

INDO-AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

IAAC Newsletter- August 2005

Dear IAAC friend,

Re: Annual appeal with a fervour

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) has come a long way since our inception in the fall of 1998. We have, in these few years, gradually enhanced our mission of promoting, showcasing and building an awareness of Indian artists and artistic disciplines. From a virtual desert of Indian fare, New York is buzzing with myriad South Asian theatre, film, dance, music and visual art groups. The IAAC first introduced Indian art to mainstream New York venues in 1998; it opened the door to an explosion of everything Indian, all over the city.

The IAAC has brought New York annual filmfestivals, annual playwrights festivals, the Tendulkar Festival, book launches, dance and music concerts, Salman Rushdie's opera "Haroun & the Sea of Stories", poetry readings, literary discussions attended by successively larger audiences: South Asian, as well as mainstream arts aficionados in film, theatre, music and dance as well as industry professionals. Please be our guests at our upcoming events: HOT TALAS, COOL RASAS (Oct 12-14) and THE FIFTH INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL of Independent & Diaspora Films (Nov 2-6)

I write to request you to please help us to continue providing New York with this wonderful, quality programming as well as to give each of the artists showcased a chance to reach greater heights by contributing whatever you can to our efforts. We wish to remain a vital cultural force; but moving forward without your support can be a formidable task. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law and will make you a vital part of the IAAC family. Your support goes a long way in allowing us to grow financially, strategically and artistically.

The IAAC remains an enthusiastic, energetic, passionate, creative, not-for-profit arts council through your generous support. As we face fiscal challenges, your commitment and generosity is urgently needed. Your contributions are critical to our continued excellence and your steadfast annual support is deeply appreciated by the staff and Board of the IAAC as well as the myriad artists in each of the disciplines who are promoted and showcased via IAAC programs. Please send your contributions to the IAAC at the address below as soon as possible. If you have already sent in your contribution, you will receive a letter of undying appreciation from us. It will also serve as your tax-deductible receipt well before d-day!

Thank you very much. I look forward to an early positive response.

With warm regards
Aroon Shivdasani, Executive Director

I would like to donate the following amount to the Indo-American Arts Council Inc to promote and develop an awareness of Indian visual, literary and performing arts in North America. I would/would not like my support acknowledged in the IAAC printed material. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

Pacesetter: \$ _____ (**\$20,000+**) **Benefactor:** \$ _____ (**\$10,000+**)
Patron: \$ _____ (**\$5,000+**) **Donor:** \$ _____ (**\$2,000+**)
Supporter: \$ _____ (**\$500+**) **Friend:** \$ _____

Shashi Tharoor's Bookless in Baghdad Evening

The Indo-American Arts Council and the Rubin Museum of Art cohosted a reception on June 28th, 2005 in honor of Shashi Tharoor's "Bookless in Baghdad: Reflections on Literature, Writing & Writers." Over 100 people attended the event where this cosmopolitan crowd enjoyed fried papadum, fruit, wine and cheese. IAAC executive director, Aroon Shivdasani opened the evening followed by Shashi Tharoor, undersecretary general for communications and public information at the United Nations, read from his book. The book collects essays on literary topics that have appeared in various publications over the past 10 years. The wide-ranging volume contains essays on Winston Churchill, V.S. Naipaul, R.K. Narayan, and Salman Rushdie, as well a discussion of Hollywood and Bollywood. Donald Rubin also gave his remarks and mentioned that the Rubin Museum, devoted art of the Himalayas and surrounding regions has hosted a great number of events since opening last October. - The Sun Newspaper, Jul 6, 2005



Post- Event Report- Playwright's Week 2005

For the past three years, The IAAC has partnered with the Lark Play Development Center and with several theatres in the New York South Asian Diaspora Community to produce an annual South Asian Diaspora Playwrights Festival. The results of this collaboration have been a remarkable increase in the awareness of South Asian Diaspora playwrights and an influx of fine scripts by these playwrights. The Lark has developed several of these scripts, including SEX IN OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES by Sonia Pabley and MERCHANT ON VENICE. This year 11 scripts were selected not solely from the South Asian Diaspora but from a general submissions call. 3 South Asian plays got to share the stage with the best of among hundreds of submissions to the Lark. The Festival focused on co-mingling artistic voices, with playwrights and directors of different backgrounds working together.

The Festival was a big success, with plays ranging from Taniya Hussain's Mother in Another Language, a comedy about a Bengali/American couple whose engagement is complicated when their two, very different mothers both move into their apartment to GOOD HOPE by August Schulenberg about an indigenous tribe in South Africa in the 1800's who, after repeated wars with colonialists, begin following the apocalyptic visions of a 16-year old girl.

The Festival kicked off with the Opening Night hosting the esteemed Law Professor and writer Patricia William who spoke on 'Art and Social Change'. Followed by a weeks reading of plays by playwrights. Dan O'Brien whose play SOUTHERN CROSS will be part of this year's festival has received commissions from Manhattan Theatre Club, Ensemble Studio Theatre and Trinity Repertory Company and has a play opening at Second Stage this August. Said Sayrafiezadeh (ALL FALL AWAY) is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts playwriting fellowship, as well as a Van Lier and an Artist's Fellowship, both from New York Theatre Workshop and will have a new play developed at Sundance this summer.

To send your donation, join the IAAC, sponsor a program or to volunteer for an event contact: **Aroon Shivdasani**

Indo-American Arts Council, Inc., 118 East 25th St., Third Floor, New York, NY 10010

Phone: (212) 529-2347, Fax: (212) 477-4106, Email: aroon@iaac.us, Website: .iaac.us



IAAC Fourth Film Festival: Padma Lakshmi, Salman Rushdie, Shabana Azmi, Shashi Tharoor, Mira Nair, Madhur Jaffrey