



a Brimful of Asha

Featuring Ravi Jain and his real life mom, Asha Jain,
in this heartwarming story of family, marriage & the
quest for the perfect bride!





"You don't get to choose any member of your family. Why do you need to choose your wife?" - Asha Jain



With three extended sold out runs at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre and a world tour in the works, this critically acclaimed hit has proven an instant favorite with audiences everywhere.

Real-life mother and son, Asha and Ravi Jain, share the stage and tell this true (and very Canadian) story of generational and cultural clash. When Ravi takes a trip to India his parents decide it is the perfect time to introduce him to potential brides. Ravi is not sold on the idea of getting married - at least not yet - but Asha fears that time is running out.

What does the title mean?

The title *A Brimful of Asha* comes from a song written by British alternative rock band Cornershop (www.cornershop.com) in 1997 and is based upon the history of film culture in India. Asha is my mother's name. In Hindi it means Hope. This play is about the challenges that arise out of the hope for happiness that you want for your parents (or for your kids).



Praise for a Brimful of Asha

“Fresh, warm family drama – served with samosas - As it turns out, though, the samosas aren’t a tasty bribe but a symbol of what is to come... A Brimful of Asha proves to be a warm, fresh piece of theatre...”

– [The Globe & Mail \(3.5/4 stars\)](#)

“Ravi Jain is a theatre force of nature.”

– [Lynn Slotkin of The Slotkin Letter](#)

“ a charming show” – [The National Post](#)

“Asha is simply wonderful as herself: a clever, subtle woman with an impish sense of humour and a smile that lights up the whole theatre...”

– [Toronto Star \(3.5/4 stars\)](#)

“I walked away with...an overwhelming sense of love and laughter” – [Mooney on Theatre](#)

“a spicy tribute to the Indian mothers and to their perennial hope - asha - for a bride for their young sons” – [South Asian Observer](#)

“No play could be simpler – or more human.”

– [the Mike, St Michaels College University of Toronto](#)

“I was so unbelievably happy to see this play...I only wish my mother came along with us...it would have been like looking in a mirror for her.” - [Noor \(Blogger\)](#)

“Don’t be fooled by their air of informality, however—this is an artfully crafted piece of theatre.”

– [The Grid TO \(8/10\)](#)

“A Brimful of Asha at the Tarragon Extra Space is a runaway hit. The added performances keep selling out, and for good reason. We all have mothers. Most of us come from immigrant parents. Put the two together and you have the perfect storm of a generational culture clash.”

– [Paula Citron](#)

“full to the brim with loving, personal admissions”

– [Now Magazine Toronto \(3/4 N’s\)](#)

“this is theatre at its best — intimate, authentic, hilarious.” – [Spotlight Toronto](#)

“90 minutes of sheer entertainment and moving testimony” – [Bateman Reviews](#)

“Five Enthusiastic Thumbs Up!” – [Melissa Peters](#)

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime must-see play”

– [UC Drama Critics](#)

“Take your parents along too – you both may learn a thing or two!”

– [Two Mangoes](#)

About the Performers

Ravi Jain is a multi-award-winning actor, director, producer, educator, arts-activist and Artistic Director of Why Not Theatre. His acting credits include the Dora Award-winning SPENT (Theatre Smith-Gilmour/Why Not Theatre/TheatreRUN) and A Brimful of Asha (Why Not Theatre/Tarragon). Ravi was the 2010 Urjo Kareda Resident Artist at Tarragon when he began to develop A Brimful of Asha. His company was in residence at the Theatre Centre when he developed I'm So Close (winner of Spotlight Award at SummerWorks 2009, and toured to Dublin and Vancouver). He has assisted notable directors Daniel Brooks (Necessary Angel's Hardsell), Richard Rose (Tarragon's Courageous) and Jennifer Tarver (Stratford's King of Thieves), the latter as part of the inaugural Michael Langham Workshop for Classical Direction at the Stratford Festival. Select directing credits for Why Not include The Prince Hamlet, I'm So Close, A Brimful of Asha, Greenland (winner of NOW Audience Choice Award and Best Production SummerWorks '09), Iceland (winner of NOW Audience Choice Award and Best New Play SummerWorks '12). Currently, Ravi is among 12 resident artists at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts and was a member of the DiverseCity Fellows program, which aims to diversify leadership across sectors in Toronto. Ravi is engaged in many different arts organizations and creations across the city and the globe, including the programming committee for the Daniels Spectrum as well as the Artist Advisory Committee for ArtReach Toronto. He was recently awarded the 2012 Pauline McGibbon Award and is the Artistic Director-in-Residence at the Theatre Centre for 2013.

Asha Jain grew up in New Delhi, India. Upon completion of her Master's Degree, she married in 1974, which led to her immigration to Canada. While supporting her husband Ramesh in the founding of his own business, she raised two boys, Anurag and Ravi. She is a wonderful mother, wife and now a very funny actor. She is excited to be sharing this story with the world, in order to finally prove her son wrong.



Asha: "a marriage is not just between two individuals but between two families..."

Ravi: "But I don't want to marry her family!"



Creative team:

Written and performed by **Ravi Jain and Asha Jain**

Directed by **Ravi Jain**

Set Design by **Julie Fox**

Lighting and Video Design by **Beth Kates (Playground Studios)**

Publicity Interview Videos by **Kate Fraser and Nabil Shash (Heartist Productions)**

Web/Graphic Design by **Owais Lightwala**



World Tour:

Tarragon Theatre, **Toronto ON** - **Jan 2012, Dec 2012, April 2013**

The Grand Theatre, **London ON** - **March 2013**

SPARK Festival, Belfry Theatre, **Victoria BC** - **March 2013**

Magnetic North Theatre Festival, **Ottawa ON** - **June 2013**

Usine C, **Montreal QC** - **Oct 2013**

High Performance Rodeo, **Calgary AB** - **Jan 2014**

PUSH Festival, **Vancouver BC** - **Jan 2014**

Soulpepper Theatre, **Toronto ON** - **Mar 2014**

Western Canada Theatre, **Kamloops BC** - **Apr 2014**

Spoletto Festival, **Charleston, South Carolina, USA** - **May 2014**



"the younger generation is the future, but they have no common sense." -Asha Jain

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