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For Immediate Release

## **SAN DIEGO REPERTORY THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST OF *HOUSE OF JOY***

**San Diego, CA – January 21, 2019 - San Diego Repertory Theatre** (San Diego REP) announced today the cast and creative team for *House of Joy*, the fifth show in the theatre's 44<sup>th</sup> season. The production, written by **Madhuri Shekar** and directed by **Sam Woodhouse**, the theatre's Artistic Director, and **Arpita Mukherjee**, will run **March 5 – 29, 2020**, in San Diego REP's Lyceum Space Theatre, with previews **March 5 – 10** and press opening on **Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.**

Set in the 17th century, in a place like Delhi, India, *House of Joy* spins the tale of Hamida, one of the elite female bodyguards in the Emperor's Imperial Harem. When faced with an impossible ethical quandary, Hamida goes against everything she believes and risks her life to help abused Queen Mariyam escape the heavily guarded harem. Inspired by the epic legends of Indian history, Shekar has crafted a swashbuckling action-adventure romance centering on strong women who battle each other as well as a world threatening to enter their sacred space. This wildly entertaining story of palace intrigue and betrayal features sword fights, narrow escapes and sparks of revolution that culminates in a breathtaking conclusion!

"*House of Joy* is an action adventure ride that tells the stories of the women in a 17th century mughal harem. Like any great story, it has thrills, romance, suspense and heartbreak. It also reminds us that history is stranger than fiction," say directors Woodhouse and Mukherjee. "In this intimate production in the round, the audience is situated inside the story, where they can experience every twist and turn in a visceral way."

The ensemble cast of San Diego REP's production is led by **Devereau Chumrau** playing "Hamida." Chumrau received her MFA from Asolo Conservatory at Florida State University, and has trained internationally at the University of Ghana and the London Study Centre of the Arts. Select television and film credits include HBO's *Dexter*, Comedy Central's *Key & Peele*, OWN Network's *Raising Whitely* and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox's *Alita: Battle Angel*.

Joining Chumrau are **Karthik Srinivasan** (*Orange* at South Coast Repertory, *Shiv* at Theatre at Boston Court) as "Thermometer," **Shaun Tuazon** (*Vietgone* at San Diego REP, *Girlfriend* at Diversionary Theatre) as "Salima," **TaiReikca L.A.** (*T.O.A.S.T* and *Body of Faith* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival) as "Roshni," **Mondis Vakili** (*A Thousand Splendid Suns* at The Old Globe, *Dust* at Cygnet Theatre) as "Noorah," **Tamara Rodriguez** (*KISS MY AZTEC*, *Up Here* at La Jolla Playhouse) as "Mariyam," **Ulka Simone Mohanty** (*The Moodys* on Fox, *Cutthroat Kitchen* on Food Network) as "Gulal," **Deepti Kingra** (*An Ideal Husband* at Cranbrook Court Theatre Company, *Border Grill* at Scripps Ranch Theatre) as "Ensemble" and **Ka'imi Kuoha** (a 7<sup>th</sup> degree black belt) as "Ensemble."

The creative team features **Yoon Bae** (Scenic Design), **Jennifer Brawn Gittings** (Costume Design), **David Cuthbert** (Lighting & Projection Design), **Kevin Anthenill** (Sound Design and Compositions), **Edgar Landa** (Fight Director), **Kendra Stockton** (Stage Manager), **Chelsea Smith** (Production Manager) and **Kim Heil** (Associate Producer & Casting Director).

*House of Joy* is proudly sponsored by **Peggy and John Holl** and **Drs. Irv and Donna Silverstein**. San Diego REP's 44<sup>th</sup> season is sponsored by **Joan and Irwin Jacobs**, **Larry Alldredge** and **Dawn Moore** and **Susan and Morton La Pittus**. Financial support is provided by the **City of San Diego**.

**MADHURI SHEKAR (PLAYWRIGHT)** was born in California and grew up in India, and after a couple of quick detours in Singapore and London, made her first grown-up home in Los Angeles. She currently shuttles between Jersey City, Los Angeles and Chennai. Her new audio play *Evil Eye* debuted on the Audible best-seller list in May 2019. Her play *Queen* had its world premiere in April 2017 at Victory Gardens Theatre in Chicago, and was nominated for a Jeff Award for Best New Play. She has received two commissions from Atlanta's Alliance Theater (*Bucket of Blessings* and *Antigone, Presented by the Girls of St. Catherine's*), which were both produced in subsequent seasons. She has also been commissioned by the Kennedy Center, South Coast Rep and Victory Gardens. Her plays have also been developed or showcased at Center Theatre Group, the Old Globe, the Kennedy Center, the Hedgebrook Playwrights Festival (in conjunction with Seattle Rep) and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She has an MFA in Dramatic Writing from USC, and a dual Master's degree in Global Media and Communications from the London School of Economics and USC. She is a 2018 alumnus of the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights program at Juilliard. She is an alumna of the Ma-Yi writers lab, the Ars Nova Play Group and the Center Theatre Group Writers Workshop, and a co-creator of the Shakespearean web series, *Titus and Dronicus*. She became a member of New Dramatists in 2019. She is a staff writer for the upcoming HBO show *The Nevers*.

**SAM WOODHOUSE (DIRECTOR)** co-founded San Diego REP with D.W. Jacobs in 1976, and has since worked as a director, producer or actor on more than 280 productions. As an actor, he has performed on The REP stages in *The Seafarer*, in the title role of *King Lear*, *Proof*, *Hamlet* and with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra in the title role of Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat*. His recent directorial work with The REP includes: *Bad Hombres/Good Wives*, *Sweat*, *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *Fun Home*, *Beachtown*, *Hand to God*, *EVITA*, *Into the Beautiful North*, *Manifest Destinitis*, *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn*, *The Oldest Boy*, *Violet*, *Oedipus El Rey*, *Honky*, *El Henry* (with La Jolla Playhouse), *Detroit*, *Venus in Fur*, *In the Heights*, *Federal Jazz Project*, *Clybourne Park* and *The Who's TOMMY*. In 2011, he directed *American Night: The Ballad of Juan José* for the Denver Center Theatre Company. In 2003, he was awarded the Patté Shiley Award for Lifetime Achievement by KPBS and the prestigious Alonzo Award by the Downtown San Diego Partnership. In 2006, he and Jacobs were honored with the Craig Noel Award by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle for 30 years of artistic dedication to downtown and diversity.

**ARPITA MUKHERJEE (DIRECTOR)** is the Artistic Director of Congressional Award winning Hypokrit Theatre Company. Recent: *Elements of Change* with UNICEF, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater and Greenpoint Innovations (Director), *Eh Dah: Questions for My Father* (a reading) by Aya Aziz at All For One Theatre (Director), *The Djinn* by Divya Mangwani at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater (Director), *Monsoon Wedding the Musical* at Berkeley Rep (Original Dramaturg, Associate Director), *Queen – A Reading – Ma-Yi Theater Company* (Director), *Appeasing Radhika* - Baruch College (Director), *An Evening of Indian Classics* at Theater for the New City (Director), *Romeo and Juliet* at the Access Theater (Director), *My First Time – DC premiere* (Director), *How to Succeed as an Ethnically*

*Ambiguous Actor* – Off-Broadway (Co-Writer/Creative Producer). Awards/Nominations: Best Book at New York Musical Festival, nominated for Best Director at Planet Connections Theatre Festivity, Congressional Award for Diversity in the Arts - Hypokrit Theatre Company. Arpita is a member of the WP Theater 2018-2020 Directors Lab, the 2018 Eugene O' Neill National Directing Fellow, a 2019 Mabou Mines Resident Artist, a member of the 2018 Lincoln Center Directors Lab and a 2018 Jonathan Alper Directing Fellow.

### **About San Diego Repertory Theatre**

San Diego Repertory Theatre (San Diego REP) produces intimate, provocative and inclusive theatre. Founded in 1976, San Diego Repertory Theatre is downtown San Diego's resident theatre, promoting an interconnected community through vivid works that nourish progressive political and social values and celebrates the multiple voices of our region. The company produces and hosts over 550 events and performances year-round on its three stages at the Lyceum Theatre. Since moving to the Lyceum, The REP has produced 54 main stage productions by Latino playwrights, and more than 45 world premieres. The company has received more than 200 awards for artistic excellence from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, Patté Theatre Awards, NAACP, Backstage West, Dramalogue and StageSceneLA. In 2005, the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle presented The REP with the Craig Noel Award "For 30 Years of Artistic Dedication to Downtown and Diversity." San Diego Repertory Theatre feeds the curious soul. To learn more about San Diego Repertory Theatre, to purchase tickets, or make a donation, visit [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org). Join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (@SanDiegoREP).

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### **FACT SHEET**

#### ***House of Joy***

Written by Madhuri Shekar

Directed by Sam Woodhouse and Arpita Mukherjee

**Performance Dates:** March 5 – 29, 2020

**Previews:** March 5 – 10, 2020

**Press Opening:** Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00pm

**Closing:** Sunday, March 29 at 2:00pm

**Synopsis:** Inspired by the epic legends of Indian history, this wildly entertaining story of palace intrigue and betrayal features sword fights, narrow escapes and sparks of revolution that culminate in a breathtaking conclusion!

**Cast:**

**Devereau Chumrau** as “Hamida”

**Karthik Srinivasan** as “Thermometer”

**Shaun Tuazon** as “Salima”

**TaiReikca L.A.** as “Roshni”

**Mondis Vakili** as “Noorah”

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**Ulka Simone Mohanty** as “Gulal”

**Deepti Kingra** as “Ensemble”

**Ka’imi Kuoha** as “Ensemble”

**Creative Team:**

**Directors:** Sam Woodhouse and Arpita Mukherjee

**Scenic Design:** Yoon Bae

**Costume Design:** Jennifer Brawn Gittings

**Lighting & Projection Design:** David Cuthbert

**Sound Design & Compositions:** Kevin Anthenill

**Fight Director:** Edgar Landa

**Production Manager:** Chelsea Smith

**Stage Manager:** Kendra Stockton

**Company Manager & Technical Director:** Sarah Zimmerman

**Associate Producer & Casting Director:** Kim Heil

**Properties Manager:** Katie Toretta

**Performance Schedule:**

Previews:

- Thursday, March 5 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 6 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 7 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Night:

- Wednesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Regular Performances:

- Thursday, March 12 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 13 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00pm
- Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 19 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 20 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 27 at 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 28 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Closing Night:

- Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 p.m.

**Ticket Prices:** \$25.00-\$72.00

**Ticket Information:**

Tickets are on sale now. Tickets range from \$25.00 to \$72.00 and can be purchased in-person at the San Diego REP Box Office, by calling 619-544-1000, or online at [sdrep.org](http://sdrep.org). Active-duty military, teachers, group and senior discounts are available. Student tickets are available for all performances at ½ off regularly priced seats. Prices subject to change.

**Location:**

San Diego Repertory Theatre  
79 Horton Plaza  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Box Office:**

Phone: 619.544.1000  
Website: [www.sdrep.org](http://www.sdrep.org)

**Parking:**

Parking is available in the Horton Plaza parking garage for \$8 with validation. Enter the garage from Fourth Avenue just south of the Balboa Theatre. Follow entrance lanes, then turn right and continue to the third level to park. Horton Plaza parking tickets (issued from machines at entry) may be validated in the Lyceum Theatres lobby during your show. Validation will allow patrons to pay a flat \$8 rate.

**Please note:** If you do not validate your ticket at the theatre, the current rate charged at exit is \$2.00 for every 15 minutes (daily maximum charge = \$48.00). Westfield Horton Plaza parking garage rates are subject to change at any time. For any additional ABM Parking information, contact ABM Parking at 619.233.1491.

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