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MEDIA RELEASE

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For information and interviews, contact

Doyle Fox, Publicist

(306) 924-2841

or doylef@globetheatrelive.com

Hamlet (solo)

April 23 – April 28, 2013

April 15, 2013 – Hope and Hell Theatre Co. and Richard Jordan Productions present *Hamlet (solo)*, an exciting one-man version of William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* performed by Raoul Bhaneja.

Bhaneja plays 17 characters in Shakespeare's classic tragedy that revolves around murder, revenge and the quest for the throne of Denmark.

“Almost before he can take a bow his audience have leaped from their seats in a standing ovation...,” says the *The List* (UK).

“Without set, props or even other actors to help him move things along, Bhaneja engages in urgent, energetic storytelling. The athleticism required to memorize and deliver 15,000 words of script is itself exhilarating to watch,” adds *Now Magazine* (Toronto).

The show focuses on the three most essential elements of theatre: the actor, the text and the audience. This production is best described as ‘bare bones’ in its presentation with Bhaneja playing all the characters and using only Shakespeare’s text in the two hour version of the play.

“Bhaneja is a superb speaker of Shakespearean verse, making every line clear and conversational... this is a production of *Hamlet* that many full companies could envy for its speed, clarity and theatricality,” *The Stage* (UK).

Robert Ross Parker of the Obie-winning Vampire Cowboys Theatre Company will be directing the show. **Deeter Schurig** is credited with the original design concept. Additional crew includes **Patrick James** (Studio Technician).

Media Fact Sheet:

Hamlet (solo)

Written by William Shakespeare

Directed by Robert Ross Parker

Original design concept by Deeter Schurig

Performed by Raoul Bhaneja

- **Bhaneja** and **Parker** began developing the project in 2000 while members of the Soulpepper Theatre Company
- **Bhaneja** is one of the few Canadians to have ever performed at **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre** in London, U.K
- ***Hamlet (solo)*** was the subject of a 2007 **Gemini Nominated** BRAVO! documentary directed by **Jeff Stephenson** charting the seven-year development of ***Hamlet (solo)*** and includes interviews with a number of fellow "Hamlets" including **Colm Feore, Brent Carver, Ben Carlson, Ken Welsh, John Neville and Christopher Plummer.**
- Tickets start at \$20

Raoul Bhaneja's bio

Bhaneja is an accomplished National Theatre School graduate, Gemini and Canadian Comedy Award nominee. His theatre credits include The Stratford Shakespeare Festival's *Rice Boy*, Canadian Stage's *The Cosmonauts Last Message...*, Tarragon Theatre's *Wide Awake Hearts*, *Bashir Lazhar*, *House of Many Tongues*, *Helen's Necklace* and *The Domino Heart*; *Hamlet* for Neptune Theatre and seasons with Soulpepper Theatre and The Blyth Festival. In 2002 he was awarded The Christopher Plummer Fellowship Award of Excellence and was a member for the International Company at Shakespeare's Globe in London. Television credits include recurring roles on *Train 48* (Global) *Runaway* (The CW) *The Dresden Files* (Sci-Fi) and he has starred in several CBC projects including *At The Hotel*, *Open Heart*, *The Summit*, *The Ron James Show*, *Little Mosque On The Prairie* and *Insecurity*. His feature films include *A Wake*, *At Home By Myself... With You*, *Ararat*, *Godsend*, *Touch of Pink*, *The Sentinel* opposite Michael Douglas and *Wierdsville*, directed by Allan Moyle. An accomplished musician, his band Raoul and The Big Time was selected by Toronto's NOW Magazine as Best Blues Artist and has released four recordings since 2000.