

THANK YOU

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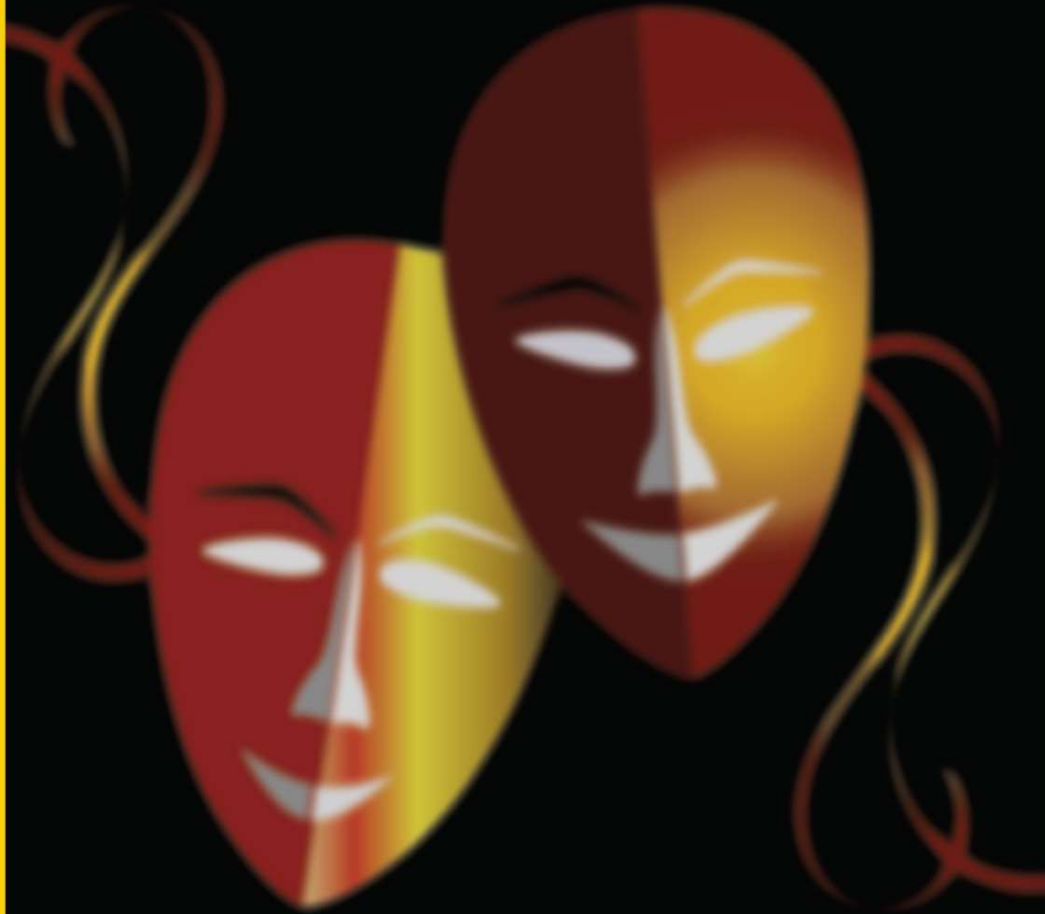
Ruchira Banerjee, Dolly Sadikot, Mona Kripalani, Ajit Jain,
Jaya Bhambhwani, Dr. Nandita Verma, Dr. Nainesh Desai,
Murtaza Presswala & Dr. Narendra Kishnani

ICS Theatre whole-heartedly thanks you for extending us
your help and support for this show. We owe you our
success.



ICS Theatre Fest

Celebrating Five Dramatic Years



Sunday, June 2nd, 2019

George Street Playhouse

103 College Farm Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901



MIDDLESEX
COUNTY • NJ

Grant Funding has been provided by Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders
and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of Department of State.

ICS THEATRE

about us



ICS Theatre (ICST) was established in 2014 as a theater wing of the Indian Cultural Society of East Brunswick (ICS), a not-for-profit organization established in 1999. ICS is a diverse and welcoming group of families who enjoy keeping the Indian culture alive. It truly is a melting pot, just like India's cultural mix. For detailed information, please visit www.indianculturalsociety.com.

ICS Theatre, with an ensemble of seasoned actors and interested novices, stages performances encouraging the local talent of ICS members. Since its inception, ICS Theatre has been dedicated to creating an engaging experience for its members. The group has staged several successful productions like Moliere's *Tartuffe*, Christopher Durang's *An Actor's Nightmare*, David Ives's *All In The Timing*, a workshop production of *Twelve Incompetent Jurors*, William Kovacsik's *The Masrayana*, King Mahendra Vikrama's *The Priest & The Prostitute*, Anton Chekhov's *Chak de Chekhov!*, Vijay Tendulkar's *Silence! The Court is in Session* and a Hindi adaptation of Lorca's *Blood Wedding*. Our plays have been staged at several prestigious Theater Festivals like the South Asian Theater Festivals in NJ and OH, and Natya Darpan in NJ.

In the coming years, ICS Theatre expects to continue to broaden its reach and increase its scope, to involve more enthusiastic people from the community, students and adults, in theater arts through opportunities on stage, backstage and as audience.

For questions or inquiries, email icstheatrenj@gmail.com

For information
www.fb.com/ICSTheatre

MEET THE CREW

cont...



Barkha Kishnani - Assistant Director & Stage Manager is the founding member of ICS Theatre. Her theater achievements include *Rudali*, *Tartuffe*, *Never Mind* and *The Little Clay Cart*. She has assisted Dr. Farley Richmond in *Romance in the Garden* and *Silence! The Court is in Session* and Mr. Mahesh Dattani in *The Masrayana* and *Chak De Chekhov!* After taking center-stage, with Rakt Phera, she once again goes behind the scenes, as the assistant director and stage manager for *Chekhov Express*. This evening, Barkha also has to her credit, the concept of *Vignettes from the Past*.

Sanjay Kripalani - Production Manager - is an Engineer by education and profession. Sanjay's past performances include *Tartuffe*, *It's About Time*, *Romance in the Garden* and *Silence! The Court is in Session* directed by Dr. Farley Richmond and *The Masrayana*, *Chak De Chekhov!* and *Rakt Phera* directed by Mr. Mahesh Dattani. *Chekhov Express* is Sanjay's first experience as Production Manager and Sound Technician.



Vikram Kumar - Music Director is an IT professional by day and a self-taught musician in his spare time. He comes from an artistic family and plays numerous instruments, including the piano, harmonium, dholak, drums, keyboards, guitar and bass. Apart from singing, he also writes and composes his own lyrics and music. This evening you will see him on-stage during the opening performance of ICST Fest.

Poonam Tawney - Asst. Stage Manager & Costume Manager - was born and brought up in Delhi, India. She has been a teacher for children with special needs. As Asst. Stage Manager for *Chekhov Express*, Poonam oversees all things related to costumes and props. Poonam lives in Somerset, New Jersey, with her loving husband.



MEET THE CREW

(a-z)

Sri Alathur - Set and Prop Design - has been involved in the performing arts, both acting and production, since his school days. He started his journey with ICS Theatre with *Romance in the Garden* directed by Dr. Farley Richmond. Sri is the props and set designer for ICS Theatre. He is an ardent Star Wars fan, who fervently studies movie special-effects as he believes they showcase the magic of creativity and technology.



Simran Chugani - Asst. Stage Manager & Costume Manager - was born and brought up in Mumbai, India. She was always interested in the arts and is a self-taught artist. In *Vignettes* and *Chekhov Express*, Simran is in-charge of the costumes and props. She thoroughly enjoys the experience of working with the talented team at ICS Theatre. Simran is a homemaker, who loves meeting and interacting with people. She lives in East Brunswick, New Jersey.



Puja Daga - Choreographer - has been dancing since the early age of three. She has had the honor of being the Lead Choreographer at Satrangi School of Fusion. Puja is the choreographer for *Chekhov Express*. She enjoys working with the ICS Theatre team and hopes to continue her journey along with the group.



Aditya Datey (Writer/Adapter & Music Director) has been a part of the music team for ICS Theatre for *The Masrayana* and *Romance in the Garden*. ICS Theatre's *Chak De Chekhov!* was his first foray into writing and acting. With *Rakt Phera*, he turned lyricist! He penned verses that provided a perfect poetic backdrop to the play.

For *Chekhov Express*, he has adapted and translated stories and forayed into script writing. Aditya is multi-talented and has a keen musical sense. This evening you will see him on-stage during the opening performance of ICST Fest.



FROM THE

artistic director's desk

Dear Friends:

As I look back to that day 5 years back, I am reminded of a few friends sitting in my basement trying to figure out if ICS (yes! there was no ICS Theatre then!) can or should even act! Our concerns, our questions and our apprehensions were all real and through the conversations that day and the many that followed, we realized that our enthusiasm for theater, our drive to create art and our willingness to try our hand at doing something that we had never done before - were all real too!

With both enthusiasm and apprehension, we took our first step in 2014 with *The Imposter*, an adaptation of Moliere's *Tartuffe*. It was ICS's (still no ICS Theatre!) first production with Dr. Farley Richmond at the helm. I remember it like it was yesterday! Many new lessons were learnt then, but the most important realization was that I had bankable support from our group, not just in thought, not just in talk, but also in action. My husband, Dr. Narendra Kishnani became an unconditional contributor both financially and emotionally and my daughters showed their support by being proud of the baby steps their mom and her group were taking! ICS Theatre was born of this complex combination of support, affection, appreciation and our collective "why-not?" attitude.

What started as a small idea within ICS has, 5 years later, grown into a recognized community theatre group. What is most rewarding to me, however, is that ICS Theatre is not just about the people that are driving it, or the people that are acting! ICST is, in fact, about the community that has reached in and supported the arts in the most incredible way. It is truly a community venture, just as community theaters ought to be!



But productions, programs, accolades and appreciation aside, if there is a singular thing that I am the most proud of, it is the team we have at ICS Theatre. Their incredibly infectious energy, their enthusiasm, their creativity, their skill and their inherent goodness is what keeps it all going. ICST is not a building or a structure, ICST is most certainly the people that the group is made of and I cannot end without taking all their names.

I truly believe that you cannot form a team like this even if you tried. This is a special group and I couldn't be prouder to lead this team to what is sure to be an exciting future.

These are **regular people** with day jobs and young families and commutes. They are also people who have the **drive** to follow their **creative pursuit**, make sacrifices and do a **fantastic job** within really the most limited of means.

Niranjan Adur
Sri Alathur
Vriti Bahirwani
Debjani Banerjee
Dhritiman Banerjee
Roni Banerjee
Rumeli Chakraborty
Puja Daga
Aditya Datey
Gayatri Desai
Lavanya Gopal

Shailendra Khurana
Sanjay Kripalani
Barkha Kishnani
Narendra Kishnani
Vikram Kumar
Abhijit Neogy
Khagesh Pathak
Jyoti Presswala
Mazhar Sadikot
Puja Shourie
Triven Thadhani

this is our team! this is ics theatre!

Thank you,
Barkha Kishnani
Slave Driver, Overseer & Guide
06/02/2019

MEET THE CAST

cont...

Mazhar Sadikot born and raised in the heart of Bollywood, Bombay, grew up being a fan of the one and only, Mr. Bachchan "Big B". Destiny and rozi-roti have him living in the world of Hollywood. Mazhar's recent performances include ICS Theatre's *Tartuffe*, *It's About Time* and *Romance in the Garden* directed by Dr. Farley Richmond and *The Masrayana*, *Chak De Chekhov!* and *Rakt Phera* directed by Mr. Mahesh Dattani.



Puja Shourie is a Security Software architect by profession and has been pursuing theater for the last few years. Puja is the founder member of the upcoming Hindi theater group, Prayog. She has worked in productions like *It's About Time*, *Natak Nahi, Ji Jaise Apki Marzi*, *Rakt Beej*, *Romance in the Garden*, *Theatre-In-Breaks* and *Rakt Phera*. Puja lives in Edison with her husband and kids.



Suraj Songire was born in Jalgaon, Maharashtra and was raised on a regular dose of Bollywood. He has a graduate degree in Computer Science and is currently working as an IT professional. After *Silence! The Court is in Session*, this is Suraj's second production with ICS Theatre and he is very optimistic about the opportunity.



Triven Thadhani is a product of Bombay. He grew up in Colaba in the shadows of the NCPA and finally found a way to get into theater with ICS Theatre's *Tartuffe*, directed by Dr. Farley Richmond, *The 12 Incompetent Jurors* directed by Ms. Barkha Kishnani and *Chak de Chekhov!* directed by Mr. Mahesh Dattani. Triven hopes to add more productions under his belt and add to this fledgling list.



MEET THE CAST

cont...



Anil Joseph was born and raised in and around Delhi and is now an East Brunswick local. In his day job, he is a Wall Street technologist. His family enthusiastically encourages him to pursue acting. After *Silence! The Court is in Session*, this is his second production with ICS Theatre. Anil feels privileged to be working with Mr. Mahesh Dattani and is grateful to ICS Theatre for providing him this platform and opportunity.

Shailendra Khurana is an IT Professional with a passion for theater. Shailendra's past performances include Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, *Bhopal*, *Our Town* and *The 39 Steps*. He has been a part of *The Masrayana*, *Chak de Chekhov!* and *Rakt Phera* directed by Mr. Mahesh Dattani and *Romance in the Garden* and *Silence! The Court is in Session* directed by Dr. Farley Richmond.



Khagesh Pathak, a technologist by profession and an artist by nature, has learnt to act from professional stage artists and directors since early childhood. He has played leading roles in plays and has performed in front of large audiences. After *Chak de Chekhov!* and *Rakt Phera* this is his third production with ICS Theatre. Khagesh passionately enjoys singing, painting and of course, acting!



Jyoti Presswala was born and brought up in Mumbai, India. She loves everything related to dance, art and music. This is Jyoti's sixth play with ICS Theatre. She feels blessed to have had the opportunity to work with eminent directors like Dr. Farley Richmond and Mr. Mahesh Dattani. She is a healthcare professional, who loves and enjoys interacting with people. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and daughters.



ICS THEATRE FEST

a lot to celebrate

9 productions. under our belt! Tonight will be the 10th award winning directors like Mr. Dattani and Dr. Farley Richmond

off-Broadway performances invitations to theatre festivals in and out of state.

increased number of participants higher audience reach and engagement

growth in skill and creative artform culturally and geographically diverse audience group



recipient of the grant from the county as a worthy artistic endeavor for our diverse community with a recognized impact.

Community Give back

Our workshops & the Emerging Artists' Program gives the youth in our area and theatre enthusiasts and opportunity to engage and excel in a creative art form.

THE PROGRAM

ICST Thanks (3:00 pm)

An expression of gratitude in honor of those that helped ICS Theatre take its first steps and stood strong in support, always.

Vignettes from the Past (3:30 pm)

A beautiful montage of memorable vignettes presented by ICS Theatre to showcase its journey.

Break (4:30 pm - 4:45 pm)

exit auditorium

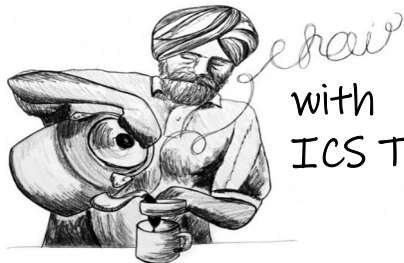
A Picture Worth a Thousand Words (4:45 pm)

A directed play reading, featuring Matthew Lee's winning script from ICS Theatre's Emerging Artists' Playwriting Contest.
Directed by Nikhaar Kishnani

Chekhov Express (5:30 pm)

A Mahesh Dattani play in English and Hindi (with English supertitles)

To ho jaaye!
Thoda chai coffee
thanda garam



with
ICS Theatre!

Post Play Reception & Dinner (7:00 pm)

Meet, mingle & enjoy this celebratory evening!

MEET THE CAST

(a-z)



Debjani Banerjee loves all things related to story-telling and its different forms of expression. This is her eighth play with ICS Theatre and she loves being part of this group. Debjani is the President of the Indian Cultural Society of East Brunswick. She likes to recite and write in her spare time and enjoys being mommy to her two lovely kids.

Gayatri Desai was born and raised in Mumbai and was always inclined towards the arts. Her theater journey began with a chance meeting with Barkha Kishnani. This is Gayatri's fifth production with ICS Theatre. She is thankful to her husband and their two sons for their unending love.



Bharat Gadhavi is a technologist by profession but a movie buff and a sportsman at heart. He loves playing cricket, ping-pong and chess. Dancing is a passion-in-action for Bharat and he has even won awards in Broadway-style dance competitions. Bharat enjoys Sher-o-Shayari and reciting poetry. After *Silence! The Court is in Session*, this is Bharat's second production with ICS Theatre and he is very excited to be a part of it.

Lavanya Gopal started her theatrical stint with New Jersey's 2012 South Asian Theater Festival. She has worked with various theater groups like ICS Theatre, Shakuntal Arts and Columbia University's Nazaara theater. In her spare time, she enjoys making eclectic jewelry and learning Indian classical music. She lives in South Brunswick with her husband and son.



CHEKHOV EXPRESS

crew

Production Manager	Sanjay Kripalani
Stage Manager	Barkha Kishnani
Asst. Stage Manager	Simran Chugani, Poonam Tawney
Lights	Barkha Kishnani
Sound	Sanjay Kripalani
Choreography	Puja Daga
Costumes	Simran Chugani, Poonam Tawney
Props & Set	Sri Alathur, Ronak Kumar, Kamal Tawney
Supertitles (created by)	Aditya Datey
Supertitles (run by)	Dhritiman Banerjee
Photography	Jay Ghosh, Kamal Tawney
Ticketing	Gayatri Desai

creatives

Marketing Design & Publicity	Debjani Banerjee, Gayatri Desai
Flyers	Debjani Banerjee, Komal Mehra
Playbill	Gayatri Desai
Slideshow	Sanjay Kripalani

musicians

Music Composition	Vikram Kumar
Percussion	Aditya Datey

ICST THANKS

Since its inception, ICST has been at the receiving end in so many ways! From a yearly financial grant from ICS to the incredible logistical support from friends like **you!**

You have read scripts for us and given us your homes to rehearse in. You have cooked meals for the cast and you have come and read us cues during rehearsals. You have always been ready with a helping hand, guidance, advice or even just a patient listening ear. For all that and much much more, **WE ARE TRULY TRULY GRATEFUL!**

We have had our moments on stage because of your contribution countless times and today, we want to celebrate you and give you your much deserved spot in the light.

-Many thanks and much love from ICS Theatre

ICS Founders & Trustees

(a-z)

Jaya Bhambhwani, Yogesh Jaluria, Narendra Kishnani, Nandita Verma, Manjeet Ahluwalia., Amita Kapoor,

Our friends:

(a-z)

Viraja Adur, Rohit Baxi, Minal Dalvi, Akshata Dhodapkar, Jayu Ingle, Nikhaar Kishnani, Govind Rajan, Dipan Ray, Puneet Seth, Bharat Shah, Nandita Turkhud, Ashish Verma,

Our Directors:

(a-z)

Mahesh Dattani, Farley Richmond



ICST THANKS

Mayor Brad Cohen

We are grateful to Mayor Brad Cohen for always standing tall in support of ICS and ICS Theatre's Cultural and Arts initiatives. Mayor Cohen is also an active proponent of the harmonious diversity and development that our town enjoys. Today, we are grateful to Mayor Cohen for gracing our anniversary celebration with his presence.

Department of Arts and History - Middlesex County

ICS Theatre is the proud recipient of the Grant Funding provided by Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of Department of State.

We thank Ms. Isha Vyas, Ms. Bethany Widrich & Mr. Michael Moran from the office of the Department of Arts and History for their support and guidance as ICS Theatre went through the application process for the first time.

Dr. Victor Valeski, Superintendent of Schools

The EB schools are a wonderful amalgamation of arts and academics. ICS Theatre thanks Dr. Valeski, the superintendant of the EB school district for his constant and consistent support of the arts.

The staff at EB Schools

This year, ICS Theatre is especially happy to have started the Emerging Artists' Playwriting Contest. Students from Churchill Junior High School and East Brunswick High School got an opportunity to try their hand at writing a full-fledged script. We thank Mr. Vinella, Mr. Sutor, Ms. Jessica Loux, Ms. Kelli Velez, Ms. Trudy Atkins and Ms. Hammond for their encouragement and support.

Uff! Yeh Public! (Hindi, an adaptation of Oh! The Public)

Narrator: Shailendra Khurana
TC Pandey: Khagesh Pathak
TC1: Mazhar Sadikot
TC2: Suraj Songire
Wealthy Woman: Gayatri Desai
Passenger 1: Debjani Banerjee
Passenger 2: Lavanya Gopal
Passenger 3: Jyoti Presswala
Passenger 4: Puja Shourie
Station Master: Triven Thadhani
Man1: Anil Joseph
Man2: Bharat Gadhavi



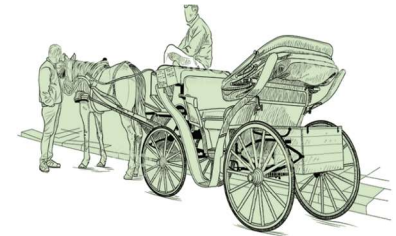
Saalgirah (Hindi, an adaptation of The Arrangement)

Narrator: Triven Thadhani
Nawab: Mazhar Sadikot
Abdul: Suraj Songire
Girl: Puja Shourie
Drunk Man: Triven Thadhani
+Ensemble



Kisko Kahen? (Hindi, an adaptation of Misery)

Narrator: Anil Joseph
Ghodi: Debjani Banerjee
Bhimpalas Mahato: Shailendra Khurana
Sarkari Babu: Triven Thadhani
Drunk Man 1: Bharat Gadhavi
Hunchback: Khagesh Pathak
Drunk Man 2: Mazhar Sadikot
Rosie: Jyoti Presswala
Constable: Anil Joseph
Younger Tangawala: Suraj Songire
+ Ensemble:



An Enigma (English, an adaptation of An Enigmatic Nature)

Narrator: Shailendra Khurana
Shakuntala: Debjani Banerjee
Girish: Suraj Songire
Manoj Banerjee: Bharat Gadhavi
+ Ensemble



CHEKHOV EXPRESS

stories

(adapted by Mahesh Dattani & Aditya Datey)

A Country Cottage (English, an adaptation of A Country Cottage)

Narrator: Gayatri Desai
Varsha: Jyoti Presswala
Sirish: Suraj Songire
Coolie: Bharat Gadhavi
+Ensemble



Natkhat Nari (Hindi, an adaptation of The Malefactor)

Narrator: Mazhar Sadikot
Inspector Kadam: Bharat Gadhavi
Constable 1: Suraj Songire
Prisoner 1: Shailendra Khurana
Constable 2: Anil Joseph
Prisoner 2: Triven Thadhani
Constable Jadhav: Khagesh Pathak
Female Constable: Puja Shourie
Jankibai: Lavanya Gopal
Fisherwoman 1: Debjani Banerjee
Fisherwoman 2: Gayatri Desai
Fisherwoman 3: Jyoti Presswala



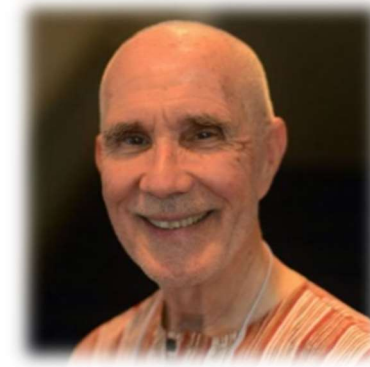
Jaanwar (Hindi, an adaptation of The Cattle Breeder)

Narrator: Bharat Gadhavi
Narayan Joo: Shailendra Khurana
Gopi: Suraj Songire
Shunter, Station Master, Street Seller: Anil Jose
Driver, Butcher: Mazhar Sadikot
Station Master, Cattle Buyer: Khagesh Pathak
Sadhu: Triven Thadhani
+Ensemble



ICST THANKS

dr. farley richmond



Dr. Farley Richmond is Professor in the Department of Theater and Film Studies at the University of Georgia, Athens. Over the years Dr. Richmond has directed numerous plays, both Indian and western. His ICS Theatre productions include *The Imposter*, *It's About Time* and *Silence! The court is in Session*. For Epic Actors he has directed Girish Karnad's

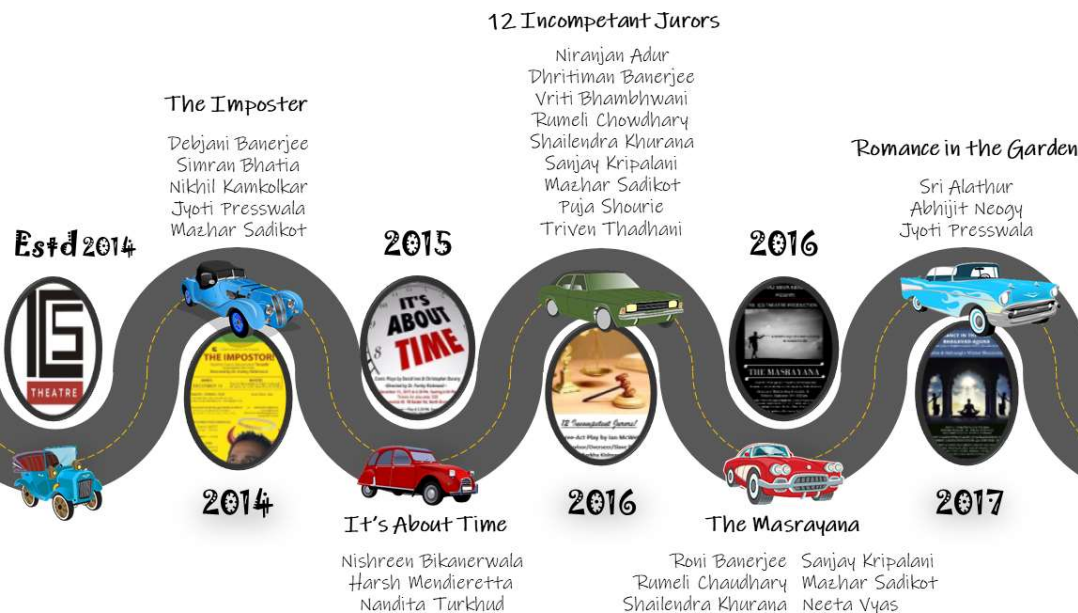
Hayavadana, Tagore's *Sacrifice (Bisarjan)*, performed in Kolkata, in Shantinetakan, New Delhi and at NJPAC. Under his direction, the classical Sanskrit play *The Little Clay Cart* by King Sudraka was also performed at NJPAC. Dr. Richmond has directed plays and musicals like *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Fantasticks*, *Our Town* and *Noises Off*. He has most recently directed BFE for UGA and *A Christmas Carol* for Circle Ensemble, a not-for-profit company in Athens, GA. All his works have garnered a positive critical response. Dr. Richmond has had a long relationship with India. He has traveled to many parts of India on numerous occasions including leading faculty and student trips to study Indian art, theater and music. He continues to research Kutiyattam, the Sanskrit theater of Kerala, perhaps one of the oldest genres of theater that has survived from ancient India (see kutiyattam.wikispaces.com).



Dr. Farley Richmond directed ICS Theatre's first play, *The Imposter* (based on Moliere's *Tartuffe*) in 2014. **He is the one that lovingly nurtured our fledgling artists, deftly guided them and polished their skills.** To date, he has directed *It's About Time*, *Romance in the Garden* and *Silence! The Court is in Session* for ICS Theatre. **Dr. Richmond's contribution to ICS Theatre is immense and we are excited to have an opportunity to celebrate him during ICS Theatre Fest.**

VIGNETTES

from the past



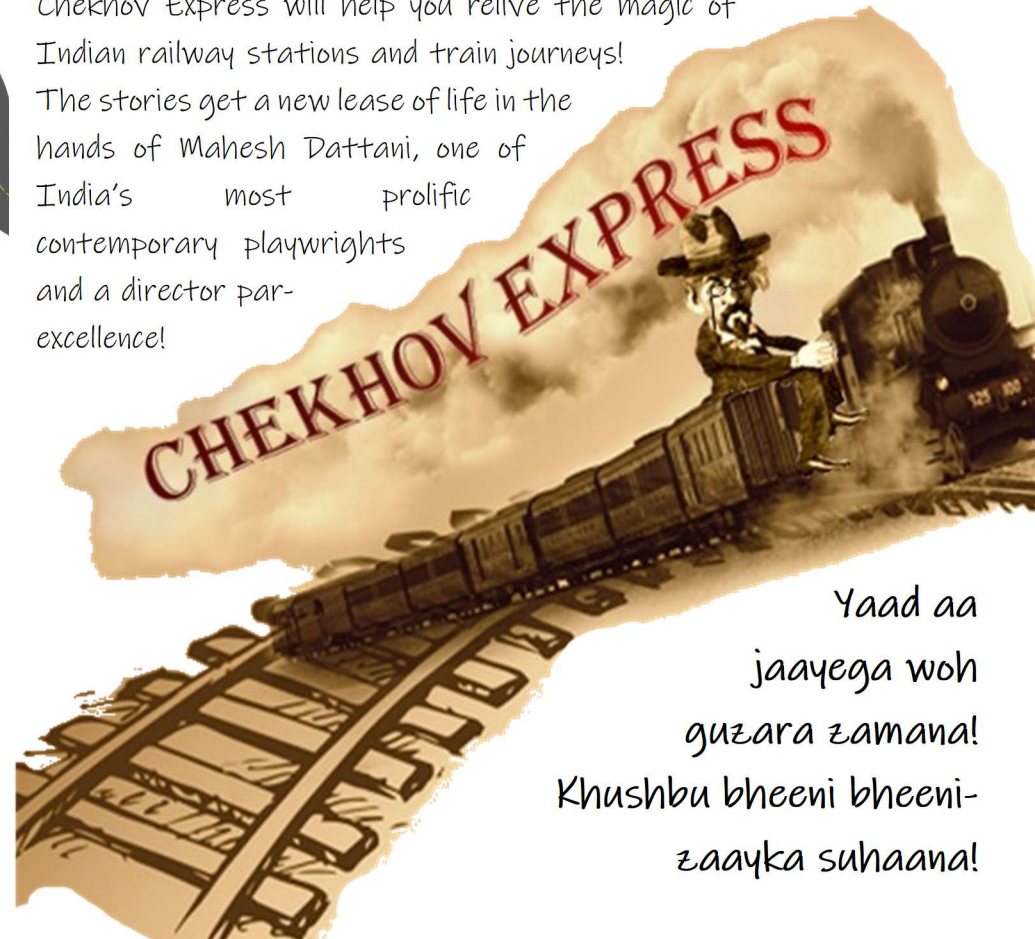
A montage of memorable moments from ICS Theatre's past productions celebrating it's 5-year journey.

Staged as envisioned by Ms. Barkha Kishnani and aided by all, this mammoth venture brings together close to 35 actors on-stage and promises to be one memorable walk down the memory lane for our cast and our audience.

CHEKHOV EXPRESS

a synopsis

ICS Theatre in its 5th anniversary year is bringing to you yet another Chekhovian production, a collection of short stories by Anton Chekhov, adapted to Indian setting. In 2017, with its production Chak De Chekhov!, ICS Theatre found that the tri-state area audience had a deep thirst for these short stories that transcend the barrier of time and place. Stories that transport you to modern day India, in a voice that's fresh, unique and resonant with Chekhov's delicate humor. Chekhov Express will help you relive the magic of Indian railway stations and train journeys! The stories get a new lease of life in the hands of Mahesh Dattani, one of India's most prolific contemporary playwrights and a director par-excellence!



Yaad aa
jaayega woh
guzara zamana!
Khushbu bheeni bheeni-
zaayka suhaana!

CHEKHOV EXPRESS

meet the director

Mr. Mahesh Dattani is a renowned playwright, stage director, screenwriter and filmmaker. His works include *Final Solutions*, *Tara*, *A Collected Works*, *Brief Candle and Other Plays* and most recently *Me and My Plays* published by Penguin. In 1998, Mahesh Dattani won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award for his book *Final Solutions and Other Plays*, the highest award for literary work in India.

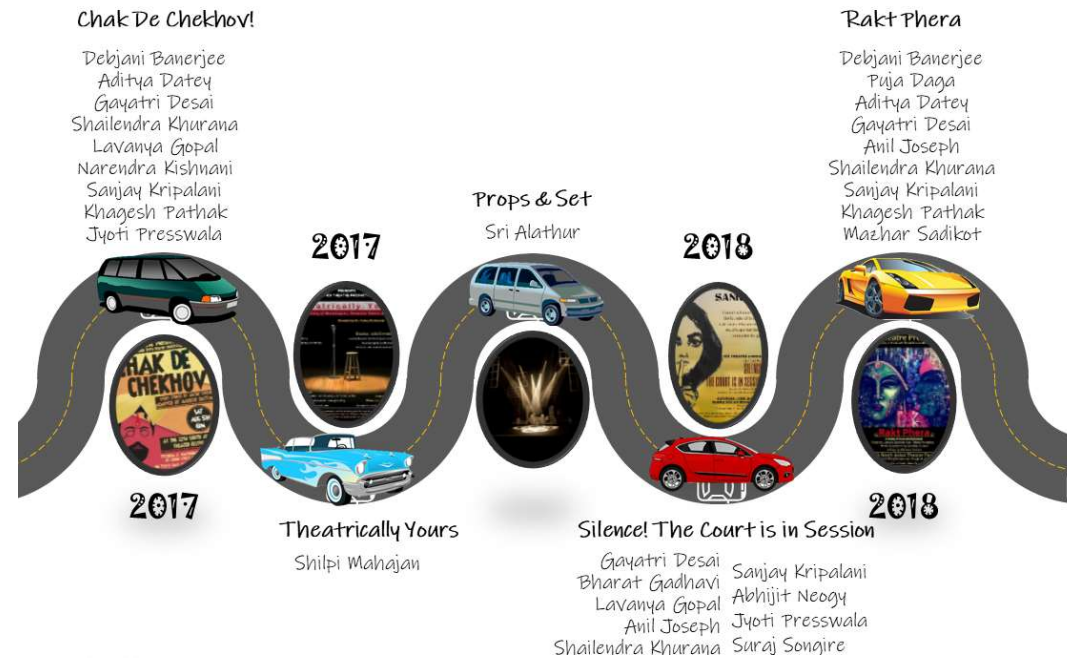


Mahesh is the first playwright, writing in English, to receive this award. Today his plays are produced in all the major cities of India. His works have been produced

राहित्य अकादेमी in cities outside India as well including London, Leicester, New York, Washington DC, Sydney, Colombo, Toronto and Dubai. Most notably, his play, *Dance Like a Man*, has completed 600 performances and continues to tour to date. He has written and directed, *Mango Soufflé*, a film that was adjudged best motion picture at the Barcelona Film Festival in 2003. His film *Morning Raga* (for which he was writer and director) had its international premiere at the Cairo Film Festival where he won the award for best artistic contribution. Most recently, he has directed his play, *30 Days in September*, for Zee Theatre Productions. *Chekhov Express* is his fourth directorial collaboration with ICS Theatre after *Rakt Phera* (in 2018), *The Masrayana* (in 2016) and *Chak De Chekhov!* (in 2017).

That Mr. Dattani is a writer and director par excellence is no news, but for ICS Theatre he is family! He is a mentor and a guide. He has worked tirelessly with our group and helped us dream bigger and scale higher with every production. For all that and much much more we celebrate Mr. Mahesh Dattani during ICS Theatre Fest.

... a beautiful journey!



it's the friends we meet
along the way that make
the journey memorable!

Concept: Ms. Barkha Kishnani
Production Assistants: Simran, Chugani, Poonam Tawney
Slideshow created by: Sanjay Kripalani
Slideshow run by: William Joseph

EMERGING ARTISTS

playwriting contest

Through the Emerging Artists' Playwriting Contest, ICS Theatre of East Brunswick collaborated with the drama club at the East Brunswick High Schools to give the students in East Brunswick an opportunity to showcase their original short play in a staged reading performed by experienced actors at the ICS Theatre Fest.

Our panel of judges selected the winning script from among the many entries that we received. We are incredibly excited to announce the winning script – "A Picture Worth a Thousand Words" written by Matthew Lee, a talented 8th grade playwright from Churchill Junior High School, EB.

A Picture worth a Thousand Words

Written by Matthew Lee

Directed by Nikhaar Kishnani

Actors: Venkatesh Sadagopan & Arindam Shome



Nikhaar Kishnani is a New York based actress. Regional Theatre: A Doll's House, Part 2 at Actors Theatre of Louisville Off-Off Broadway: World Premiere of Veil'd at Astoria Performing Arts Center. Film: Sama, Him&Her&Him. Television: Brown Nation, Code Switched, Geeta's Guide To Moving On, Nepotism. DePaul University and Rutgers University credits: Twelfth Night, The Women Eat Chocolate, Prospero's Storm, The Children's Hour and The

Qualms; The Rimers of Eldritch. Additional Credits: She is a recipient of the iO Chicago Diversity Scholarship and Upright Citizens Brigade Diversity Scholarship. Nikhaar teaches improvisation, voice, and acting workshops, and is one of the voices for L'Oréal cosmetics.

A PICTURE WORTH

a thousand words



Matthew Lee is currently an 8th grade Honors student at Churchill Junior High School in EB. He is thrilled to be the winner of the 2019 Emerging Artists Playwriting Contest and is grateful to ICS theater for this opportunity. Besides dabbling in playwriting, Matthew is an accomplished musician and an avid science lover. He enjoys staying after school to run on the Cross Country and Track and Field teams, holds a black belt in Isshin-Ryu Karate and serves as the Vice President of the Student Council. Matthew would like to thank his family for their support in all his endeavors. He would also like to thank his English teacher Mrs. Hammond and Theatre teacher Ms. Elson for helping him improve his writing.

Arindam Shome was born and raised in the showbiz capital of India – Mumbai and was bitten by the acting bug early. After receiving training via several acting workshops, Arin has performed on stage at various theater fests and competitions, starred in several short films, music videos and few Indian TV shows. Arin pursues his linguistic passion by translating scripts, performing voice-overs and dubbing for movies, commercials and documentaries. Arin is an IT professional serving corporate America in the field of Systems/Network management



Venkatesh Sadagopan (Venky) is the host of Southern Spice (7-9 PM Every Wednesday on 8K Radio). With 'infotainment' as the theme, he takes up issues, incidents, occurrences, current affairs, festivals or a topical subject of interest. His show is all about involving the audience - so taking listeners' calls live on air and having candid unscripted chats is what excites him. Apart from Radio, Venky has dabbled in television as a host / anchor. He has also acted in a full length feature film and a couple of short films. Venky is a business consultant in the IT and Business Process outsourcing industry. He was born and raised in Madras- India, and currently lives in Somerset NJ.