

"Seven.11 Convenience Theatre (2006)" looks at immigrant life in America...by way of the convenience store

DESIPINA & COMPANY is pleased to announce "SEVEN.11 CONVENIENCE THEATRE (2006)," the fourth annual edition of their critically-acclaimed series that explores the alternately funny and poignant aspects of immigrant life in America via seven eleven-minute plays and musicals--all set within the confines of a 7-11 convenience store. Directed by DARROW CARSON, the production runs from March 30th through April 16th with an opening date of April 6th at THE KRAINE THEATRE, 85 East 4th Street. The performance schedule is Thursdays-Saturdays at 8:00 PM and Sundays at 2:00 PM. Tickets are \$17 (\$11 student rush tickets at the door with a valid ID) and are available through Smarttix at (212) 868-4444 or via the web at [www.SmartTix.com](http://www.SmartTix.com). For more information on the production, please log onto the official website at [www.desipina.org](http://www.desipina.org).

"SEVEN.11 CONVENIENCE THEATRE (2006)" features seven diverse eleven-minute-long plays and musicals, all of which are set in a 7-11 convenience store. Ranging from the humorous (an out-of-work actor from Broadway's "Bombay Dreams" working at a 7-11 finds true love over the Slurpee machine) to the serious (a desperate teenage girl runs away from home to escape an arranged marriage), the works together form a compelling mosaic of the joys and sorrows of immigrant life in America.

The three previous editions of the "SEVEN.11" series were produced at the Lower East Side's Tenement Theatre, where they were lauded by audiences and critics alike. Martin Denton from NYTheatre.com called the evening "a consistent delight...thrillingly diverse in terms of ethnicity, creative contributors and points of view. The result is a lively, exciting, interesting look at contemporary life, as seen from vantage points not typically assumed is so-called mainstream theatre." Offoffonline.com wrote that "you will never look at a convenience store the same way again."

Featured in the cast: SEAN T. KRISHNAN (Tony Kushner's "Homebody/Kabul" at New York Theatre Workshop, guest appearances on TV's JAG and Law & Order), JEROLD E. SOLOMAN (national tour of "Big River"), BILL CALEO ("Uncle Vanya" with Amanda Plummer at the McCarter) as well as MEETU CHILANA, ANDREW GUILARTE, JOHN WU and ALICIA YING.

According to Desipina & Company Producing Director ROHI MIRZA PANDYA, the convenience store is the perfect unifying symbol for the overall message of the project. "Immigrants coming to the United States often compose their own versions of American culture by combining elements from their heritage with American customs. Particularly within the South Asian community, culture is framed in part by that uniquely American mainstay, the convenience store. Using this potent symbol allows us to challenge the existing stereotypes of immigrants while also exploring the diversity of South Asian and Asian Pacific American cultural experiences."

The seven plays featured in "SEVEN.11 CONVENIENCE THEATRE (2006)" include:

- **Bombay Screams** by Rehana Mirza. An unemployed actor from Broadway's "Bombay Dreams" toils at the 7-11...until an up-and-coming female playwright comes in and sweeps him off his feet. Is it true love or just a messy Slushee?
- **Who Killed Mr. Naidu First?** by Samrat Chakrabarti and Sanjiv Jhaveri. With 3 suspects and a heinous crime, a musical "whodunnit" that will send you singing and screaming from the convenience store!
- **Homecoming** by Celena Cipriaso. A young woman stumbles into a convenience store to find her past.

• **The Old New World** by J.P. Chan. In the year 2106, superpowers fight for their right to claim the Jewel of Ancient America.

• **Undone** by Elizabeth Emmons. Two girls stop for supplies on a run away trip to Mexico to escape an arranged marriage.

• **Jaffna Mangoes** by Vishakan Jeyakumar. Race relations in a convenience store in Sunnyside Queens makes life juicier than the juiciest of mangos.

• **Kung Fu Hustle** by Jackson Loo. A Chinese-American teen, convinced that learning Kung Fu should be easy for him since its part of his heritage, struggles to master the art in a hurry to impress a pretty martial arts instructor.

*This year, BharatMatrimony.com is proud to be a sponsor of " SEVEN.11 CONVENIENCE THEATRE (2006)". BharatMatrimony.com has become a place for singles serious about seeking a life partner. With the trust of over 7.5 million members worldwide, it has over 600,000 success stories. The company has a truly international presence with 24 offices across the world including USA , Canada & Dubai.*

*This production is also sponsored in part by grants from The Asian American Arts Alliance SOAR Fund, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the Columbia University Arts Initiative.*