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## **Why Not Theatre assembles a team of international collaborators in the world premiere of *Gimme Shelter***

**Co-presented by PANAMANIA presented by CIBC, in association with Soulpepper Theatre Company**

**TORONTO, June 15, 2015** - Rising sea levels are displacing millions of people around the world due to climate change. Why Not Theatre assembles a team of international artists in the world premiere of *Gimme Shelter* to ask: What can one person do? Inspired by the ancient text of the Indian epic The Mahabharata, *Gimme Shelter* questions individual responsibility to action when facing problems that seem too big to solve. **Opens July 13th, 2015 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts** as part of the TORONTO 2015 PAN AM/PARAPAN AM GAMES arts and cultural festival PANAMANIA presented by CIBC, tickets available from [www.theatrewhynot.org](http://www.theatrewhynot.org).

The collaboration brings together top artists from theatre, music and visual arts to create an innovative storytelling form that seamlessly integrates traditional narrative, movement, Eastern sounds and stunning multimedia spectacle. *Gimme Shelter* is directed by award-winning NY based director **Jenny Koons**, with original composition by tabla sensation **Gurpreet Chana**, sound design by **Nicholas Murray** of the indie band LAL, projection designs by Ex Machina's **David Leclerc**, set and costumes by Soulpepper resident artist **Ken MacKenzie** and lighting by multiple Dora Award-winning designer **Kimberly Purtell**.

*Gimme Shelter* is performed and written by **Ravi Jain**, artistic director of **Why Not Theatre**, best known for creating and performing in the hit show *A Brimful of Asha*. He directed the Governor General Award-winning *Fault Lines* by Nicolas Billon and recently directed the politically charged Canadian premiere of Soulpepper's *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*, nominated for six Dora Awards including *Outstanding Production* and *Outstanding Director*.

For images, interviews, or more information, please contact: **Owais Lightwala** at [owais@theatrewhynot.org](mailto:owais@theatrewhynot.org) or at +1 647 866 7432

### **Gimme Shelter**

**July 13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts  
(50 Tank House Lane, Distillery Historic District, Toronto, Ontario M5A 3C4)**

Co-presented by Why Not Theatre and PANAMANIA presented by CIBC, in association with Soulpepper Theatre Company.

Written and performed by **Ravi Jain**  
Developed and Directed by **Jenny Koons**

Original Music by **Gurpreet Chana**  
Set & Costume Design by **Ken MacKenzie**  
Video Design by **David Leclerc**  
Lighting Design by **Kimberly Purtell**  
Sound Design by **Nicholas Murray**  
Stage Management by **Heather Thompson**  
Production Management and Technical Direction by **Kelly Read**  
Produced by **Owais Lightwala**

Tickets starting at \$20, available in person from the Young Centre Box Office at  
**[tickets.youngcentre.ca](http://tickets.youngcentre.ca)** or by calling **416-866-8666**.

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*Gimme Shelter* was commissioned by the **Toronto 2015 Pan Am / Parapan Am Games arts and culture festival, PANAMANIA** presented by CIBC, and developed with the support of **Soulpepper Theatre Company, Playwrights Workshop Montreal, The Theatre Centre** and the **Toronto Arts Council**.

#### **About Why Not Theatre**

Founded in 2007, Why Not Theatre is a Toronto-based theatre company with an international scope. Under Artistic Director Ravi Jain, Why Not has established a reputation as a company synonymous with inventive, experimental, cross-cultural collaborations resulting in shows featuring new Canadian writing, company-devised and site specific shows alongside revitalized interpretations of classics. In recent years, the company has also become known for its presentation of international productions and workshops from diverse cultures and artistic practices, along with support for the development of local emerging artists and companies. For more info visit [www.theatrewhynot.org](http://www.theatrewhynot.org)

For press inquiries, please contact:

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