

Arts Club Theatre Company's

THE ORCHARD

(AFTER CHEKHOV)

By Sarena Parmar

March 21–April 21, 2019 (Media opening: March 27)

IN BRIEF The Arts Club presents **Sarena Parmar's *The Orchard (After Chekhov)***, a timeless family drama set in the Okanagan Valley, playing from **March 21 to April 21** at the **Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage**. Tickets from \$29 at artsclub.com or the Arts Club Box Office at 604.687.1644

VANCOUVER, B.C. (March 4, 2019)—A contemporary Canadian drama is up next at the Arts Club's Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage.

Sarena Parmar's *The Orchard (After Chekhov)* is an adaptation of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*, but told through the lens of a Punjabi-Sikh family in the Okanagan Valley. With the bank calling and money low, will the Basrans be able to save their beloved orchard? Inspired by the playwright's own childhood, this fresh adaptation confronts life, loss, and the Canadian immigrant experience with humour and beauty.

Parmar was born in Prince George and raised in Kelowna. Her family is originally from Punjab, India. She has extensive film, television, and theatre acting credits. She became the first South Asian playwright to be produced by the Shaw Festival when *The Orchard (After Chekhov)* premiered last summer. A graduate of the National Theatre School and the Birmingham Conservatory of Classical Theatre, Parmar is also a recipient of the Elliott Hayes Playwright Development Fund awarded by the Stratford Festival.

Artistic Director **Ashlie Corcoran** said, "I have always loved Chekhov's writing—and *The Cherry Orchard* in particular—but what grabbed me about Sarena's play was its particular sense of place. The play has a great sense of longing and melancholy, infused with contemporary humour and humanity which transposes Chekhov's writing for our Arts Club audience, in our time."

Director **Jovanni Sy** added, "This play really spoke to me—it's about people in search of identity and the factors out of their control that keep them disoriented."

"Brilliantly takes its own path" —*The Globe and Mail*

STARRING

Praneet Akillia (Yash), **Yoshié Bancroft** (Donna/Boy), **Kai Bradbury** (Yebi), **Andrew Cownden** (Michael), **Tom McBeath** (Paul), **Andrea Menard** (Charlie), **Risha Nanda** (Annie), **Adele Noronha** (Barminder), **Nadeem Phillip** (Peter), **Laara Sadiq** (Loveleen), **Munish Sharma** (Gurjit), **Parm Soor** (Kesur)



High-resolution images at artsclub.com/media from March 8 (username: **journalist**; password: **photos4media**)

#ACTCOrchard

CREATIVE TEAM

Jovanni Sy (Director), **Marshall McMahan** (Set Designer), **Barbara Clayden** (Costume Designer), **Sophie Tang** (Lighting Designer), **Joelysa Pankanea** (Sound Designer), **Angela Beaulieu** (Stage Manager), **Peter Jotkus** (Assistant Stage Manager), **Gavan Cheema** (Assistant Director & Cultural Creative Consultant), **Stephanie Wong** (Assistant Set Designer), **June Fukumura** (Japanese Dialect Coach), **Danny Virtue** (Lasso Coach), **Guillermo Verdecchia** (Dramaturg), **Gurpreet Chana** (Punjabi Translator), **Aya Ogawa** (Japanese Translator)

SHOWTIMES

Tue–Thu at 7:30 PM, Fri & Sat at 8 PM, Wed at 1:30 PM, and Sat & Sun at 2 PM

ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club, one of the largest not-for-profit theatre companies in the country, is the principal gathering place for the theatrical arts in British Columbia. Comprising three unique venues across Vancouver, the Arts Club welcomes more than a quarter million guests annually, tours provincially and nationally, and engages students and artists alike through educational and professional programs.

Above all, the Arts Club is dedicated to the advancement of local artists telling stories from around the globe and, in particular, those of our region. From this, we believe that culture expands, an understanding of differences is nurtured, and art bursts forth. The Arts Club was founded in 1964 and is currently led by Artistic Director Ashlie Corcoran and Executive Director Peter Cathie White.