

For Immediate Release:
September 20th, 2011

Experience a new kind of Shakespeare

Hamlet {Solo}

With Raoul Bhaneja **Directed by** Robert Ross Parker

Friday, October 7th at 7:30 pm

St. Albert, AB – A mesmerizing tour-de-force performance of Shakespeare’s epic poem has one man performing every role with virtuosic swagger. On **October 7th** at the **Arden Theatre**, Canadian actor **Raoul Bhaneja** will astound audiences with his extraordinary interpretation of one of the great humanist dramas of all time. ***Hamlet {Solo}*** exposes a rare theatrical intelligence using the most basic elements of theatre, text and actor.

Originally from Ottawa, actor Raoul Bhaneja takes on 17 different roles in this emotionally intimate and powerful version of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*. Offering a modernistic approach while never losing sight of the play’s lyrical essence, *Hamlet {Solo}* allows the great play to speak for itself.

“This is riveting. Hamlet {Solo} offers up the essence of Shakespeare’s brilliance, an opportunity to bathe in the bard’s wildly inventive language and, in Bhaneja’s skilled hands, its ability to convey the nuance and range of human emotion.”

~ NYTHEATRE.COM (USA)

A hold over hit at the 2008 Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival, Raoul has performed *Hamlet {Solo}* around the world, including The Banff Summer Arts Festival, The soloNOVA Festival at New York’s PS122, and The Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Winner of the Montreal English Critic’s Circle Award for Best Visiting Production, this much lauded production was also the subject of a 2007 Gemini Nominated BRAVO! documentary directed by Jeff Stephenson charting its seven-year development. Raoul is often recognized for his work in television as well, having had recurring roles on *Train 48*, *Runaway*, and *The Dresden Files*, along with appearances in several CBC projects.

Tickets for *Hamlet {Solo}* are **\$25** (plus facility fee). Visit the **Arden Theatre Box Office** in person (5 St. Anne Street), purchase by phone at 780-459-1542, or through Ticketmaster* at 1-855-985-5000 or ticketmaster.ca.

* Agency fee in effect.

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For more information, please contact:

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Biographies

Raoul Bhaneja is an accomplished National Theatre School of Canada graduate and Gemini Award nominee. Bhaneja's theatre credits include The Stratford Shakespeare Festival's *Rice Boy*, Tarragon Theatre's *Bashir Lazhar*, *House of Many Tongues*, *Helen's Necklace* and *The Domino Heart*; *Hamlet* for Neptune Theatre and seasons with Souleppper Theatre and The Blyth Festival. In 2002 he was awarded The Christopher Plummer Fellowship and was a member for the International Company at Shakespeare's Globe in London. Television credits include recurring roles on *Train 48* (Global) *Runaway* (The CW) *The Dresden Files* (Sci-Fi) and he has starred in several CBC projects including *At The Hotel*, *Open Heart*, *The Summit*, *The Ron James Show*, *Little Mosque On The Prairie* and *Insecurity*. His feature films include *A Wake*, *At Home By Myself... With You*, *Ararat*, *Godsend*, *Touch of Pink*, *The Sentinel* opposite Michael Douglas and *Wierdsville*, directed by Allan Moyle. An accomplished musician, his band Raoul and The Big Time was selected by Toronto's NOW Magazine as Best Blues Artist and has released four recordings since 2000. This season he returns to The Tarragon for the *Wide Awake Hearts* and Canadian Stage for *Cosmonaut*.

Robert Ross Parker is a BFA Concordia and MFA Ohio University graduate who makes his home in New York where he is the co-artistic director of the Obie winning Vampire Cowboys. For Vampire Cowboys he has directed *Vampire Cowboy Trilogy*, *A Beginner's Guide to Deicide*, *Living Dead in Denmark*, *Men of Steel*, *Fight Girl/Battle World*, *Soul Samurai*, and *Alice in Slasherland*. For the VC Saturday Night Saloon series he wrote *Jimmy Starshooter Must Get Laid*, and *Radio Monster Theatre: The Further Adventures of Henry and Victor*. Other recent directing credits include *Goodbye Cruel World* (also adapter, Roundtable Ensemble), and numerous projects for Ensemble Studio Theatre where he was a young director in residence. As an actor, Robert played the title role in The Flying Machine's *Frankenstein* at Soho Rep, and on tour, and played the March Hare in their production of *Alice in Wonderland*. He is the editor of The Dramatist, the Journal of the Dramatists Guild of America.