



MEDIA RELEASE

PULITZER PRIZE WINNING PLAY *DISGRACED* OPENS AT THE CITADEL

January 19, 2017

(EDMONTON)

Race, religion, cultural differences, sex – these are all topics our parents told us not to bring up at a party. In his Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Disgraced*, playwright **Ayad Akhtar** throws out the rules of polite society and gives audiences a dinner party worth watching, while posing tough questions surrounding faith, race relationships and the responsibilities inherent in creating art.

Disgraced premiered in Chicago at the American Theatre Company in January 2012, and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2013. In the past five years, it has become a Broadway hit and was the most produced play in North America last season. The Canadian premiere, produced by David Mirvish and Hope and Hell Theatre Company, took place in Toronto in spring 2016 and broke box office records at the Panasonic Theatre.

Hope and Hell Theatre Company brings this stellar production to Edmonton from January 21 to February 12, 2017. **Raoul Bhaneja** returns in the role of Amir, an American-born Muslim with Pakistani parents. Amir, a successful corporate mergers and acquisitions lawyer, and his wife, Emily (played by Bhaneja’s real-life wife, **Birgitte Solem**), host a dinner party that goes awry once the conversation turns to politics, religion and cultural identity. **Karen Glave** and **Michael Rubinfeld** also return as Jory, an African American lawyer on the rise at Amir’s firm, and Isaac, a Jewish art dealer interested in more than just Emily’s paintings. Newcomer **Gabe Grey** rounds out this phenomenal cast as Abe, Amir’s nephew – a Pakistani-born, American-raised youth who asks his uncle for a favour, never realizing what the consequences may be.

This sharply written script and taut, tense production doesn’t provide any easy answers to the questions it raises but instead, will leave audiences reflecting on their assumptions and biases about culture, race and faith and how it plays out in their daily lives.

***Disgraced* opens January 21 and runs until February 12, 2017.**

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Cast

RAOUL BHANEJA	Amir
KAREN GLAVE	Jory
GABE GREY	Abe
MICHAEL RUBENFELD	Isaac

BIRGITTE SOLEM

Emily

Creative Team

Director	ROBERT ROSS PARKER
Assistant Director	SEHAR BHOJANI
Set & Costume Designer	SUE LePAGE
Lighting Designer	REBECCA PICHERACK
Sound Designer	JOHN GZOWSKI
Fight Director	DANIEL LEVINSON
Stage Manager	FIONA JONES
Assistant Stage Manager	SAM HALE

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NOTICE OF MEDIA CALL:

A media call is currently scheduled for **1 p.m., January 24, 2017**, in the **Shoctor Theatre**. A short selected scene will be performed three times so that videographers can obtain footage of the show.

Members of the cast and creative team will be available for interviews.

To RSVP your attendance at Media Call or for more information, contact:

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Government Funders: Government of Alberta; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; City of Edmonton; The Edmonton Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts; Canadian Heritage.

Tickets are available at www.citadeltheatre.com or through the box office at 780.425.1820. Tickets start at just \$30, plus fees and GST.

The Citadel Theatre is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the generous support of donors, sponsors, and foundation and government funders.