

MEDIA RELEASE

September 1, 2020

THE ROSE BRAMPTON POSTPONES *HAMLET* STARRING AHAD RAZA MIR

NOW OPENING SEPTEMBER 2021

Brampton, ON (September 1, 2020) – The Rose Brampton announced today an update to the 2020-2021 The Rose Presents season. *Hamlet* starring Ahad Raza Mir will be postponed to September 2021.

The health and safety of The Rose's staff, patrons, and artists is top priority. As such, due to COVID-19, all City of Brampton Performing Arts venues remain closed to the public until further notice.

Pakistani-Canadian star Ahad Raza Mir will star in *Hamlet*, produced by The Shakespeare Company and Hit & Myth Productions. *Hamlet* will now be part of the theatre's 2021 – 2022 season.

"Same time next year, (September 28-October 9, 2021) *Hamlet* will bring **Ahad Raza Mir** and **Sajal Ali** to The Rose Brampton, and bring all of us closer than ever 'to hold, as 'twere, the mirror up to nature'," says Steven Schipper, Executive Artistic Director at The Rose Brampton.

The Rose's presentation of *Hamlet*, starring Ahad Raza Mir, will be the first of its kind in Ontario, following a successful run of *Hamlet: A Ghost Story* at Calgary's Vertigo Theatre. The Shakespeare Company and Hit & Myth Productions combine forces, along with The Rose, for a ghostly reimagining of one of the Bard's greatest works, adapted for Brampton's stage, and with the support of Brampton's generous community.

"The safety of our artists and the community is paramount, and this decision to postpone was necessary. We are wholeheartedly committed to presenting **Ahad Raza Mir** as *Hamlet* in the fall of 2021, in the vibrant City of Brampton," says Haysam Kadri, Artistic Producer of The Shakespeare Company and Director of *Hamlet*.

“During this difficult time let’s all remember to support and be kind to each other. This will pass, and before you know it, we will all meet at the theatre to experience the magic of Shakespeare together,” says Raza Mir.

The Rose is thrilled to welcome The Shakespeare Company, Hit & Myth Productions, award-winning Director Haysam Kadri, and Ahad Raza Mir to Brampton. Pakistan-born, Calgary-raised, Raza Mir’s breakthrough performance in *Yaqeen Ka Safar* (2017) won him the Lux Style Award for Best Actor, as well as the Hum Award for Best Actor. Raza Mir is the recipient of the prestigious Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Performance (*Hamlet: A Ghost Story*).

“Raza Mir’s performance [in Hamlet: A Ghost Story] wins hearts across borders.” – Business Recorder (Pakistan)

“Delivers chills and thrills.” – Broadway World, on *Hamlet: A Ghost Story*

Brampton audiences are invited to discover the spirit of Shakespeare’s most famous play, as the prince of Denmark seeks vengeance for his father’s murder. The tale is a ghost story, a detective story, and a revenge story all packed into one unforgettable night of theatre.

Hamlet, starring Ahad Raza Mir, opens in September 2021 at The Rose Brampton, including four school performances and eight public performances. The production’s run time is 2 hours, including intermission. Full casting announcement to follow.

Tickets are available now, and can be purchased at therosebrampton.ca or by phone at 905.874.2800.

New 2021 performance dates:

- September 30 at 8:00 PM
- October 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, and 9 at 8:00 PM
- October 2 at 2:00 PM

Current ticket-holders will have the option to receive a refund/account credit, or retain their tickets for one of the new performance dates.

To learn more about The Rose’s 2019 – 2020 season, visit therosebrampton.ca.

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The Rose Brampton is a magnificent performing arts venue and iconic feature of downtown Brampton. A vital part of our city, it is a destination for local and world-renowned performers,

providing opportunities for culture-lovers from Brampton and beyond to experience a wide range of talent in an extraordinary setting. Architecturally and acoustically remarkable, the venue boasts two performance venues for large shows and intimate experiences.

The Rose Brampton gratefully acknowledges the support of donors and sponsors.

The Rose Brampton recognizes the Treaty Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and before them, the Haudenosaunee, Huron, and Wendat, and acknowledges the many Nations, Metis, Inuit, and global Indigenous peoples that now call Brampton home.

The Shakespeare Company is Calgary's lean and mean classical theatre company, highlighting the best of the Bard in all his comedy, tragedy, and bawdiness. Founded in 1995, by Richard Kenyon and LuAnne Morrow, TSC has brought the Bard alive for Calgarians through both Shakespeare and Shakespeare inspired plays. They are committed to making Shakespeare accessible through innovative performances and inspired directing. Alongside mainstage productions, TSC's community initiatives are: Page to Stage Outreach Program and DiVerseCity.

Hit & Myth Productions is a professional independent theatre company based in Calgary, Alberta. Hit & Myth was established in 2006, and since that time has produced over 30 professional shows, engaging numerous local actors, directors and designers.