boy* (Deepa Mehta) *Umro Ayaar* (Pakistan's first Superhero/Adventure film)

Upcoming: New (Canadian Stage)

Other: A Pakistani Canadian, trained multilingual, multifaceted and experienced, professional creative powerhouse of an Actor/Director & Producer. He was born in Karachi, Pakistan and he now lives in Toronto, Canada where he went to Toronto Film & Drama school and started his career again from scratch. Hailing from a family of creative juggernauts, it is inherent within him. He has been working successfully both on and off camera, in the industry in Pakistan, India, Canada & USA for over 20 years in the creative fields of theatre, television & film.

He has amassed a portfolio, peppered with multi-layered diverse characters.

The world is full of magic things patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper.



HUSEIN MADHAVJI JALAL

For Tarragon: Debut

Selected Theatre Credits: *Art* (Soulpepper), *Men In White* (Factory Theatre)

Selected Film and Television: *Doneyhead* (Netflix), *Schitt's Creek* (Netflix/CBC), *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* (Paramount+), *Mira Royal Detective* (Disney+), *Saving Hope* (CTV)

Upcoming: The Spencer Sisters (CTV)

Other: Thank you Anosh and Richard for trusting me with taking on this beautiful character. And what a privilege to be working in this legendary theatre, thank you to everyone at Tarragon.



VIK SAHAY QADIR BHAI

For Tarragon: Debut

Selected Theatre: Nathan The Wise, Hamlet (Soulpepper)

Selected Film and Television: *Chuck* (NBC/Warner Bros.); *Lodge49* (AMC); *It Lives Inside* (NEON, currently debuting SXSW 2023); *Bar Fight* (IFC); *The Infiltrators* (Sundance, 2019) etc.

Other: It has been 'moons', since Vik treaded the boards. Based in Los Angeles, he has worked, of late, in film and television. He feels deep privilege to have been invited into this company, this project, this role.

To the first portion of KeMac&Baboo ~ you are the soul and foundation and raison d'être of everything.



ANOSH IRANI PLAYWRIGHT

For Tarragon: Buffoon

Selected Credits: *Bombay Black* (Cahoots Theatre); *The Men in White* (Factory Theatre)

Theatre Awards: 2 x Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play (*Buffoon, Bombay Black*)

Other: Anosh Irani has published five critically acclaimed works of fiction: *The Cripple and His Talismans* (2004), a national bestseller; *The Song of Kahunsha* (2006), which was an international bestseller and shortlisted for Canada Reads and the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize; *Dahanu Road* (2010), which was longlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize; *The Parcel* (2016), which was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction and the Writers' Trust Fiction Prize; and *Translated From the Gibberish: Seven Stories and One Half Truth* (2019). His anthology *The Bombay Plays: The Matka King & Bombay Black* (2007) and his play *The Men in White* (2018) were both finalists for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. He lives in Vancouver.



RICHARD ROSE DIRECTOR

For Tarragon, as Director: Orphan Song, Orestes, The Message, Guarded Girls, Hamlet, The Summoned, Wormwood, The Realistic Jones, Abyss, Much Ado About Nothing, The Bakelite Masterpiece, An Enemy of the People, A God in Need of Help, The Valley, This is War, No Great Mischief, The Real World?, Forests, Courageous, Another Home Invasion, Molière, Democracy, Scorched, Léo, Humble Boy, Remnants, 3 in the Back, 2 in the Head, It's All True, Prague.

Other: Richard Rose was the Artistic Director of Tarragon Theatre from 2002 - 2021. Prior to joining the Tarragon in 2002, Richard was Founding Artistic Director at Necessary Angel (a position he held from 1978–2002), Associate Director for Canadian Stage Company, Director of the Stratford Festival Young Company, and spent ten seasons directing at the Stratford Festival. He has directed plays across Canada, the United States, and in London's West End, in styles ranging from the environmental to the classical. Richard is well known for developing new work, including four plays that won the Governor General's Award and nine other nominated plays. He is a four-time Dora award winner for direction and production and has had numerous nominations.



DEIVAN STEELE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

For Tarragon: Debut

Selected Theatre Credits: *The Assembly* (Theatre Direct/Eastern Front); *King Lear* (Shakespeare BASH'd); *Hamlet, Henry V, Love's Labour's Lost, Wizard of Oz, Cinderelly* (Shakespeare by the Sea); *rihannaboi95* (Unwrap Theatre); *Romeo & Juliet and Action, 3Tempests* (Shakespeare in Action); *Froxeaglousey* (Driftwood)

Selected Film and Television Credits: Weirdos

Upcoming: Original works including *The Assembly*, *Palany*, and *The Book of Kit and Mel*; *Bremen Town* (Next Stage); *Tis Pity She's a Whore* (Shakespeare BASH'd)



MICHELLE TRACEY SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

For Tarragon: This Was The World, The Summoned, Much Ado About Nothing, An Enemy of the People, Metcalf Design Intern 2013-2014

Selected Credits: *Indecent* (Studio 180 & Mirvish), *Every Little Nookie, Nathan the Wise* (Stratford), *Garden of Vanished Pleasures, Hell's Fury* (Soundstreams), *Wedding at Aulis, Sisters, Waiting for Godot* (Soulpepper)

Upcoming: *Flight* (Glenn Gould School), *Access Me* (Boys in Chairs Collective) *The Clearing* (Shaw Festival)



JASON HAND LIGHTING DESIGNER

For Tarragon: Buffoon, Hamlet, Peace River Country, Enemy of the People, The Ugly One, The Amorous Adventures of Anatol, Sequence, The Summoned, Abyss.

Selected opera: Canadian Opera Company, Vancouver Opera, Edmonton Opera, Minnesota Opera, Against the Grain, Banff Centre, and Tapestry Opera.

Theatrical designs: Young People's Theatre, Grand Theatre, Canadian Stage, Stratford, the Shaw, Charlottetown Festival, and Soulpepper.

Immersive experiences: The Disney Animated Immersive (Toronto and 9 other North American cities), The Original Immersive Van Gogh (Las Vegas, Nashville, New York, and 13 more cities across North America), Jamie Allan's Magic Immersive (Chicago).

Awards: Nine Dora Award nominations, a META for Outstanding Design, Siminovitch Prize protégé recipient



ECHO ZHOU ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER

For Tarragon: My Sister's Rage

Selected Theatre Credits: Benevolence (Benevolence Collective); Between a Wok and a Hotpot (Cahoots Theatre); The Year of the Cello (Theatre Passe Muraille); Every Brilliant Thing (Thousand Island Playhouse); White Girls in Moccasins (Manidoons Collective); Mr.Shi and His Lover, I Swallowed Moon Made of Iron (Music Picnic)

Upcoming: *The Chinese Lady* (Studio 180); *I Love the Smell of Gasoline* (Nightwood Theatre)

Other: Echo is a Chinese immigrant, Tkaronto-based scenographer working in live performance.

www.echozhoudesign.com

For Grandpa.



THOMAS RYDER PAYNE SOUND DESIGNER

For Tarragon: Redbone Coonhound, Orestes, This Was The World, Buffoon, Copy That, Guarded Girls, The Message, Hamlet, Marine Life, Sequence, The Realistic Joneses, The Circle, The Watershed, Wormwood, An Enemy of the People, Abyss, Sextet, Lungs, Soliciting Temptation, This Is War, The Little Years, The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs, The Golden Dragon, Forests, After Akhmatova, Hush, Rocking the Cradle, If We Were Birds, Alias Godot, Benevolence, Léo

Selected Theatre Credits: Designs for Stratford, Shaw, Mirvish, Soulpepper, CanStage, Factory, TPM, YPT, Crows, Modern Times, Aluna, BIBT, Nightwood, Toronto Dance Theatre, NAC, Theatre Calgary, GCTC, RMTC and many others

Awards: 6 Dora Awards



MEGHAN SPEAKMAN STAGE MANAGER

For Tarragon: Cottagers & Indians, The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs, The Children's Republic

Selected Theatre Credits: The Ex-Boyfriend Yardsale (Soulpepper), The Trojan Girls and the Outhouse of Atreus (Outside the March/Factory), Sweeney Todd (Talk is Free), Making Spirits Bright (Globe), Sugar Road (Lighthouse), The Ministry of Grace (Belfry), The Election (Common Boots), Lunenburg (Upper Canada Playhouse), Hand to God (Coal Mine), Stupidhead! (Theatre Passe Muraille)

Upcoming: Macbeth (COC), Where You Are (Lighthouse)

Other: Delighted to be back at Tarragon for this beautiful production. Thanks to Kayla for the excellent backup.



KAYLA THOMAS APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER

For Tarragon: Three Women of Swatow

Selected Credits: The Waltz (Factory Theatre)

Other: Toronto based, recent graduate from York University's Theatre Production BFA Program, with a passion to grow in her professional career in stage management in the upcoming years! Thankful for the opportunity to work again with Tarragon & such talented artists! Also known as "the real rat in the basement!"

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THANK YOU TARRAGON DONORS THE ROSE DIRECTING FUND

The Rose Directing Fund, developed to continue Richard Rose's vision of bringing excellence to the creation and development of Canadian theatre by celebrating a professional director each season. We are grateful to the individuals whose gifts to this fund will support the future of directors at Tarragon over the next 10 years.

Anonymous (6) Gayle Abrams OAZ Sherri & William Appell in Honour of **Flaine Stavro** W Belcher Anne Bermonte Ann Black Terry Boyle & Jim Lawlor **Dianne Bradley** Naomi Brown Adam Bryk & Melony Duranovich James Buchanan & Julia Robertson **Beverley Burke** Derrick Chua Carolyn & Hugh Cleland **Bob Crawley** Laurence Dabin Brendan Dellandrea & Alissa Lumsden Judy & Richard Ellen Barbara Fingerote Kathleen Gallagher Steve Garmaise & Sue Rebick Kamala Jean Gopie Kristine Greenaway Jenny Gumbs Shira Hart **Claire Hopkinson** Maureen Jennings & Iden Ford **Roseneath Theatre** Samuel Laredo Carolyn McIntire Smyth John & Kay McKellar

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We are grateful for donations made by family and loved ones in memory of the following individuals:

Mary Alford Marie Beattie Graham Ewart Rickey Fitzerman Urjo Kareda Eva Saphir Margaret Stevens Gabriel Trevisan Ronald Youd

If we have made any errors in the spelling, listing or omission of your name please accept our apologies and contact Courtney Fiddis, Director of Development at: courtney@tarragontheatre.com

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Tarragon Theatre is an active member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) and the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA).





