

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a horse's eye. The eye is dark brown and highly detailed, showing the iris and pupil. The surrounding skin is a rich, warm brown color with fine hairs visible. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the horse's coat.

|Soulpepper|

IN ASSOCIATION WITH WHY NOT THEATRE

# HAYAVADANA

GIRISH KARNAD

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The artists and staff of Soulpepper and the Young Centre for the Performing Arts acknowledge the original caretakers and storytellers of this land – the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and Wendat First Nation, and The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation who are part of the Anishinaabe Nation. We commit to honouring and celebrating their past, present and future.



“All around the world and throughout history, humans have acted out the stories that are significant to them, the stories that are central to their sense of who they are, the stories that have defined their communities, and shaped their societies. When we talk about classical theatre we want to explore what that means from the many perspectives of this city. This is a celebration of our global canon.”

– **Weyni Mengesha**, Soulpepper’s Artistic Director

photo by Emma Mcintyre

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**Cast**

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**Nadine Bhabha**

Padmini

**Sarena Parmar**

Actor 2, Doll 1

**Anand Rajaram**

Kapila

**Sehar Bhojani**

Actor 1, Doll 2

**Ellora Patnaik**

Bhagavata

**Navtej Sandhu**

Kali, Child

**Sharada Eswar**

Singer

**Nadeem Phillip**

Hayavadana

**Ravi Jain**

Devadatta

**Creative Team**

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**Miriam Fernandes**

Director

**Matt Rideout**

Audio Engineer

**Maricris Rivera**

Producing Assistant

**Girish Karnad**

Playwright

**Weyni Mengesha**

Artistic Director

**Megan Woods**

Associate Production Manager

**Debashis Sinha**

Sound Designer

**Emma Stenning**

Executive Director

**Corey MacVicar**

Associate Technical Director

**Sharada Eswar**

Artistic Collaborator

**Tania Senewiratne**

Executive Producer

**Nik Murillo**

Marketer

**Gregory Sinclair**

Audio Producer

**Mimi Warshaw**

Producer

**Thank You To**

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Lindsay Presswell.

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*Hayavadana* was first presented in English by the Madras Players at the Museum Theatre, Madras on December 7, 1972.



**NADINE BHABHA** is an actor, writer, producer, and poet from Toronto. Selected theatre includes many iterations of the *Mahabharata* workshops (Why Not Theatre and The Shaw Festival); *The Penelopiad* (The Grand Theatre); and *Girls Like That* (Tarragon Theatre). She is best known for her comedic performances in shows such as *Letterkenny* (Crave/Hulu), *Barbelle* (KindaTV); and *About Sex* (CBC Gem) to name a few. She is currently writing and performing as a feature player for Canada's beloved, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* (CBC). She has also produced two short films she has co-written and published a book of poetry, entitled *sweat*.



**SEHAR BHOJANI** was born and raised in Hamilton, ON. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Hayavadana*. **FILM & TELEVISION:** *SLAXX* (EMA Films); *Punchline* (short); *Coroner*; *Handmaid's Tale*. **OTHER:** Sehar is currently Associate Artistic Director of Theatre Direct. She is also in the midst of writing the pilot for an original series about a Muslim Canadian family.



**SHARADA ESWAR** is a multi-disciplinary artist born and raised in India and currently residing in Treaty 19 (Brampton). **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Hayavadana*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *The Draupadi Project* (The Riser Project/ Whynot Theatre); *border crossings* (Tamasha Arts); *The Blue God & the Serpents* (Tamasha Arts); *Like an Old Tale* (Jumblies Theatre). **OTHER:** Winner – OAG Award for *border crossings*; Nominee – Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts



**MIRIAM FERNANDES** was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Hayavadana*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *Animal Farm*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Prince Hamlet* (Why Not Theatre); *The Jungle Book* (Kidoons/WYRD Productions); *Nesen and The First Time I Saw the Sea* (YVA Theatre); *Soliciting Temptation* (Tarragon Theatre). **OTHER:** Miriam is Co-Artistic Director of Why Not Theatre. She is a graduate of Ecole Jacques Lecoq (Paris), has trained with Anne Bogart and the SITI Company, and is co-writer of Why Not's adaptation of *Mahabharata* as well as *What You Won't Do for Love* starring Drs. David Suzuki and Tara Cullis.



**RAVI JAIN FOR SOULPEPPER:** Director: *Accidental death of an anarchist* (dora award for best production), *the 39 Steps*, *Animal Farm*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Toronto-based stage director Ravi Jain is a multi-award-winning artist known for making politically bold and accessible theatrical experiences in both small indie productions and large theatres. As the founding artistic director of Why Not Theatre, Ravi has established himself as an artistic leader for his inventive productions, international producing/collaborations and innovative producing models which are aimed to better support emerging artists to make money from their art. Currently he is directing a new adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* called *R + J* for the Stratford Festival, he is co-adapting *The Mahabharata* with Why Not Theatre and the Shaw Festival and finally a soon to be released filmed version of a new play with acclaimed environmentalists David Suzuki and Tara Cullis.



**GIRISH KARNAD** was an Indian actor, film director, Kannada writer, playwright and a Rhodes Scholar, who predominantly worked in South Indian cinema and Bollywood. His rise as a playwright in the 1960s marked the coming of age of modern Indian playwriting in Kannada, just as Badal Sarkar did in Bengali, Vijay Tendulkar in Marathi, and Mohan Rakesh in Hindi. He was a recipient of the 1998 Jnanpith Award, the highest literary honour conferred in India.



**SARENA PARMAR** was born in Prince George and raised in Kelowna, BC. **SOULPEPPER:** *Mahabharata*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *All's Well That Ends Well* (Bard on the Beach); *The Orchard* (After Chekhov), *Stage Kiss*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Androcles and the Lion* (Shaw Festival); *Winter's Tale*, *Measure for Measure* (Groundling Theatre); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Tarragon); *Alice Through Looking Glass*, *Antony and Cleopatra* (Stratford Festival). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Pretty Hard Cases*, *Nurses*, *The 410*. **OTHER:** Sarena is a graduate of the National Theatre School and Birmingham Conservatory for Classical Theatre. Her play, *The Orchard (After Chekhov)* has been produced at the Shaw Festival and Arts Club Theatre.



**ELLORA PATNAIK** was born and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2020:** *Mahabharata*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *A Christmas Carol*, *Sisters*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Much Ado About Nothing* (Tarragon); *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in the Ruff); *Free Outgoing* (Nightwood); *Acha Bacha* (TPM). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Kim's Convenience*, *Schitt's Creek*, *Hudson and Rex*, *Orphan Black*. **OTHER:** *Mahabharata* will be the second work of Girish Karnad that Ellora has acted in, having previously performed the role of Rani in *Naga Mandala* directed by Rasik Arts Sally Jones.



**NADEEM PHILLIP** attended Ryerson Theatre School where he was trained by Ian Watson of the Stratford Conservatory, and Dr. Cynthia Ashperger of the Michael Chekhov Association. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Mahabharata*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *As You Like It* (Bard on the Beach); *Onegin* (Arts Club); *Mahabharata* (workshop, Shaw Festival); *Inside* (Summerworks); *My Ocean* (Vancouver Fringe). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Cosmopolis*; *The Handmaid's Tale*; *Debra!*



**ANAND RAJARAM** was born in New Delhi, India and has lived in Canada since the age of 5. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Around the World in 80 Plays*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** *The 39 Steps* (2016), *Noises Off!* (2016), *Tiger Bamboo Festival* (2016). **OTHER THEATRE:** *Great War*, *Laurier*, *Red River Rebellion*, *War of 1812* (VideoCabaret); *Reloaded*, *Bird Flu Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *Tip of the Melting Iceberg* (Second City); *Rice Boy*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Three Musketeers* (Stratford). **FILM & TELEVISION:** *Men With Brooms* (tv series); *Stealing Vows*; *God & Country*; *Beeba Boys*; various cartoons, video games, audio-books, panelist on CBC Radio's *Because News*. **OTHER:** Nominated for 5 Doras awards, winning best actor Dora for *Mustard* (2016) and *Buffoon* (2020)



**MATT RIDEOUT** with over a decade in the professional audio and music industry, Matt brings a wealth of technical knowledge and artistic insight into his work. As a producer/engineer/mixer and livestream specialist, Matt is dedicated to innovating the professional audio space, and building an inclusive and open creative environment for his clients and colleagues. Matt studied Music & Composition at the University of Windsor and is a graduate of the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology (OIART). He is also the co-owner/operator of A&B Studios and StreamTuneUp.



**NAVTEJ SANDHU** is an Indian/Canadian actor who was born in Queens, NY and raised in Toronto, ON. **SOULPEPPER 2021:** *Mahabharata*. **OTHER THEATRE:** *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in High Park); *The Green Line* (Edmonton Fringe/ Hold-Over Series); *Mahabharata* (workshops, Shaw Festival 2018-2019). Along with acting for stage, Navtej has also completed her intermediate fight combat at Rapier Wit and aspires to continue on to get her advanced.



**GREGORY J. SINCLAIR** is an award-winning producer, director, educator and program innovator based in Toronto. His work in all media disciplines has earned more than 20 international prizes and distinctions, and he has consulted widely on approaches to digital distribution of live performance programming and live-stream multiple-platform interactive programming. As Executive Producer with CBC Radio/cbc.ca, he developed produced and directed multiple scripted audio series and specials, including the celebrated series *Afghanada*, and the interactive *Trust, Inc.* Recent credits include development of scripted and unscripted podcast series (Audible Canada), producing and directing multi-camera live stream musical performances (Luminato, 2019-2020), musical and scripted audio programs for Soulpepper Theatre (Gold Medal New York Festival 2020), and award-winning films, presented on international broadcast and online platforms.



**DEBASHIS SINHA** **SOULPEPPER 2021:** Sound Designer: *Mahabharata*. **FOR SOULPEPPER:** Sound Designer: *Mother's Daughter, A Streetcar Named Desire, Wedding at Aulis, Idomeneus, Crash* (remount and tour), *The Just, Happy Place, Eurydice*. **OTHER THEATRE:** (selected): Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Why Not Theatre, Theatre Centre, Theatre Passe Muraille, Peggy Baker Dance Projects, YPT, Volcano 10 Theatre, Pleiades Theatre, Theatre Direct. **OTHER:** 2 Dora Awards for Best Original Sound Design, General Theatre; Toronto Critics Award, Best Design; many broadcasts of radio and sound art internationally.

**MUSIC:** *Maha Ganapatim/Invocation*, Composer: Muthuswami Dikshitar; Raagam: Naatai' Taalam: Aadi. *Kanne En Kanmaniye/Lullaby*, Composer: Papanasam Sivam; Raagam: Kurinji' Taalam: Aadi. *Thillana (End of Act 1)*, Composer: Lalgudi Jayaraman; Raagam: Revathi, Taalam: Misra Chaapu. *Manasa Sancharare*, Composer: Sadashiva Brahmendrar Raagam: Shyaama, Taalam: Aadi. *Jhulat Radha*, Composer: Meera Bai' Raagam: Saaveri. *Theerada Villayattu Pillai*, Composer: Bharathiyar, Raagam: Sindhu Bhairavi, Taalam: Aadi

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