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SHUNYA THEATRE PRESENTS

ADITI BRENNAN KAPIL'S

**THE ADVENTURES OF HANUMAN,
KING OF THE MONKEYS**

AUGUST 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 & 12, 2012

CAST

HANUMAN - Gargi Samarth

MONKEY 1 - Sanjana Bheri

MONKEY 2 - Neha Kodali

MONKEY 3 - Jeev Singh

BRAHMA/PRINCE SATISH - Shveta Agarwal

INDRA/PRINCE SAGAR - Arnav Sinha

SURYA/PRINCE DIPANKAR - Karthik Chander

LAKSHMANA - Nishant Kelkar

SATRUGHAN - Balaji Sathiyarayanan

BHARATA - Aakash Srikanth

RAMA - Tejas Murali

JAMBAVAN - Gaurav Bangla

SITA - Layaa Raja

BULBUL 1 - Norah Rami

BULBUL 2 - Mehaa Raja

RAKSHAS 1 - Kevin Saji

RAKSHAS 2 - Ria Singh

RAYANA - Kiron Kumar

CREW

DIRECTOR - Yaksha Bhatt

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Anjana Menon

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - Sara Kumar

PRODUCER - Sanjay Mediwala

CHOREOGRAPHY - Tina Bose/Kiron
Kumar of Infused Performing Arts

MUSIC - Mandar Sane, Neil Potdar, John
Sampson, Sara Kumar

VOCAL COACHES - Sara Kumar, Mandar
Sane

LIGHTING DESIGN - Kris Phelps

LIGHTING TECH - Pat Bheri

SOUND DESIGN - William Hesser

SOUND TECH - Raja Amrithalingam

COSTUMES/MAKE UP - Kanchan Kabad

SET DESIGN - James V. Thomas

STAGE MANAGER - Anisha Kelkar

MARKETING - Sanjay Mediwala, Meha
Gargi, Ravi Aggarwal

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This is Shunya's first youth/children's production and we could not have picked a better play to mark the tenth anniversary of our existence as Houston's only South Asian theater company. It has been a pleasure directing this charming and delightful play, and working with the children has been a very enjoyable and rewarding experience for me.

The play is loosely based on the story of Hanuman in the epic Ramayana. Hanuman the mighty ape aids Lord Rama in rescuing his wife Sita, who has been abducted by the evil King of Lanka. The story of Hanuman is well known to Hindus all over the world and Hanuman is worshipped by Hindus as a symbol of physical strength, perseverance and devotion.

This play has been two years in the making. Two years ago Mandar, Sara and I began the process of composing music for this show. When we finally decided to produce the show this summer, John and Neil joined our team and after several months of music sessions at Neil's home we were able to complete the composition of all the music. Thank you Mandar, Sara, Neil and John for your talent, energy, and patience and for putting your hearts in this show. Thanks also to Gauri Potdar for keeping us well fed during the long music and singing sessions at the Potdar residence.

We are also fortunate to have Tina Bose and Kiron Kumar of Infused Dance Company as our choreographers and Kanchan Kabad as our costume designer. Thank you all for your creativity and passion. It has been a wonderful experience working with you.

While a director has a vision of the play, it requires a group of talented and dedicated people to make that vision a reality. I would like to thank everyone in the cast and crew for their talent and hard work and for making this such a fun show.

My sincere and heartfelt gratitude especially to Anjana Menon and Sara Kumar. Ladies, this show could not have happened without you!

Yaksha Bhatt
Director



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BIOGRAPHIES



Gargi Samarth, 11 (Hanuman) is performing in her first lead role. Her prior theater experience includes *The Pirates of Penzance*, *One Thousand Cranes*, and *A Kid's Life*. Gargi loves creative writing, reading, music and cats! Gargi thanks her family and everyone at Shunya theaters for this great learning experience.



Sanjana Bheri, 11 (Monkey) previously performed at the Vedic Heritage School portraying mythological characters including Hanuman and Prahaladha. She is thrilled to be exploring a new medium. Sanjana would like to thank the cast, crew and creators of "Adventures of Hanuman," as well as her friends and family for their constant support and encouragement.



Neha Kodali, 8 (Monkey) is very happy to be performing in her first musical. She has previously performed in dance recitals, however, this is her first acting experience. She enjoys drawing and painting, and wants to thank her parents for their support, and mainly Ms. Yaksha for giving her an opportunity to perform in the play.



Jeev Singh, 8 (Monkey) is excited to be performing in his first musical play. He enjoys drawing, playing video games, and spending time with his friends. He would like to thank his mom, dad, and older sister for the enormous support. He wants to be a policeman when he grows up.

Shveta Agarwal (Brahma / Prince Satish) last performed on stage in school as an Emerald city citizen in *The Wizard of Oz*. She is ecstatic to be a part of this play as it amalgamates her devotion for Hanuman, passion for theater, love of kids and imparts a rich heritage to the kids.

Sunny Sinha (Indra / Prince Sagar) is excited about participating in his first production with Shunya Theatre. He has worked with the Royal National Theatre of London and has directed and acted in various stage productions in India. He tries to make a living by working in corporate strategy for SPX Corporation.



Karthik Chander (Surya / Prince Dipankar) began his career on stage as a stand-up comic in Bangalore. This passion eventually led him to serious theatrical work. Karthik joined Shunya in 2005 and has acted in *Nagamandala*, *Satyagraha*, and *Art*, and produced *Everyone Loves a Good Tsunami*. Karthik is excited to be a part of this children's musical and has thoroughly enjoyed his stint with the kids.



Nishant Kelkar, 13 (Lakshmana) is excited to be part of this production. He has acted in his middle school's theatre productions. He loves playing the clarinet and saxophone and plans to get his Karate black belt in the near future. He wants to thank his parents, sister and friends who encouraged him.



Balaji Sathiyarayanan, 12 (Satrugan) is happy to be in his first drama. He likes to play games and read books. He would like to thank the cast and crew members and his dance teachers, and also his parents for helping him learn his lines and getting him to class.



Aakash Srikanth, 10 (Bharata) is excited to act in this musical, his fifth theatrical performance. He enjoys playing tennis and basketball and also musical performance (piano and guitar). He wants to thank his parents and also Ms. Yaksha, Ms. Anjana and Ms. Sara for this wonderful opportunity.



Tejas Murali, 13 (Rama) is an 8th grader at Garcia Middle School, where he has performed in theatre class. He enjoys playing sports, chess, and violin. He is also a part of Boy Scouts of America. He likes spending time with his family and is excited to perform!



Gaurav Bangia (Jambavan) is a software engineer by profession and acting is his passion. He has performed in Shunya's Merchant on Venice. Prior to this he was an actor with Act One Theatre in India and has performed in few of their popular productions.



Layaa Raja, 12 (Sita) began performing classical dance on stage at the age of three, and gave a Bharatnatyam dance in Chennai Doordarshan (TV) in 2011. She enjoys her role in this play because she gets to perform all three forms of art. She thanks Yaksha aunty and her crew including Mandar uncle and Anjana, and her mom, dad and grandma for their love and unconditional support.



Norah Rami, 8 (Bulbul) will be in the third grade at Cornerstone Elementary in Sugar Land. She loves acting and singing. This is her debut with Shunya Theater. She enjoys reading, swimming, playing with her friends, and learning anything she can about cats. She hopes to be an actress when she grows up.



Mehaa Raja, 8 (Bulbul) cannot wait to perform on stage. She has been singing, dancing, and acting since she was 4 years old. She enjoys biking, reading, singing, and imitating Disney actors, her favorite being Selena Gomez. She thanks Shunya Theatre for this wonderful opportunity and thanks her mom for her great dedication to excel in the performing arts.



Kevin Saji, 12 (Rakshas) enjoys basketball, his Ipad, computer games and the fresh outdoors. He took Drama as his elective in the 6th grade. He learns dance at Infused Performing Arts. He thanks his parents, "annoying" little sisters, best buddy Balaji and the crew at Adventures of Hanuman for their support.



Ria Singh, 11 (Raksha) is excited to be performing in her first musical. She has previously performed in her kindergarten production of an Indian folk tale. She enjoys spelling, and has been her school's spelling bee champion twice in a row. She wants to thank her family and friends for support.



Kiron Kumar (Ravana, Choreography) is the Creative Director of Infused Performing Arts, and a professional magician and dancer from India. He has been teaching dance for over 10 years, has choreographed professional dancers and movie stars, and performed for stage shows in India and elsewhere. He won the "Balshree" award from the President of India for Creative Performance (Acting).



Yaksha Bhatt (Director) has been acting in plays since high school and acted professionally in theater in Bombay for many years. She is the Artistic director of Shunya and has directed and acted in several productions.



Anjana Menon (Assistant Director) has performed in Shunya's The Prophet and the Poet (2011), and was also AD for Art (2012). Previously, Anjana was a core member of Masquerade Theatre in Chennai. There, Anjana played a key role in adapting Enid Blyton's Brer Rabbit stories to stage and also scripted and directed Sitayana for primary and middle school students. She is excited to be in the midst of such amazing talent in Houston!



Sara Kumar (Assistant Director/Music) has been working with Shunya for the past ten years in a variety of roles. This last performance is bitter sweet, since she will be moving to New York to study playwriting at Columbia University this fall. Sara wants to thank everyone she has laughed with, argued with, made music with and stage kissed. I will miss you tremendously.



Sanjay Mediwala (Producer) has been with Shunya since 2005 as an actor (International Festival, Bricks and Lyrics), producer, and Managing Director. He is thankful to Shunya for introducing him to his wife, Parul, who is willing to tolerate so much in the name of art. He sends his love to Soham and Anil.



Tina Bose (Choreography) is the Artistic Director of Infused Performing Arts, and a professionally trained classical and western dancer. She has been teaching dance for 10 years for professional stage shows and dance competitions, has performed with professional artists, with Indian actors, and has acted in South Indian serials and movies. She was selected as Miss FOKANA (Malayalee Assn. of NA).



Mandar Sane (Music) has been writing musical soundtracks for Shunya since the early 2000's. He is a classical tabla player turned songwriter and composer who hopes one day to professionally write for radio, television, and film. He would like to thank his family, his friends, his girlfriend and Shunya Theatre itself for helping him realize that the musical aspirations he has are in fact an achievable reality.



Neil Potdar's (Musician) voyage into music was sparked after listening to the debut album Spice by the Spice Girls. He has since enjoyed learning and playing many styles of music on bass guitar, guitar and percussion. He currently works in software support but has ambitions of starting his own Idli bar one day.



John Sampson (Musician) has been playing guitar since he was 15 years old. He enjoys writing and performing his own music, and could be labeled a singer-songwriter. This is his first time working with a theater production. He would like to thank his wife, Sapana, who is the best wife on the planet.

Anisha Kelkar (Stage Manager) is making her debut with Shunya. She has had a wonderful time working with everyone in the show, and thanks the cast and crew for the experience.

Kanchan Kabad (Costumes) worked for the Drama Department at the University of Houston from 1986 to 1995 instructing students and staff in the design and production of costumes. Kanchan currently works with her husband Jay at Jaykay Wealth Advisors Inc but continues to retain her passion for the "Art" and is happy to be a part of Shunya.



Meha Gargi (Marketing) has been involved with Shunya since the troupe's founding in 2002, and she recently rejoined in 2012 for the marketing of Art. Meha's day job is as a licensed attorney in Texas, working in the oil and gas industry. She thrilled to be a part of the Shunya family once more.

Ravi Aggarwal (Marketing) joined Shunya recently out of curiosity to learn more about the world of theater and helped with the marketing for Art (2012). He has also performed a similar role with Vibha Houston. He is excited and enjoying his role with Shunya.

Pat Bheri (Lighting Tech) is a technologist, sportsman, dedicated dad and humble hubby. When asked to volunteer as the lights guy, it scared the living daylights out of him, but he is always excited to try new things and give a helping hand. He would like to thank the crew and Sanju for this opportunity and for their commitment to success.

THANK YOU!

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