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## NAUTANKI BAZAAR PRESENTS



# STORIES OF A DISH

**A global pandemic may have struck, but we have a chef who's just stuck!**

**WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY HIMANSHU SITLANI  
DIRECTED BY NEHA PODUVAL**

**JANUARY 19-30, 2022**

Toronto, ON (January 12, 2022) Toronto based theatre company, Nautanki Bazaar is thrilled to present its debut virtual theatre production **STORIES OF A DISH**, as a part of the Next Stage Theatre Festival from January 19-30, 2022.

A global pandemic may have struck, but here is a person who's just stuck! He wants to win the world over with his cooking, but will he be able to? He's got to face isolation, earn acceptance and, most importantly, get groceries delivered. Will he find the secret recipe to happiness? A culinary theatrical journey awaits, in this delightful solo show inspired by the popular *Stories of a Dish* video series on the company's Instagram and Facebook page.

The play premiered at the first ever 'Mississauga Multilingual Fringe Festival', as part of their digital series, in August 2021. That same month it was presented at 'The Edinburgh Fringe Festival'. Since then, the show has been performed in-person in London, UK for the 'Little Lion Theatre Festival' and virtually in Mumbai, India for the 'Tata Literature Live Festival' and 'Thespo'.

After their debut play was postponed due to Covid-19 in March 2020, Nautanki Bazaar took the opportunity of the lockdown to showcase their love of food by launching *Mustard Tempered Dreams*, a YouTube cooking channel, where they share how to make delicious, India and global vegetarian (mostly) recipes that they love to eat and cook! Through the comments and feedback on the channel, they found supporters sharing their own unique stories behind liking their favourite dishes, and the underlying racism they sometimes faced due to their choices, which inspired the idea of the video series where viewers were invited to share and reminisce their favourite dish and what truly made it special for them. The series provided a place for viewers to come and share, in the comfort of a safe and inclusive environment, brought together by a shared interest in food. The series

had 44 weekly episodes with stories coming from Canada, India, USA, UK, Bangladesh, Kuwait and Trinidad. All of this inspired in the creation of this play!

**STORIES OF DISH** marks the debut of Himanshu Sitlani and Neha Poudval in Canadian Theatre.

**Himanshu Sitlani** is a thespian, originally hailing from Mumbai. Since immigrating to Canada, Himanshu's been immersed in supporting the creative arts, working as Patron Services Manager at Factory Theatre, while penning down his ideas towards his goal of creating a bridge between creative artists in Canada and India.

**Neha Poduval** is a trained actor, with several feathers in her creative hat, having performed in various theatre plays, corporate films and TV shows across India. A post-graduate in Acting from the reputed Film and Television Institute of India, she continued her association with the performing arts since moving to Canada. Neha is also a certified Yoga Teacher and has been teaching Yoga across various studios, community and senior centres in Toronto. She started her own YouTube channel called 'Mustard Tempered Dreams' where she shares her love for food through easy to make, delicious, Indian and global vegetarian (mostly) recipes she loves to eat and cook!

**Nautanki Bazaar**

In association with **The Toronto Fringe Festival** presents

**Stories of a Dish**

Written and Performed by Himanshu Sitlani

Directed by Neha Poduval

**The Digital Series**

Opens January 19 - 30, 2022

Online at [fringetoronto.com](https://fringetoronto.com) - <https://fringetoronto.com/next-stage/show/stories-dish>

Tickets and Memberships: [www.fringetoronto.com](http://www.fringetoronto.com)

**Box Office:** Email - [general@fringetoronto.com](mailto:general@fringetoronto.com) Phone: 416-966-1062 ext. 0

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**Social Media**

• FB: [@NautankiBazaar](https://www.facebook.com/NautankiBazaar) • IG: [@nautankibazaarproductions](https://www.instagram.com/nautankibazaarproductions) • TW: [@NautankiTO](https://twitter.com/NautankiTO)

Website: [www.nautankibazaar.ca](http://www.nautankibazaar.ca)

**#storiesofadish #soad**

Founded in 2019, the multicultural theatre company, **Nautanki Bazaar** was formed with a mission to present, promote, showcase and celebrate South Asian stories and artists.