



**PRESS RELEASE: 10/05/04**

**CURRY COMEDY SERVES UP SPICY STORIES**

**Rasa Productions** in association with the **Traverse Theatre** presents writer and performer **Rani Moorthy** in **Curry Tales** at the **Traverse 4/ Raj On the Shore** Indian restaurant during the **Edinburgh Fringe Festival ( 6th-28th Aug)**. In a sensory medley of live cooking, visual images, fused with Western style text and story telling, **Curry Tales** adds to the flavour by being performed on location, in the Edinburgh restaurant owned by the famous Bangladeshi chef and entrepreneur **Tommy Miah**, who was also recently elected as a Fellow of the **RSA**- Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce.

Through the medium of this global food phenomenon, **Rani Moorthy** reveals the secrets behind Britain's favourite food. **Curry Tales** unravels the stories of six very different women – behind every curry lies a story and in every cook there lies a character. Literally feeding the audience with food for thought, curry is used to uncover character and personality, stories and secrets. Evoking the intimacy of a kitchen, cafe or dining room, food is prepared and cooked by the characters allowing the making of curry to become a total experience, with the audience seeing and hearing the chopping, pounding, peeling, stirring of ingredients and encouraged to taste the results!

Stylistically, **Curry Tales** draws from Kutthu theatre of South India, where an intimate, immediate relationship is created between performer and audience through ritual, interaction, song and dance. There will also be video projection from India, Malaysia and the UK placing the characters in their geographical and cultural contexts. Taking a journey around the world, **Curry Tales** will reveal surprising influences on curry like the role of the British in the spread of curry via trade, the colonies, all of which ultimately lead to the migration and settlement of the South Asian Diaspora.

Writer and performer **Rani Moorthy** was born in Malaysia and came to Britain in 1996 as an actress (**Cold Feet**, **A&E** and **Coronation Street**). Her one woman show, **Pooja** recently completed a tour of Asia and the UK and she recently wrote the play **Dancing Within Walls** starring Coronation Street star Shobna Gulati.

**Curry Tales** also brings together some of the brightest creative talent in the industry. Director **Linda Marlowe's** previous directing credits include **A view From The Bridge** (Leicester Haymarket)) and **Metamorphosis** (Contact) and is well known for her several collaborations with Stephen Berkoff. Music composer **Jaydev Mistry** has worked over a decade in the music industry with some of the best Asian fusion musicians, including Nitin Sawney.

*'...complex, challenging and glorious...Moorthy is dynamic and warm. The writing is clear and strong and bursts with exotic detail.'* *The Scotsman*

## **ENDS**

### **PRESS NIGHT:**

Edinburgh Fringe Festival - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Press Night tickets, interviews, biographies and images

Mary Rahman at MR PR, 020 7749 1136 or email [mary@mr-pr.com](mailto:mary@mr-pr.com)

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### **NOTES TO EDITOR:**

1. Rasa blend theatre, dance and multi media from South Asia and the West to produce new narrative drama, emphasizing how every personal story, cultural ritual or unfamiliar history has a universal resonance. Based in Manchester, the company has performed throughout the UK, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. [www.rasatheatre.co.uk](http://www.rasatheatre.co.uk)
2. Curry Tales written by Rani Moorthy. Directed by Linda Marlowe. Design by Rachana Jadhav. Video sequences by Arthur Smith and music composition by Jaydev Mistry.
3. UK Tour Dates

VENUE	DATES	BOX OFFICE
Edinburgh: Traverse 4 /The Raj on the Shore, Henderson Street, Leith, Edinburgh	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> August at 7pm	0131 228 1404.
Manchester Library Theatre, St Peter's Square, Manchester	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> – Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> September at 8pm	0161 236 7110.
Lyric, Hammersmith	Tuesday 21 Sep-Saturday 2nd October	0208 741 2311

