



HINDI SHORTS 2020

5 SHORT PLAYS

BY

TANUJ KHOSLA & UDAY KRISHNA



LIVE STREAMING

 /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 SURISSETTI | 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 *Amma* - HINDI SHORTS 2020

Playwright: Uday Krishna

Hindi Shorts Concept and overall artistic direction: Shruti Shah

Director & Set Design: Ash Varma

Producer & Director of Production and Streaming: Nitin Sawant

Lighting Design & Technical Director: Sid Sawant

Sound Design: Deepak Chakravarty

Set Design: Ash Varma & Dhruva Dwivedi

Assistant Director: Dhruva Dwivedi

Costume Design: Ash Varma & Dhruva Dwivedi

Cast: Guru, Raj Bedi, Rajan Parashar, Sneha Arekar, Sweta Surisetti & Uma Ambike

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



The Arts Community



Media



Sponsor



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

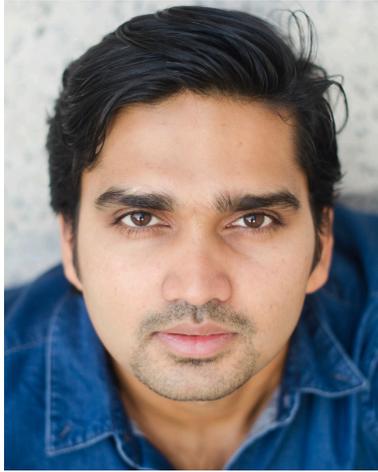
Good Art Entertainment – Cover Design

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* (Goddess 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*.

Ash Varma - Director & Set & Costume Design



At the age of 7, Ashish (Ash) Varma moved to Canada, from India. The catalyst for this migration was Ashish's Father, Raghu, who wanted a better life for his family. The family of 4 lived in Saskatoon, Calgary, Guelph & Brantford, but finally settling in Oakville, ON. Ashish began his short film career in 2007, with a couple of his close friends. Since then, he has written, produced and directed over 35 short film projects. Like any ambitious filmmaker, he has the desire of making a Feature length film, in the near future. This is his first foray into directing a stage play for livestreaming.

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.

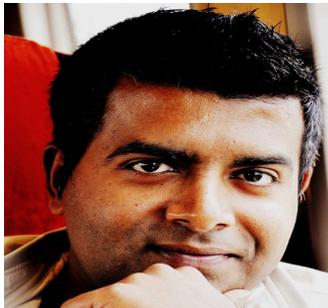
Sid Sawant – Lighting Design & Technical Director



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, D€€ 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, D€€ 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.

Dr. Dhruva Dwivedi – Assistant Director, 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.

Guru – Actor playing ‘Satyadeep’



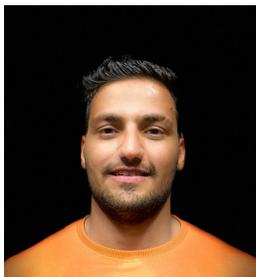
Guru was born and raised in the ‘City of Dreams’, aka Mumbai, very close to the renowned Prithvi Theatre, and has always felt a strong pull towards the craft of acting and writing since childhood. After acting in plays at school and college level, he has performed nukkad natak (street plays) and has acted in a few short films. He has volunteered at Prithvi Theatre for various events including Thespo. Apart from acting, he likes to express himself through poems and shayaris. He has recited his poetry at Open Mic sessions of Prithvi Theatre and could always gather enough applause to feed his creative soul. *Hindi Shorts* in 2018 with SAWITRI Theatre group was his Canadian stage debut as actor. He was happy to be back in *Hindi Shorts 2019* and is delighted to continue his journey with *Hindi Shorts 2020*.

Raj Bedi– Actor Playing ‘Satvik’



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!

Rajan Parashar – Actor Playing ‘Sabziwala’ and ‘Courier Guy’



Rajan has been performing for local audiences for the past year. He is extremely passionate about acting and theatre. Rajan has done a few plays in the past and really enjoyed the experience. He is born and raised in India and is an alumnus of Humber College, Toronto. Rajan is working with SAWITRI Theatre Group and would like to thank this theatre family for welcoming him and hopes to continue his journey as an actor in future productions.

Sneha Arekar – Actor Playing ‘Swara’



Being a total movie buff and being able to understand this art form for its nuances and complexity, Sneha always wanted to take on acting and explore the heart and mind in this world of expressions and emotions. Driven by this feeling she is thrilled to have this opportunity to debut as an actor in SAWITRI Theatre Group’s play, *Amma*.

Sweta Suriseti – Actor playing ‘Divya’



PC: Nitin Sawant

An emerging actor with the heart of an artist and the mind of scientist, Sweta Suriseti hails from a southern coastal town of India. Having graduated with a Master’s, she is currently based in Mississauga and working in the food industry. Sweta’s role in Savita Weds Satish as ‘Anjali’, a sarcastic woman in her late 20’s, marked her debut as an emerging theatre artist. She would love to thank her theatre family at SAWITRI Theatre and her Savita weds Satish team for welcoming her and giving her an opportunity to learn. She is also undoubtedly thankful to her family back in India for their love and constant support.

Uma Ambike – Actor playing ‘Amma’



PC: Dhruva Dwivedi

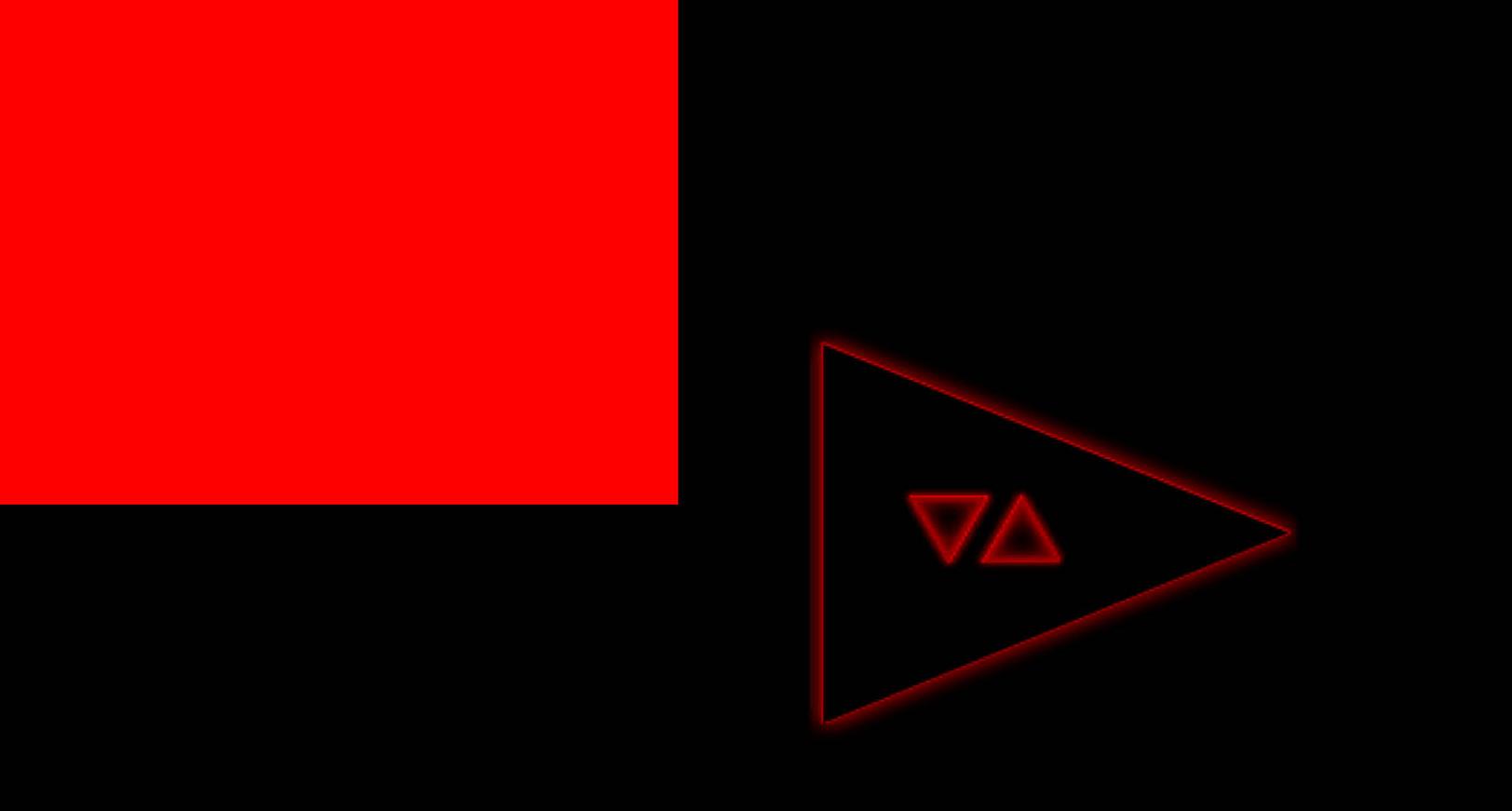
Uma’s journey from school stage to main stage has been a long and fruitful one. A teacher by profession, she has acted in plays across North America, in plays like *Panigrahan*, *Tuj Ahe Tuj Pashi*, *Beiemaan* and *Vahato Hi Durvanchi Judi* written by Marathi literary stalwarts. She has also acted in experimental plays like *Gabhara*, where she won critical acclaim for her role of Manjiri. Theatre and music are her passions. She is also pursuing Hindustani classical music.

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



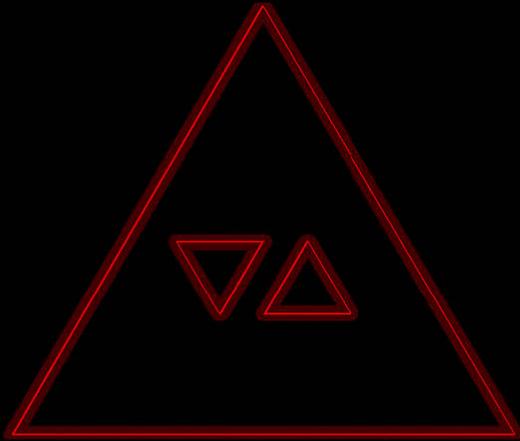
PC: Nitin Sawant

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.



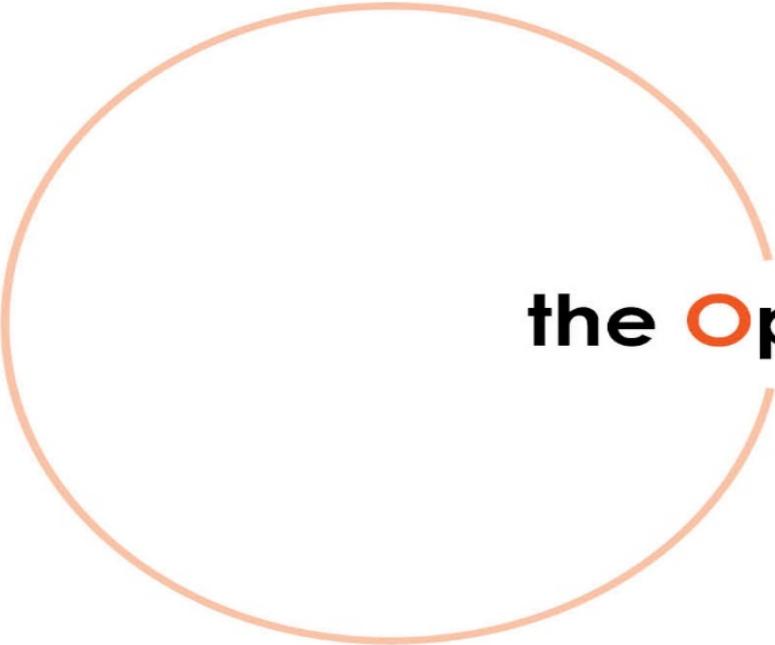
onUP productions photography

Moving the production standard onward & upward



www.onUPphotography.com
www.onUPproductions.com

@onUPphotography
@onUPproductions



the Open space

Creative Expressions through
photography and videography.

media@theOpenspace.ca
(416) 450 - 4107