

Jado Jehad

a new play by Fatima A. Maan directed by Bridget Kathleen O'Leary

February 16-26 | Tickets: BostonPlaywrights.org







A WELCOME FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to Boston Playwrights' Theatre and to *Jado Jehad* by Fatima A. Maan, directed by Bridget Kathleen O'Leary.

I am so thrilled and honored to be here in my first season as BPT's Artistic Director, carrying forward a slate of brand-new plays by MFA playwrights that was put in motion by the legendary Kate Snodgrass (who retired this year after an extraordinary 35 years at the helm...!). This group of writers—whose entire graduate education has taken place during a global pandemic—offer us critical reflections on the big questions of this moment: "How do we live when we feel like the world is ending?" and "If our very survival depends on resisting old ideas and seeding new ones, what stories must we tell—and how?"

I can't think of a better way to begin 2023 than with Fatima's reflective and charming family drama about three generations of Pakistani women. When Jado Jehad begins, twenty-something Mashal has recently returned to Pakistan after pursuing her education in the U.S. and has reluctantly moved back into her grandmother Manzoor's house—along with her newly-divorced mother, Kareema. Chaos ensues!

I first loved this play for its relatable portrait of intergenerational wrangling—my grandmother was Armenian, not Pakistani, but we certainly had several versions of the house cleaning argument Manzoor and Mashal have in this play! As Fatima continued to work on the script, I've also come to love the play for it's nuanced conversation around how we might be able to conceive and re-conceive of gender identity, romantic bonds, and what "family" looks like—releasing old ideas and choosing new ones that point us towards connection, support, and ever-deepening love.

Enjoy the show!

Best,

Megan Sandberg-Zakian

Artistic Director, Boston Playwrights' Theatre

P.S. If you love new plays, please come back in April to see *Alligator-A-Phobia in 3-D!*, Jay Eddy's terrific new play about singing alligators, and then again in May to see 50 short plays by New England writers in Boston Theater Marathon XXV!

Jado Jehad

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A BU New Play Initiative production, produced by Boston Playwrights' Theatre and the Boston University College of Fine Arts School of Theatre

Scenic Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sean A. Doyle
Akeem Celestine

Stage Manager Pat-rice Rooney*
Props Artisan Sarabeth Spector

Assistant Lighting Designer Davin Martin
Assistant Sound Designer Katie Chen

Scenic Artist Samantha Galvao

Production Assistant Tina Esper
Dialect Coach Ashleigh Reade
Urdu Language Coach Shilpa Parnami

Light Board Programmer Rowen Bailey

Master Electrician Jack Culton

Electricians Fatima A. Maan, Silvano Spagnuolo,

Jesus Suarez, Cat Vess-Ovsiannikov,

Irene Wang

Set Crew Simone Crowder, Ember Erickson

Matt Leal, Sarah Lloyd

House Manager Ember Erickson
Front of House Staff Simone Crowde

ont of House Staff Simone Crowder, Matt Leal,

Brandon Zang

CAST

Mashal Vidisha Agarwalla Manzoor Jyoti Daniere Kareema Prreeti Tiwari* Amal Sushmita Udoshi

Jado Jehad runs approximately 90 minutes. There will be no intermission.

*Appearing through an Agreement between Boston Playwrights' Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

My personal Jado Jehad (to strive, make effort) with this play has been going on for a year and a half now. Writing this story, these characters, their conversations meant going to all the uncomfortable places that I always resisted, and forced me to sit through the most difficult conversations, both real and fantastical. Yet having the privilege of being in a room these past weeks with some of the most talented people I know, doing their work with unwavering dedication, and whose commitment to this play knows no bounds, has made the effort worthwhile. Few experiences in life are as surreal as watching the world and people you have been mulling over in your head come to life on stage.

I have watched with amazement the earnestness that everyone has brought to this project. I am deeply grateful to Megan and Nathan, for steadying the ship when it was at its rockiest, to Bridget for always asking what I needed and making it happen, to the actors for being so adorably possessive about my words and making magic with them, to the dialect team for their commitment to my vision, to the marketing team for working so hard to get you all here, and to the designers for listening to my rants and quite literally transporting my grandmother's Pakistani-est living room to Boston.

To all members of Team JJ who have gone above and beyond what was expected of them to make this project as successful as possible, I am indebted to your commitment, the late night runs, the laughs, and your companionship. To our audience, I could not be more proud, grateful, and overjoyed to present to you, our Jado Jehad!

-Fatima A. Maan

CAST & CREW

VIDISHA AGARWALLA (Mashal, she/her) is a recent Northeastern Communications and Media Studies BA and Creative Practice Leadership MA graduate. Favorite acting experiences include Cecelia in *Beheld* (New Renaissance Theatre Company, '22), Cece in *This is Treatment* (NEU Theatre Dept, '22), and Bacchant in *The Bacchae* (NEU Theatre Department '21). Vidisha was the President of New Renaissance Theatre Company for three years, a NEU theatre club dedicated to giving people of color and minority group members an entryway into theater. Originally from Singapore, Vidisha strives to diversify the theatre and performing arts communities. She is looking forward to continuing to work in the arts in Boston. linkedin.com/in/vidisha-agarwalla/

KATIE CHEN (Assistant Sound Designer, she/her) is a junior Boston University Sound Design and Production student. Recent works include *Mankind, Uncle Vanya, Little Row Boat or, Conjecture, La hija de Rappaccini, Choice, Rx Machina* (BPT), and is in the process with *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea*. She hopes to continue exploring artistically and make new discoveries on the way.

JYOTI DANIERE (Manzoor) is a Boston-based actor who has appeared on stage, TV and film. Favorite regional roles include Phyllis in Jonathan (Moonbox Productions), Irene in Slow Food (HUB), Fina in Compound Fractures (Two Sharp Quills), Mom in The Graduate (AFD) and Amanda Wingfield in The Glass Menagerie (TCAN). She would like to thank the cast and crew, especially Shilpa Parnami for her patience and perseverance in helping me learn a bit of Urdu and Ashleigh Reade for her excellent techniques for mastering Pakistani dialects. Thanks to all my friends and family—in particular my late mother, Nirmal Chawla Daniere, who was a fierce Nani in her own right and my sister, Amrita Daniere, who was my first director when we were children performing for our parents in our living room.

SEAN A. DOYLE (Sound Designer, him/him/his) returns to BPT after designing *Eat Your Young* and *OTP* this season, and *LORENA* last season. He is the Sound Supervisor for Barrington Stage Company (summer season). Mr. Doyle has designed for Lehigh University, Touchstone Theatre, Fresno State University, The Roxey Ballet Company. The Women's Shakespeare Company, New Harmony Repertory Theatre, Just Off Broadway Theatre, Wheelock Family Theatre, and The United Way of Connecticut. Mr. Doyle received his Master of Fine Arts in Sound Design from Boston University, and is an alum of Lehigh University.

JOHN HOLMES (Lighting Designer, he/him/his) is a Boston-based lighting designer and production electrician, currently in his final year of study at Boston University School of Theatre. Recent design credits include *Our Town* (BU Opera Institute), Elements Dance Competition (Fusion Dance), *Avenue Q* (Skokie Theatre), *John & Jen* (BU), and Pivot Arts Festival: Reimagining Utopia. John is always looking for new projects to collaborate on, and new artists to create with! When John isn't working on a show, he can be found on a run along the

Charles River, painting a landscape, or blending up a smoothie. Find him on social media @johnholmesdesign, johnholmesdesign.com

FATIMA A. MAAN (Playwright, she/her) is a playwright from Lahore, Pakistan, currently pursuing her MFA at Boston University. Constantly questioning the nationalism and patriarchal notions she was raised on, she unpacks everyday Pakistani socio-political issues through her work.

DAVIN MARTIN (Assistant Lighting Designer, he/him/his) is a lighting design major at Boston University where he has worked on *La Hija de Rappaccini* and *Mankind*. Beyond BU he works as a freelance lighting and sound designer with credits of *The Addams Family* (LSB Players), *SpongeBob the Musical* (Middlesex School), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Sudbury Savoyards), and *Eurydice* (LSB Players). Davin would like to thank Laurel, Dan, and Linnea for their constant support.

BRIDGET KATHLEEN O'LEARY (Director) is a freelance director, dramaturg and theater educator. Bridget has directed productions with New Repertory Theatre, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Actors' Shakespeare Project, Gloucester Stage Company, Central Square Theatre, Whistler in the Dark, and SpeakEasy Stage Company. Select world premiere directing credits include *Heartland*, *Ripe Frenzy* (IRNE Award winner for Best New Play), *Blackberry Winter* (Elliot Norton nomination, Best New Play), and *Pattern of Life* (IRNE Award winner, Best New Play). Bridget served on the Executive Committee for the National New Play Network (NNPN) from 2014-2020 where she oversaw the selection process for both the NNPN Showcase of new works and the Kennedy Center's MFA Playwrights' Workshop. She was the production dramaturg on the premiere of *Finish Line: A documentary play about the 2013 Boston Marathon* (Elliot Norton Nomination, Best New Play).

SHILPA PARNAMI (Urdu Language Coach) coordinates the Hindi-Urdu program and teaches Hindi, Urdu, and India-focused culture courses in English, including a course on Bollywood cinema, at the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Boston University. She has a PhD in Foreign Language Education from the University of Texas at Austin and has taught Hindi/Urdu to American students for more than ten years. She is a passionate educator and a full-time mom to a curious three-year old. This is her first time working with theater artists and she's thrilled to have been part of this creative process.

ASHLEIGH READE (Dialect Coach) is an Assistant Professor of Voice and Speech at Boston University's School of Theater. Teaching: Assistant Professor of Theater at the Boston Conservatory, Harvard Summer School, Harvard Extension School, Dean College, Salem State University, and Bunker Hill Community College. Masterclasses: Loyola Marymount, CCM, Boston Conservatory, Harvard University, Broadway Artist's Alliance, Lyric Stage, The Moscow Art Theater School. Coaching: Intimate Apparel (Brandeis), Witness: Uganda (A.R.T., asst.), The Light Princess (A.R.T.), multiple productions with the Institute for Advanced Theater Training at Harvard University and the Harvard-Radcliffe Dramatic Club. Certified Associate Teacher of Fitzmaurice Voiceworktm. MFA Harvard/M.X.A.T.

SARABETH SPECTOR (Props Artisan) is a properties and scenic designer based in Cambridge, MA. Recent credits include *For The Fish* (Associate Scenic Designer, Moonbox Productions); *NIGHTTOWN* (Scenic Designer, Lowell House Opera); *Baltimore* (Scenic Designer, Emerson Stage); *The Late Wedding* (Props Lead, Emerson Stage); *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Props Lead, Emerson Stage); and *What Every Girl Should Know* (Scenic Designer, Rareworks Theatre Company). **sarabethspector.com**

PEYTON TAVARES (Scenic Designer) is a second-year MFA Theatre Design candidate (MFA'24) in Scenic Design. She achieved her undergraduate degree from Marymount Manhattan College with a dual concentration in Scenic Design and Directing. She is thrilled to have worked on this show and feels very lucky to be a part of this process. Her recent credits include *Let The Right One In* (Boston University in collaboration with Actors' Shakespeare Project), *OTP* (Boston Playwrights' Theatre), *REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN.* (Boston University), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Boston University), and *Antigone. Or and-Still She Must Rise Up* (Boston University) **Peytontavares.com** Instagram: Peyton5656

PRREETI TIWARI* (Kareema) is blessed and honored to return to BPT for the third time. In her thespian career spanning 11 years, Prreeti has performed in 31 straight plays across five states and major cities, including Boston, Manhattan, and Los Angeles. Regional credit includes *Macbeth* (The Hanover Theatre). Prreeti has performed a variety of roles, including Annabelle Castle (*House on Haunted Hill*), Celia (*Calendar Girls*), Theodora (*The Haunting of Hill House*), Phyllis (*Body Awareness*), Iva Archer (*The Maltese Falcon*), Sexy Nurse (*The Sunshine Boys*), and Gert Franklyn (*California Suite*). She is a member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA. Thanks to Bridget and Fatima. www.PrreetiTiwari.com

SUSHMITA UDOSHI (Amal, she/her) is a student at Boston University studying Film. She has acted in director Muskaan Zaidi's recent short film *All Alone With The Moon and Nowhere To Go* (2022) and a handful of student projects, her favorite being *Blackjack* directed by Zayan Farhat. Training as an Indian classical dancer for nearly 15 years, she has now taken to the stage to explore theater acting. She recently co-founded a program at the Howard Thurman Center named kalaasangha, a community supporting South Asian artists while highlighting the importance of mindfulness throughout the creative process. Whether through acting or by holding a camera, Sushmita strives to showcase powerful stories centering upon cultural and gender identity.



Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

SPECIAL THANKS

Aliza Amin, Cleo Brooks, Eshna Kulshreshtha, Manjari Mukherjee, Zuneera Shah, Aun Abbas Syed

A GLOSSARY OF JADO JEHAD

Jado Jehad log kya kahain gai

nani shabash

Allah ka shukar hai dramaybaazi Nahiiiii kaam

fauran say shor

Koi tou sharam kar

Mashallah Ispaghol fatiha quls

Asr Hogaya?

Aaj ka lecture bas itna sa?

salan Sasta nasha rishta randi haramzaadi mehengi

Sharam nahi aati tumhain

Badtameez nafarman

Nani meri baat sunain sharam

haya

Abhi tou mai jawan hoon

chootiya

baat tou sach hai, par baat hai ruswai ki Maza ava?

Abhi tou party shru hui hai!

haina? Abay chal, control ki kuch lagti! gotis dedh inch ki masjid

Chup kar tu! Beta, auqat dekh kar

baat kartay hain Zabardast!

sarkar CNIC

ihaaro

pocha safai Kuch bhi nahi! gajar ka halwa Shakkar

barfi Haye mai mar gai

Tou

Aye khudaya!

to strive, make effort what will people say arandmother

well done Thank God antics Noooooo

iob

immediately noise Fear God compulsory with Allah's will

husk to help with digestion

quranic chapter quranic chaptera

one of the 5 compulsory prayers

Are you done?

Today's lecture will be just that?

curry

cheap thrill

potential arranged marriage

whore bastard expensive

Do you have no shame??

ill-mannered undutiful Nani listen to me shame

modesty
I am still youthful
born of the vagina
it is the truth,
but an unpleasant one
Enjoyed that?

The party has only begun! right? get out, control's relative! pieces

pieces half inch mosque Oh shut up you!

Child, look at who you are

before you speak Fantastic! government

Computerized National Identity Card

South Asian broom mop cleaning Nothing at all! carrot halwa

brown sugar South Asian dessert Oh my goodness!

so

Oh Lord!

A GLOSSARY OF JADO JEHAD CONTINUED

Bechari mijazi khuda fauji bacha

Shukar alhamdulilah!

Inshallah! Acha, acha meri maa

Kya karain nano? jannat

Allah da banda Chalain

Aisay thori hota hai, nano!

Kuch bhi nahi, nano 'Mainay Rab ko apnay iradon kay tootnay se pehchana'

Shia Kuch bhi nahi

Bas mulaqat Bilkul bhi nahi Koi aisee baat nahi Paani laun

Nai, nai! Aisee koi baat nahi

alhamdulilah

poor thing almost god soldier child Thank God! Allah willing

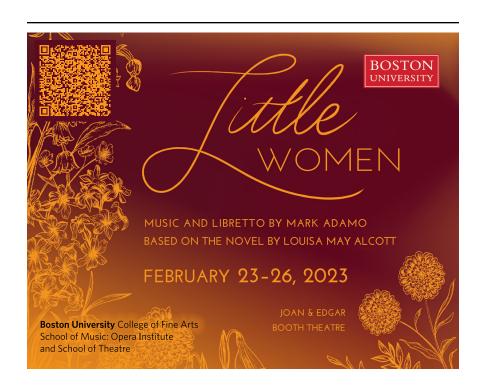
Okay, okay my mom What can we do nano?

heaven God's man let's go

It doesn't work like that, nano!

Nothing at all nano I recognized my Lord from the breaking of my intentions religious minority in Pakistan

nothing much
Just meet
Not at all
No such thing...
Shall I bring water
No, no! No such thing!
all thanks to Allah!





JACK WELCH PLAYWRIGHTS' FUND

We are grateful to our friends for their support of our mission—to provide a home for new works for the stage.

If you are interested in making a donation to Boston Playwrights' Theatre, please contact Managing Director Darren Evans at (617) 353-5899 or visit our online donation form at www.BostonPlaywrights.org.

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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

■ Boston **PLAYWRIGHTS**' Theatre

Boston Playwrights' Theatre is an award-winning professional theatre at Boston University dedicated to new works. Founded in 1981 by Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott, the heart of BPT's mission is the production of new plays by students and alumni of BU's MFA Playwriting Program—a collaboration with BU's renowned School of Theatre. The program's award-winning alumni have been produced in regional and New York houses, as well as in London's West End. BPT's productions have been honored with numerous regional and Boston awards, including awards from the Independent Reviewers of New England (IRNE) and Boston Critics' Association (Elliot Norton Awards).

From class workshops to our Season of New Plays, BPT employs the best of New England's professional actors, directors, and designers to bring each playwright's vision to its first audiences.

Each spring we produce a festival of student-written ten-minute plays, New Noises, the culminating event of the Massachusetts Young Playwrights' Project. In this program, area high schools work with professional playwrights, directors, and actors to see student works on stage for the first time.

Fifty local theatre companies join us annually for the Boston Theater Marathon, a showcase of new ten-minute plays by New England playwrights chosen each year from hundreds of entrants. Each selected play is produced by a different New England theatre company in a single ten-hour event with all proceeds going to charity.

When we are not producing our own plays, we continue BPT's mission through our Play Space program, which makes theatre space available at deeply subsidized rates to other New England theatre companies and playwrights for new-play related events including readings, classes, auditions, rehearsals, conferences, and full productions.

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We are proud of our mission.

To get involved, visit BostonPlaywrights.org.