



AUG 30, 2018
FOR MORE INFO, PHOTOS, INTERVIEWS
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The Cultch presents

A VANCOUVER GULDASTA

SACHA (Vancouver), Presented with Diwali in BC

WHEN: Oct 2 – 21

Oct 2, 8PM: Preview

Oct 3, 8PM: Opening

Oct 4 – 6, 9 – 13, 16 – 20, 8PM

Oct 7 & 14, 7PM

Oct 7, 14, 21, 2PM

Post show Q&As will follow each performance

WHERE: VANCITY CULTURE LAB

1895 Venables St.

TICKETS: Tickets from \$24. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or tickets.thecultch.com.

After a sold out run in 2017, *A Vancouver Guldasta* is back, taking over the Vancity Culture Lab, as part of Diwali in BC

(Vancouver, BC) – The Cultch is pleased to present the South Asian Canadian Histories Association (SACHA) production of *A Vancouver Guldasta*—part of 2018's Diwali in BC celebrations. *A Vancouver Guldasta* will run Oct 2-21 at the Vancity Culture Lab.

In the early 1980s, the local Vancouver Punjab community was profoundly shaken when, over 10,000 kms away in Amritsar, Punjab, India, one of the holiest Sikh Temples, known as "The Golden Temple" was invaded by armed government forces. This event, codenamed "Operation Bluestar," profoundly dichotomized the community, creating rifts that would last for decades. *A Vancouver Guldasta* chronicles the experiences of the Dhaliwals—a Punjabi family—as they navigate through the experience of trauma and violence occurring in Punjab, and their daughter's complicated friendship with Andy, the Vietnamese refugee teen who lives in their basement. Written and directed by Paneet Singh (*The Undocumented Trial of William C. Hopkinson*), *A Vancouver Guldasta* is an examination of common experience, identifying home, and processing trauma.

In its first run as a site-specific production, *A Vancouver Guldasta* was staged inside the living room of a standing Vancouver Special home in South Vancouver. The run sold out all fifteen scheduled shows by the third show, and added a hold over show, which also sold out. Heather Redfern, Executive Director of The Cultch, had a chance to see it then and immediately knew she wanted it included in The Cultch's 2018/19 Season. "*A Vancouver Guldasta* is so full of heart," says Redfern. "When Rohit Chokhani (Artistic Director, Diwali in BC) and I saw it, we knew we wanted to program it. I cannot wait to have it on our stage, as part of Diwali in BC, this fall."

"Personal experience is at the heart of much of my work, so I invite you into the experience of this production. Experience the tension, the rage, the love, the family and the process."

— Paneet Singh, Writer/Director

Written and Directed by: **Paneet Singh**
Produced by: **Rohit Chokhani**, Artistic Director of Diwali in BC.
Starring: **Arshdeep Purba, Lou Ticzon, Parm Soor, Gunjan Kundhal**
Set and Costume Designer: **Adelaide Wilder**
Stage Manager: **Andrew Wade**
Hair and Make-Up: **Kaeko Fujiyama**
Lighting Designer: **TBD**

ABOUT DIWALI IN BC:

Diwali in BC is honoured to have its home on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish people of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and Səl̓ílwətał Nations. Diwali in BC, which falls under the Raghupriya Arts and Culture Society, is a new initiative founded and produced by Rohit Chokhani. After producing and curating numerous Diwali celebrations over Metro Vancouver for the last four years, culminating in a Jessie Richardson theatre award, Rohit is embarking on this new, bold and ambitious initiative to make the Diwali Celebrations province-wide over the next five years. This initiative was founded in 2017 in Metro Vancouver during its launch year of 2017. The second annual Diwali in BC celebrations will take place over 5 weeks from Oct-Nov, 2018. Diwali in BC is an annual multicultural Multi-Disciplinary Inclusive festival that aims to showcase artists from diverse backgrounds and different abilities to celebrate the festival of lights during the annual Indian New Year. www.diwalibc.ca

ABOUT SACHA:

The South Asian Canadian Histories Association (SACHA) was established in 2016 to bring together art, history, and research. Our aim is to explore the intersections of where our experiences and identities connect. Our mandate is to create, facilitate, support, and exhibit arts and research-driven initiatives rooted in South Asian Canadian history, culture, and identity; to provide avenues for academics, artists, and activists to connect with each other and various communities through the exploration of arts and research; and to offer a platform for members of the South Asian community to share their stories and provide public access to performances, art, oral histories, and archived media. www.sachacanada.ca

ABOUT THE CULTCH:

Since 1973, The Cultch (formally the Vancouver East Cultural Centre) has been one of Vancouver's most diverse and innovative arts and cultural hubs. The organization operates three theatrical venues, a gallery, and various ancillary spaces in the heart of East Vancouver. The Cultch offers dynamic contemporary programming in theatre, dance, music, and the visual arts, bringing world-class cultural presentations to thousands of citizens each year through its own programming and through providing rental opportunities for community users. Our purpose is to provide a venue for performance that serves a diverse and engaged public and provides space for artistic experimentation and development, building an audience for local companies and presenting cutting-edge national and international work. www.thecultch.com