



PRIMARY COLOURS
COULEURS PRIMAIRES

OPENSOURCE

in partnership with Belfry Theatre, Pacific Opera Victoria & Theatre SKAM

OPERA
PACIFIC
OPERA
VICTORIA

Belfry
Theatre

SKAM

Media Release

For Immediate Release
September 27 2019

for further info please contact:
pccpinformation@gmail.com

Primary Colours/Couleurs primaires & Open Space Arts are delighted to present:

Decolonizing the Arts
Dipankar Mukherjee & Meena Natarajan
of Pangea World Theater
Minneapolis USA

Dipankar and Meena will lead two events in Victoria:

Decolonizing - What's That?

A Roundtable Discussion with
Dipankar Mukherjee & Meena Natarajan
Chris Creighton-Kelly & France Trépanier

Pangea World Theater
Primary Colours/Couleurs primaires

This roundtable will be followed by small group conversations

Friday October 18 2019
7pm - 9pm

Open Space
510 Fort Street, 2nd floor
openspace.ca

This roundtable is free and open to everyone

Decolonizing the Stage

An active performing arts workshop
Dipankar Mukherjee & Meena Natarajan

Pangea World Theater

Please wear loose clothing

Sunday October 20 2019
2pm - 5:30pm

Belfry Theatre
1291 Gladstone Avenue
belfry.bc.ca

This workshop is free and open to everyone - registration is limited to 30 persons.
To register and for further info please contact: pccpinformation@gmail.com

For the whole month of March 2019 Primary Colours/Couleurs primaires, Open Space, Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective and ProArt Alliance presented *Sche'chulth: Decolonizing the Arts in Victoria* - a series of events designed to engage the entire Victoria arts community in conversation leading to actions which will begin a process of decolonizing artists' practices, arts organizations and arts funding bodies. Many persons expressed the desire to continue this work.

So, in response, we have invited two theatre pioneers, Dipankar Mukherjee and Meena Natarajan of Pangea World Theater in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since its inception in 1995, Pangea World Theater has worked with artists from many Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (IBPoC) communities locally, nationally and internationally to create works for the stage. As they proudly state:

"Pangea illuminates the human condition, celebrates cultural differences, and promotes human rights by creating and presenting international, multi-disciplinary theater."

Primary Colours/Couleurs primaires and Open Space have partnered with three other ProArt Alliance members: Belfry Theatre, Pacific Opera Victoria & Theatre SKAM. We are grateful for their support.



Dipankar Mukherjee is a professional director originally from Calcutta, India with a 25-year history of directing. He is the Artistic Director of Pangea World Theater, an international theater in Minneapolis that is a progressive space for arts and dialogue. As a director, he has worked in India, England, Canada and the United States. Dipankar has worked at the Guthrie Theater, Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival, New World Theater, Alliance Theater and at the Young Vic in London. Dipankar has worked with dancers to create cross-cultural work using his knowledge of Kalaripayattu, an Indian martial arts form. He has worked with choreographer/dancers from India, U.S. and Canada in the capacity of

a director. His aesthetics have evolved through his commitment to social justice, equity and deep spirituality and these factors, along with a response to relevant politics, forms the basis of his work. Dipankar has been awarded the Twin Cities International Citizens Award by the Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul for contributions in the area of human rights and international co-operation. Dipankar has received the Humphrey Institute Fellowship to Salzburg and has been a Ford Foundation delegate to India and Lebanon. He is a recipient of the Bush Leadership Fellowship award to study non-violence and peace methodologies in India and South Africa and a Doris Duke Fellowship at Shangri-La. He co-taught a week-long masterclass on ensemble building using Pangea World Theater's methodology at PA'I Foundation in Hawaii. He also co-facilitated a workshop process that invoked the comparison between Indian and western theater practices at the South Asian Center in Vancouver, Canada. Dipankar facilitates processes that disrupt colonial, racist and patriarchal modalities of working and collaboratively searches for an alternate way of working.



Meena Natarajan is a playwright and director and the Artistic and Executive Director of Pangea World Theater, a progressive, international ensemble space that creates at the intersection of art, equity and social justice. She has led the theater's growth since its founding in 1995. Meena has co-curated and designed many of Pangea World Theater's professional and community based programs. She has written at least ten full-length works for Pangea, ranging from adaptations of poetry and mythology to original works dealing with war, spirituality, personal and collective memory. Her play, *Etchings in the Sand* co-created with dancer Ananya Chatterjea has been published by Routledge in a

volume called *Contemporary Plays by Women of Color: The Second Edition*. Meena leads ensemble-based processes in Pangea that lead to works produced for the stage. She has also directed and dramaturged several original theater and performance art pieces. She is currently on the board of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists and is on the advisory committee for the Community Arts Program at the University of Minnesota. Until recently, she was a National Theater Project Advisor at New England Foundation for the Arts. She was on the Advisory Committee of the Community Arts Network, was on the founding board of the Network of Ensemble Theaters and was the president of Women's Playwrights International. She has been awarded grants from the Theatre Communications Group, Playwrights Center and the Minnesota State Arts Board. She was recently awarded the Visionary Award for mid-career leaders from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.