Shakuntala Awaits

Written and Directed by Isheeta Ganguly

Part of HERE’s #stillHERE: ONLINE series

DIGITAL PROGRAM  SCROLL TO CONTINUE
HERE pays respect to the Munsee Lenape ancestors past, present, and future. We acknowledge that the work of HERE is situated on the Lenape island of Manhattan (Mannahatta) and more broadly in Lenapehoking, the Lenape homeland.

Inspired by the words of Adrienne Wong: HERE acknowledges the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day. This production is using equipment and high-speed internet, not available in many Indigenous communities. Even the technologies that are central to much of the art we make leave significant carbon footprints, contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect Indigenous people worldwide. We invite you to join us in acknowledging all this, as well as our shared responsibility to make good of this time and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization, and ally-ship.
ISHEETA GANGULY (Writer/Director) is a renowned Tagore fusion singer, playwright director and screenwriter with 8 studio albums and 3 acclaimed plays to her credit who made a full-time transition into the arts after over a decade in management consulting in health care. With her BA from Brown and Masters from Columbia, Isheeta has helmed leadership roles in both India and the US before she wrote her first Tagore based musical theatre, Three Women, which became a resounding success internationally. Thereafter, she created Sundays with Chitra and Chaitali, and (currently showing), Shakuntala Awaits which has also garnered great appreciation among cross-cultural audiences internationally. Her plays are known for their ability to weave together threads of classic tales into contemporary, “dram-com”, urban contexts. Her performances internationally have been graced with narrations from wonderful and esteemed talent including Juhi Chawla, Lisa Haydon, Shilpa Shetty, Mallika Sarabhai and Chelsea Clinton in NYC. Among her albums, her most notable track is “Bande Mataram” which features a voice-over by renowned actor/producer John Abraham and has been performed for the Jaipur Literary Festival, TED X Gateway, New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF), the Rubin Museum, the Lincoln Center and the Intrepid in NYC. Currently, as a film-maker, she is adapting one of her plays into a feature film for a 2022 release.
PERFORMERS

PURVA BEDI (Performer) A 2019 Drama Desk Award winner for her work in Dance Nation (Playwrights Horizons), Purva is an Associate Artist of Target Margin Theater and a member of the Actors Center. New York theater credits include: Wives (Playwrights Horizons), Passage (Soho Rep), India Pale Ale (Manhattan Theater Club), An Ordinary Muslim (New York Theatre Workshop), Uncommon Sense (Tectonic Theater Project), The Idiot (HERE), Veil’d (Women’s Project); Ten Blocks on the Camino Real, Reread Another, The Tempest, and Second Language (Target Margin); There or Here (Hypothetical Theater), The Rise of Dorothy Hale (St. Luke’s); East is East (Manhattan Theater Club & New Group); and many others. She recently shot the NBC pilot One Of Us Is Lying. Her guest and recurring appearances include Billions, High Maintenance, She’s Gotta Have It, The Code, Madam Secretary, Person of Interest, Unforgettable, Nurse Jackie, The Blacklist, The Good Wife, A Gifted Man, Gossip Girl, House, Boston Legal, Alias, Law & Order and Law & Order: Criminal Intent, The Drew Carey Show, ER, Strong Medicine, and The West Wing. purvabedi.com

SAMRAT CHAKRABARTI (Performer) is an award-winning actor and internationally acclaimed musician. Samrat holds a MFA in Acting from the A.R.T/ Moscow Art Theatre School Program at Harvard University. As an actor, he has done dozens of Guest Stars and Recurring Roles on American TV shows, including: The Brink (HBO), Mr. Robot (USA), 30 Rock (NBC), In Treatment (HBO), Damages (FX), Blue Bloods (CBS), The Leftovers (HBO), A Gifted Man (CBS), Bored To Death (HBO), Law and Order (NBC), The Sopranos (HBO), and All My Children (ABC). He has also been consistently working in films, both Hollywood and Independent, ranging from Spike Lee’s She Hate Me to Amyn Kaderali’s Kissing Cousins to Bruce Leddy’s The Wedding Weekend to Joseph Castelo’s The War Within (which was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award). He’s worked on several international projects, the list includes: Deepa Mehta’s film adaption of Salman Rushdie’s Midnight’s Children, Gurinder Chadha’s Viceroy’s House, Manish Acharya’s Loins of Punjab Presents (with legendary actress Shabana Azmi), Kabir Khan’s New York (produced by Yash Raj Films), Joseph Matthew’s Bombay Summer and Kamal Hasaan’s Vishwaroopam.
ON DEMAND: NOW – FEB 17

A live serial space opera from the creators of the world's first Zoom opera *All Decisions Will Be Made By Consensus* and the digital surveillance opera *Looking at You*.

bit.ly/recognizethesignal
Through the HERE Artist Residency Program (HARP), HERE commissions and develops new hybrid works over a 2-to-3 year period. As part of the HERE community of artists and audiences, our resident artists show works-in-progress, develop workshop productions, and mount full-scale productions. Through our residency programs, HERE seeks to not only grow innovative artistic work, but also give artists the awareness and skills—in areas such as audience relations, budgeting, grantwriting, and touring—they need to continue to grow their careers. For 2019–20, HERE supports the following artists and projects:

**Gelsey Bell**

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Cannabis! A Theatrical Concert

**Maiko Kikuchi & Spencer Townley-Lott**
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**Minor Theater**
Marie It’s Time

**Normandy Sherwood**
Psychic Self Defense

**Sachiyo Takahashi & Gamin**
The Emotions

**Nia Ostrow Witherspoon**
Priestess of Twerk

**HERE & BACK**

HERE & Back encompasses projects produced by HERE and helmed by established artists with deep connections to HERE. For audiences, HERE & Back provides the chance to experience daring performances by high-profile multidisciplinary artists in our intimate spaces; for the artists, HERE remains a special home for their work and a space open to risk-taking. For 2019–20, the following artists are developing HERE & Back projects:

**Taylor Mac, Resident Playwright**
The Hang

**Kristin Marting & Suzi Takahashi**
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HERE, in partnership with Resident Playwright Taylor Mac, is a participant in the Mellon Foundation’s National Playwright Residency Program administered in partnership with HowlRound.
HERE is extremely grateful to the many generous individuals who support our programming! (includes donors as of 9/30/20)

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