

Crowded Fire Theater

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CROWDED FIRE THEATER'S 2014 SEASON OF NEW PLAYS CONTINUES WITH A
WEST COAST PREMIERE BY ADITI BRENNAN KAPIL AT THICK HOUSE IN SAN FRANCISCO
"BRAHMAN/I: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show" by Aditi Brennan Kapil
Directed by Erin Merritt
June 5-28 (Press Opening June 9)
Thick House
1695 18th St, San Francisco

The Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) 2014 season leaps forward with the West Coast Premiere of "BRAHMAN/I: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show" by Aditi Brennan Kapil. "BRAHMAN/I..." opens with a press night on Monday June 9 (Previews June 5-7) running through June 28 at the Thick House in San Francisco's Potrero Hill. Directed by Erin Merritt, "BRAHMAN/I..." is an outrageous play masquerading as a stand-up comedy routine that hilariously takes on history, mythology, and high school through the lens of an intersex boy/girl tethered by neither gender nor culture. The production is a celebration by/about/for people who never fit in, and who no longer care...and the power that comes with that moment of self-creation. Featuring actor Imran Sheikh, "Brahman/i..." is funny, cynical, inventive and intensely charismatic. With more than a dozen unforgettable characters woven amidst a fascinating life story, BRAHMAN/I is a courageous affirmation of a life to be lived.

"In counterpoint to traditional theatre..." remarks CFT Artistic Director Marissa Wolf, "Aditi Brennan Kapil's *Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show* offers an incredible night of stand-up comedy that keeps you laughing and gasping, as she explores questions around sexuality and gender in utterly surprising ways, exploring gender-fluidity through a South Asian lens."

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Directed by Erin Merritt

Run: June 5--28 Press Night Monday June 9 at 8 pm (Previews June 5-7)

At: Thick House, 1695 18th St., SF (between Carolina St. & Arkansas St. in Potrero Hill)

Performances: Wed-Saturdays 8 PM Special Opening Night Monday June 9, 8 pm

Tickets: Prices range from \$15-\$35 progressively during the course of the run.

We offer Pay-What-You-Can Preview performances and student/senior/group rates.

Tickets: Visit www.crowdedfire.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Box Office by phone (415) 746-9238 Photos: <http://www.crowdedfire.org/press/>

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Crowded Fire champions playwrights whose work offers a vital contribution to the American theater landscape. Committed to diversifying the canon of contemporary plays, CFT welcomes Aditi Brennan Kapil to San Francisco for the premiere of her first fully staged Bay Area production.

Playwright Aditi Brennan Kapil has crafted a play that is a hilarious standup routine about a young person's uneasy journey between being a boy and being a girl. A stand-up act that becomes a manifesto full of sharp observations in which Kapil exposes heartbreaking truths told in hilarious anecdotes.

World premiere programming in Crowded Fire's 2014 Season is funded by generous support from the San Francisco Foundation (The Matchbox), and the San Francisco Arts Commission (The Matchbox). Crowded Fire gratefully acknowledges general operations funding from Grants for the Arts/SF Hotel Tax Fund and The Kenneth Rainin Foundation

The Crowded Fire Theater (CFT) 2014 season concludes with the World Premiere of **THE LATE WEDDING** by Christopher Chen, directed by Marissa Wolf Sep. 18-October 11.

Erin Merritt (Director)

Erin Merritt is an award-winning director and producer best known locally as founder of the all-female Shakespeare company, Woman's Will. In twelve seasons there, Ms. Merritt directed 13 productions, including two "Top Ten Shows of the Year"—Brecht and Weill's Happy End (2005) and Shakespeare's Pericles (2002), which featured a deaf narrator and a new ASL translation of the play—and played such roles as Rosalind (As You Like It), Algernon (Importance of Being Earnest) and the title role in Coriolanus. She also garnered rave reviews in the Bay Area for her translations and adaptations, including Brecht's Good Person of Szechuan (2006); the expressionist hamlet: the melancholy dame (2000); and a 5-person Macbeth (Loading Zone, Santa Rosa, CA, 2007 and Woman's Will, Oakland, 2008). Since leaving Woman's Will in 2009, she has produced the 2013 Bay Area Playwrights Festival (where she also directed Joan Holden's FSM) locally and a film for and about chimps for Primate Cinema in LA; served as dramaturg for Grounded (BAPF 2012); and directed a variety of projects including the world premier of Arthur Jolly's "The Secret of Jarlsberg" for Still Speaking Theatre (LA); Brian Friel's Lovers: Winners and the world premier of her own translation of Bertolt Brecht's Drums in the Night in Kansas City, MO; and, with Bay Area Children's Theatre, both Click Clack Moo and Cat in the Hat. She is overjoyed to be working with new plays and gender identity again.

Imran Sheikh (BRAHMANI) Theatrical credits include *Disconnect* (San Jose Rep), *Four Different Lives* (59E59), *The Myth Project* (Noor Theatre/ NYTW), *The Girl with Her Hands in the Sand* and *Radio Mara Mara* (FringeNYC), *Chaos Theory* (Crossroads Theatre Company), *Why We Left Brooklyn* (Blue Coyote). On television he is a series regular on *Guy Code* (MTV, MTV2). Film and New Media credits include *Romeo & Juliet: The Webseries* (Ready Set Go!), *Ovum* (Oocyte), *The Sonnet Project* (New York Shakespeare Exchange), and *College Humor* (CH Media). Studied improv and sketch comedy with the legendary Upright Citizens Brigade.

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Aditi Brennan Kapi (BRAHMAN/I: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show) Aditi Brennan Kapi is a writer, actress, and director, of Bulgarian and Indian descent. She was raised in Sweden, and resides in Minneapolis, MN. She performs extensively around the country, and her writing has been produced nationally to critical acclaim. Aditi is currently working on commissions with Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, and South Coast Repertory Theatre. Her play "Love Person" received the 2009 Stavis Playwriting Award, and her play, *Agnes Under the Big Top, a tall tale*, was selected as a Distinguished New Play Development project by the NEA as administered by Arena Stage. Her most recent work is the Displaced Hindu Gods Trilogy, consisting of the plays *Brahman/i: A One-Hijra Stand-Up Comedy Show*, *The Chronicles of Kalki*, and *Shiv*. She is the Mellon Playwright-in-Residence at Mixed Blood Theatre, an artistic associate at Park Square Theatre, and a Core Writer at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.

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Calendar Editors Please Note

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