



HINDI SHORTS 2020

5 SHORT PLAYS

BY

TANUJ KHOSLA & UDAY KRISHNA



LIVE STREAMING



[/SawitriTheatreGroup/](https://www.facebook.com/SawitriTheatreGroup/)



www.sawitri.ca/HSS2020

SHOW SCHEDULE - 9 PM EST

- Nov 06, 2020
- Nov 13, 2020
- Nov 20, 2020
- Nov 27, 2020
- Dec 04, 2020
- My Dear Arvind
- Us Dopahar Ki Baat
- Amma
- The Monk
- That Summer Holiday

DIRECTORS SHRUTI SHAH | RAINA DESAI | GUNJA CHAKRABORTY | ASH VARMA
PRODUCER NITIN SAWANT PRODUCTION ASSISTANT RAINA DESAI LIGHTING DESIGN SID SAWANT
ASST. LIGHTING DESIGN PURAWAI VYAS SOUND DESIGN DEEPAK CHAKRAVARTY
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS DHRUVA DWIVEDI | AMLAN DAS

CAST AMLAN DAS | ANJUM SIDDIQUI | ANKIT MODI | ANUBHA JHA SHANKAR | GURUGOPAL SINGH
JANIFER RANDHAWA | JOANNE COLACO | KAPIL KUMAR | MEEKA SHAH | RAGHURAM SITARAM |
RAJ BEDI | RAJAN PARASHAR | SHALAKA SARDESAI | SNEHA AREKAR | SWETA SURISETTI | UMA
AMBIKE



POSTER DESIGN GOOD ART ENTERTAINMENT



Photo: Kris Sorensen, Winnipeg

Aniruddh Sawant

11th March 1988 – 10th November 2013

Founding Director, SAWITRI Theatre Group

We miss you!



Keyoor Shah

17th September 1968 – 25th August 2019

Founding Director, SAWITRI Theatre Group

SAWITRI Theatre Group

Founded in January 2003, SAWITRI Theatre Group is an award-winning, incorporated not-for-profit organization under the artistic leadership of Jasmine Sawant and Shruti Shah. SAWITRI presents original, challenging and exciting works featuring established professionals as well as emerging artists and has produced over 30 works of theatre of which 17 are full-length productions in English, Marathi, Gujarati and Hindi, working with over 160 artists, majority of whom are Mississauga-based. It strives to educate, entertain and heal through theatre arts that are South Asian in character, origin or topic and foreground women and the new generation, as well as highlight issues of social or political importance. A preeminent producer and presenter of South Asian Theatre Arts in Mississauga, SAWITRI Theatre Group is known to take risks, bringing unique theatre experiences to its audiences. www.sawitri.ca

Message from the Artistic Director

After celebrating 16 successful years in 2019, we were looking forward to 2020 with Hindi Shorts, and many other productions and projects including the launch of the Mississauga Multilingual Fringe Festival (MMFF), but 2020 turned out to be a year of postponements and cancellations, an unpredictable roller-coaster ride and a whole new way of living. We almost thought that Hindi Shorts 2020 is not going to take place. Thanks to technology and our tech wizards, we are able to bring you five short plays in Hindi, right to your fingertips; **live** from Sampradaya Theatre, Mississauga. This year we have four plays by Uday Krishna and one play by Tanuj Khosla, whose plays premiered in Hindi Shorts 2018 and 2019.

Human relationships are delicate threads that bind us, or break us; bring us close, or isolate us. Sometimes we re-discover the importance of each of these relationships much later in life. These plays explore the intricacies of human relations and their ever evolving facets. In the times of social distancing, human relations, their meaning and their importance have changed for each one of us. Some heal, some help, and some tear asunder. Each play is a celebration, an introspection, a regret and a discovery.

SAWITRI is known to take risks, and it is no different this time, be it the theme, or working with newcomers, emerging artists, or using an online platform to livestream, supporting new generation women directors, or grooming the transition of Ash Varma from directing films to theatre plays. Our motto has always been that the 'Show Must go on' and hence SAWITRI is proud to bring to its audience for first time ever a live-streaming theatre play to the comforts of your own home. With restrictions on travel and limited entertaining options, we hope you experience escapism and transport to a different, magical world. Our cast consists of newcomers to Mississauga or the Greater Toronto Area. Some of these artists have trained in theatre in India and had to put their dreams on hold, some have dreamt of being on stage all their lives and are only now beginning their journey, and some are second generation Canadians who are pursuing parallel careers in theatre. We love that we are able to nurture local talent, adding to the ever-growing pool of Indian artists in the GTA. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with these young, enthusiastic and committed group of actors, directors, designers and livestreaming crew.

Our heartfelt thanks to our team of artists, technicians, board members, volunteers and family members without whose support we would not be able to grow and succeed.

We are grateful to Lata Pada, Sampradaya Dance Creations, to the City of Mississauga, the Mississauga Arts Council, The Open Space, our sponsors, donors and the media. To our audiences, we are immensely grateful. Without you, we would not be. Thank you for choosing to spend your evening with us!

- Jasmine Sawant and Shruti Shah



The Team of *Us Dopahar Ki Baat* - HINDI SHORTS 2020

Playwright: Uday Krishna

Hindi Shorts Concept and overall artistic direction: Shruti Shah

Director & Set Design: Gunja Chakraborty

Producer & Director of Production and Streaming: Nitin Sawant

Lighting Design & Technical Director: Sid Sawant

Sound Design: Deepak Chakravarty

Set Design: Gunja Chakraborty & Amlan Das

Assistant Director & Set Design: Amlan Das

Costume Design: Dhruva Dwivedi & Gunja Chakraborty

Cast: Amlan Das, Anjum Siddiqui, Janifer Randhawa, Joanne Colaco, Meeka Shah, and Raj Bedi

Live Stream Technician: Niraj Patel

Camera: Ash Varma, Sid Sawant and Shayne Larcher

Props & Wardrobe Coordinator: Dhruva Dwivedi

Administration: Jasmine Sawant

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following:

Government Funders



Sponsor



The Arts Community



Media



SAWITRI Theatre Group - Board of Directors

Vaidehi Raut Bhagat, President

Stivan Sequeira, Treasurer

Medha Date, Secretary

Lincoln D'Souza, Vice President

Elizabeth Banfalvi, Director

Anand Karia, Director

Nitin Sawant, Past President

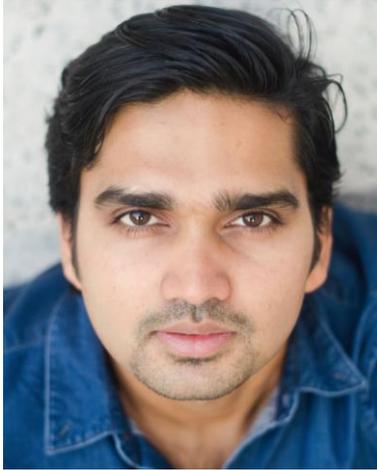
Good Art Entertainment – Cover Design

Our heartfelt thanks to all:

Raghuram Sitaram, Dhruva Dwivedi, Bhavini Gajaria, Vijay Himanchal Corp. and to the cast, crew, volunteers, supporters, suppliers and those whose names were not available at the time of publishing.

BIOGRAPHIES in the order of team listing

Uday Krishna – Playwright



Uday Krishna is an actor, writer and data professional based in the US (shuttling between California and Washington DC). He has acted in short films, industrials and televised plays and has also written and acted in a micro-short based on mental health. A decade ago he used to work as a content writer to make extra money, was active in school and college creative circuits and an avid consumer of movies, mythology, short stories of different kinds (literary, audio visual and made-up tales of family/friends). He's revived the writer in him in the last couple of years, mostly to support his acting career. He's currently working on a script and a novella and looking for takers for both!

Shruti Shah – Hindi Shorts Concept & Artistic Co-Director, SAWITRI Theatre Group



PC: Nitin Sawant

Actor, writer, designer, and Artistic Co-Director of the award-winning SAWITRI Theatre Group, Shruti has worked extensively in professional theatre in India. In Canada, Shruti's acting credits in films include her principal role in *Dowry* and in theatre, include her lead role in SAWITRI Theatre Group's Tribute to Chinu Modi – *Hajara Hajoor* (Godess Incarnate), *Saree Kahaniyan – Saree Stories* and *Koi Pan Ek Phoolnu Naam Bolo To?* Her writing credits include *Ab Kya Karey?* and *Meri Saas Meri Jaan* that she co-wrote with Jasmine Sawant. Born and raised in Mumbai, India, the city of dreams, she has loved Bollywood films since she was a little girl, and remains an avid viewer of these films, and a reader of all things filmi or Bollywood. In May 2018, Shruti directed SAWITRI Theatre's 12 short plays by Tanuj Khosla, presented as *Hindi Shorts* in 2018 and three short plays for *Hindi Shorts 2019*.

Gunja Chakraborty – Director & Set & Costume Design



Gunja enjoys the art of storytelling as an actor, a voice-over artist, a classical dancer and recently, as a director. From screen to theatre, Gunja has been an artiste who has featured in multiple projects in India and Toronto. These projects include commercials, dance performances, hosting on television. Her short films were premiered at Hot Docs, Filmi and IFSAA festivals in Toronto in 2019. She played one of the lead roles in the controversial play, *Savita Weds Satish* that sold out multiple shows in November 2018. She debuted as a director with her first play for Hindi Shorts 2019. Gunja is a proud member of the SAWITRI family for collective projects in the past and aspires to grow with them creatively.

Nitin Sawant –Producer & Director of Production and Streaming



Nitin Sawant has a deep passion for the arts. An excellent actor, he prefers to work behind the scenes. He applies his project management skills to producing theatre and community events with a professional approach. As board chair, he has supported SAWITRI Theatre Group since its founding. Nitin has managed several performing arts events in Mumbai, and later in the Middle East. After moving to Canada in 1996, Nitin went on to produce arts and culture events as well as volunteer at festivals and events organized by the Marathi Bhashik Mandal.

Sid Sawant – Lighting Design & Technical Director



PC: Gareth Cattermole

Film to photography, screen to stage, lens to literary. Sid Sawant is an emerging Toronto and Mississauga based artist whose aspirations have led to both sides of production. After graduating with Honours from Cawthra Park's Regional Arts Program for Drama, followed by Humber College's Acting For Film and Television Program, Sid continued to keep a balance with all sides of production. His Producing credits include *Massive Monster Mayhem* (Nickelodeon - 2018) and, *The Expanse* (FX - 2018). As an Actor his films include three award-winning films; two

features titled *Street Soldiers* (2016) and *Dowry* (2015) and a short titled *SUN* (2015). Stage credits include Mahesh Dattani's *Where There's a Will* (2018), *Dance Like A Man* (2014) & *Seven Steps Around The Fire* (2013). Sid Sawant's passion for the arts stems from his family and he is grateful for their continued support. JKF

Deepak Chakravarty – Sound Design



Born in Mumbai, India, Deepak's set of accomplishments belies his age. An Electronics Engineer academically, he always knew that his passion was to be involved in creative media and arts. It was clearly his childhood passion for art, storytelling and the creative process that drew him into Creative Direction, Post Production and Musical Arrangements. Moving to Toronto in 2005, Deepak became entrenched in the film and production world of Toronto media. He worked extensively, co-producing multiple South Asian television programs and later on into the world of digital content for new media. An accomplished musician and a multi-instrumentalist, Deepak has produced music and performed live concerts with several artists in Toronto and India for over two decades. He is equally comfortable playing the guitar, singing or playing the piano as he is in writing, mixing or producing music. With influences from maestros like Yanni, Vangelis, Sting and many more, his passion lies in writing original music and creating complex and soulful arrangements.

Amlan Das – Assistant Director, Set Design & Actor playing 'Casting Agent'



Amlan has been with SAWITRI Theatre since 2018. His journey with SAWITRI started with 'Hindi Shorts 2018' and continued with 'Hindi Shorts 2019' and now he's a part of the 'Hindi Shorts 2020' as well. He was part of the crew and was the emcee (along Raina Desai) for both the runs of 'Savita Weds Satish'. 'Hindi Shorts 2020' also marks his foray into the field of direction as he is assisting Gunja DC in the play 'Us Dopahar Ki Baat'. He thinks one of the best decisions he took after moving to Canada was to get associated with the SAWITRI family. Besides acting, he is also passionate about dance, audio &

video productions and writing. He hopes to keep learning and growing in the field of performance arts.

Dr. Dhruva Dwivedi – Costume Design & Props & Wardrobe Coordinator



As a young girl growing up in Mumbai, Dhruva had one strong passion- “THEATRE”, however, life had other plans. She ended up pursuing a PhD in the field of medicine. She is a Clinical Researcher at McMaster University, but her artistic passion led her parallelly pursue the arts. She acted in the short film, “*Canadian Candy*”, was Art Director for the film *Foren de Fundey* and a costume designer and makeup artist for a music video *Raahein* under Aawaazein productions. She received several music awards during her University days and she has just created her own music video *Mumbai Meri Jaan* to be released soon. She also has a keen interest in dancing, photography and cinematography. She finds her dream of pursuing theatre becoming a reality in SAWITRI Theatre’s *Hindi Shorts 2019*. She is extremely grateful for this exciting opportunity and thankful for the extensive support from cast and crew.

Anjum Siddiqui – Actor playing ‘Mother’



Anjum Siddiqui is an artist originally from India, but who now works and lives in Toronto, Canada. After finishing her school from The Lawrence School, Sanawar, she went on to study at the Delhi College of Art, India, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Applied Arts. Anjum had the rare opportunity of working with and learning from the late M. F. Husain, who was one of India’s leading contemporary artists and was dubbed the ‘Picasso of India’ by Time magazine. Anjum is a multilayered, gifted complete artist, enamored by the creative process, and deeply engaged in the world around her. Trained in Indian classical music, Anjum plays the sitar. She is a rising theatre artist on the Toronto scene. She has also recently acted in short films. She is a multilingual poet, and has performed her English and Urdu poetry at many recent private events.

Janifer Randhawa – Actor playing ‘Audition Judge 1’



Janifer Randhawa is an artist at heart. She is also a model, who is looking to branch out as an actor and is delighted at this opportunity to explore her love for acting and grow. Her interests include dancing, writing and learning all that goes into putting a show together. She enjoyed playing Richa in SAWITRI's *Savita weds Satish* in 2018 and was happy to be back for the remount in 2019. She was in Hindi Shorts 2019. She has acted in Brar commercials, mainly for Diwali and Rakshabandan and acted in two short films with Ash Varma, *Mister And Missus*, and *Main Theek Hoon*, which have been featured at local film festivals. She is always looking to deepen her potential as an actor and a model.

Joanne Colaco– Actor playing ‘Audition Judge 2’



Joanne Colaco is an upcoming artist based in Mississauga. Art has always been a part of her life; whether it be ballroom dancing or painting landscapes and creating abstract art. Her ambition to embody a character that is different than her and a need to challenge herself to get out of her comfort zone, encouraged Joanne to audition for a role in this year's *Hindi Shorts 2020. Us Dopahar ki baat* – Hindi Shorts 2020 would be her stage debut and she is looking forward to evolve and grow in the performing arts.

Meeka Shah – Actor Playing ‘Gudiya’



Meeka has spent most of her life in the city of Bangalore where she was introduced to stage early on in life. From winning elocution competitions in school to national level theatre fests, she enjoys it all. She claims she has inherited her acting genes from her dad and her sense of "drama" from her mom, and so it seems like it was meant to be. Meeka truly believes that all the world's a stage and is exploring it through her passion for both travel and theatre. In India, Meeka has experienced stage in various departments, and finds it comforting to

return to stage after moving to Canada. She made her theatre debut in Canada in SAWITRI's Hindi Shorts 2019 and is returning in 2020.

Raj Bedi- Actor Playing 'Niranjan'



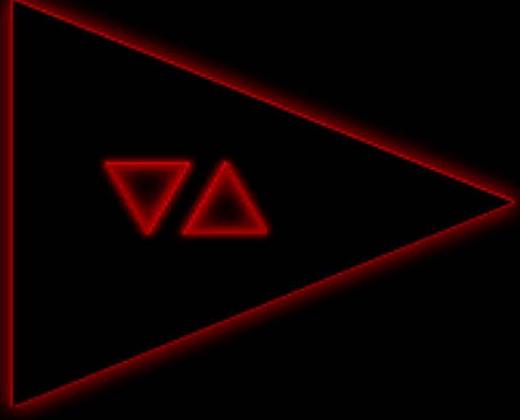
Raj Bedi has been doing TV Shows, Commercials, Music Videos, Web Series, Modeling and Print Shoots since the last five years in Canada and India. He represented his province in Mr. India Gladrags Manhunt Pageant that aired on MTV and was featured on Billboards in Toronto and India! He has been a part of Ekjute Theatre Group led by prominent theatre personality Mrs. Nadira Zaheer Babbar from National School of Drama, Delhi. He did *Toronto Legal* TV Series in Canada and *Ishq Subhan Allah* TV Show on Zee TV in India!

Jasmine Sawant - Co-Founder & Artistic Co-Director, SAWITRI Theatre Group



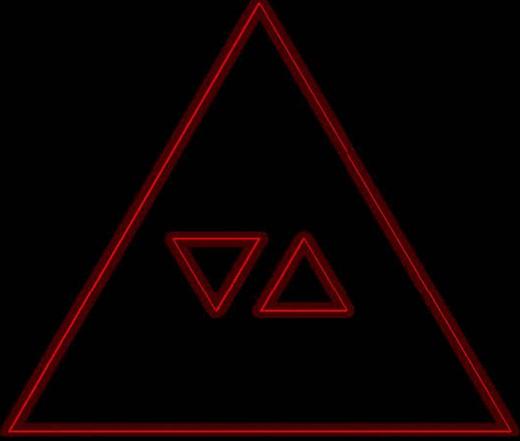
PC: Nitin Sawant

Actor-producer-writer-manager and Artistic Co-Director of the award-winning SAWITRI Theatre Group, Jasmine works extensively in theatre in Mississauga. An award-winning writer, she has written and co-written plays for SAWITRI Theatre Group and Sampradaya Dance Academy and Creations. Jasmine's recent stage acting credits include her role in SAWITRI Theatre Group's *Where There's A Will*; her film credits are listed on www.imdb.com. She's indebted to the late **Mahendra Joshi**, her mentor in theatre under whose guidance she pursued professional theatre in India. Jasmine is also the General Manager of the award-winning dance company, Lata Pada's SAMPRADAYA Dance Creations.



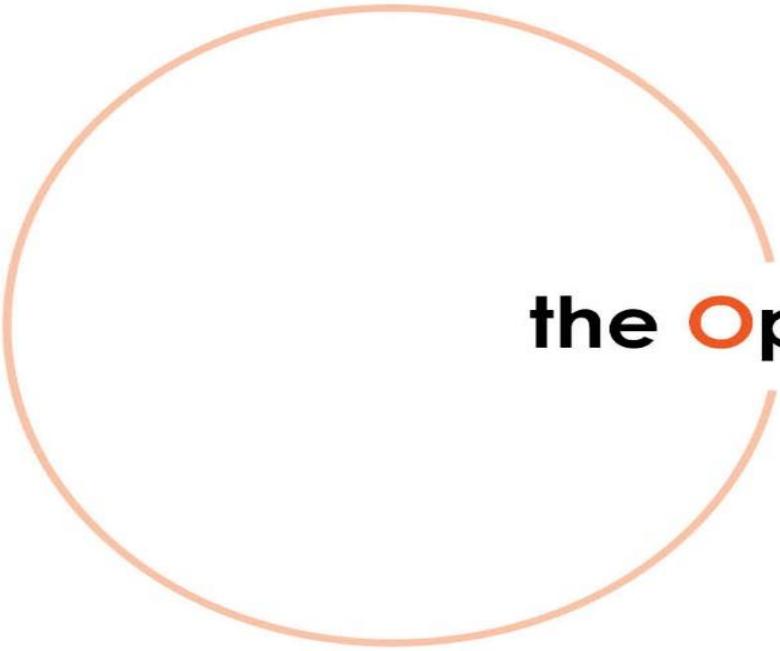
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