



PRESS RELEASE

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Click [here](#) to download hi-res images of Rohina Malik

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ROHINA MALIK'S *UNVEILED* A FRESH LOOK AT WESTERNIZED MUSLIM WOMEN WHO CHOOSE TO WEAR A VEIL, MARCH 24-APRIL 4 AT VICTORY GARDENS

CHICAGO, March 8, 2010 – Racism. Hate crimes. Love. Islam. Culture. Language. Life. In *Unveiled*, five Muslim women in a post-9/11 world serve tea and uncover what lies beneath the veil.

Don't miss a rare and intimate glimpse at modern Muslim life when Victory Gardens Fresh Squeezed in association with 16th Street Theater presents *Unveiled*, written and performed by Rohina Malik, directed by Ann Filmer, March 24 through April 4 at Victory Gardens' Richard Christiansen Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. **Press opening is Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7 pm.** Performances continue through April 4, Wednesdays through Sundays at 7 pm. Tickets are \$25. For tickets and information, call **773.871.3000** or visit victorygardens.org

Prior to each 70-minute performance, the audience will enjoy four kinds of tea donated by **Todd & Holland Tea Merchants** of Forest Park (including Pink Kashmiri Chai made especially for *Unveiled* by Todd & Holland) and a photography exhibit by **Sadaf Syed** entitled "iCover: a day in the life of an American Muslim COVERed Girl."

Chicago-based playwright, actress and solo artist Rohina Malik draws heavily from her Indo-Pakistani heritage as inspiration for her art. Originally developed for Live Bait's *Fillet of Solo*, Malik workshopped *Unveiled* with Rivendell Theater Ensemble and then with director Ann Filmer before premiering her one-woman show at Filmer's 16th Street Theater in Berwyn, where it became a smash hit, playing to sold-out houses and critical acclaim:

"A terrific show...intellectually engrossing work of theater" – Nina Metz, *Chicago Tribune*

"Powerful solo show...five riveting tales of Muslim women" – Jack Helbig, *Chicago Reader*

"Terrifically entertaining...a compelling 70-minute piece rich with illuminating surprises, drawing the audience into worlds that are both unique and truly universal." – Catey Sullivan, *Chicago Examiner*

Malik also has worked with Live Bait Theater and Teatro Vista. Her newest play, *Yasmina's Necklace*, received a staged reading at the Goodman Theater's New Stages Series in December 2009, directed by Henry Godinez.

More about Victory Gardens Fresh Squeezed

Unveiled is presented by 16th Street Theater in association with Victory Gardens Fresh Squeezed, part of the New Audiences for New Plays initiative funded by a Wallace Foundation Excellence Award.

"Fresh Squeezed exists for us to encourage new people to come through our doors and poke around," says Will Rogers, Associate Producer of Fresh Squeezed. "Not just young audiences (young audiences certainly) but also new writers and performers and cultures and ideas. We are a theater dedicated to tending new plays, and in our rapidly diversifying cultural landscape Fresh Squeezed allows us to cast a wide net and find the hidden treasures that are relevant to our community."

About Victory Gardens Theater

Victory Gardens Theater is home to the bold voices of world premiere theater. The company features the work of its own 14-member Playwrights Ensemble, as well as that of exciting playwrights who are changing theater in the United States and abroad. Since its founding in 1974, the company has produced more world premieres than any other Chicago theater, a commitment recognized nationally when Victory Gardens received the 2001 Tony Award for Regional Theatre. The company's dedication to developing, supporting and producing new work makes Victory Gardens an American Center for New Plays.

Working with a \$3.1 million annual budget in 2009-2010, Victory Gardens continues to expand its artistic and institutional boundaries under the guidance of Artistic Director **Dennis Zacek**, Executive Director **Jan Kallish**, Associate Artistic Director **Sandy Shinner**, Board President **Jeffrey Rappin**, a dedicated staff and board, and the support of its loyal subscribers.

About 16th Street Theater

Named Chicago's Best Emerging Theater in the *Chicago Reader* last year, 16th Street Theater exists to tell the stories of ALL in our community. Led by Artistic Director Ann Filmer, 2010 marks its third season: What is Home? 16th Street has developed and premiered work by **Tony Fitzpatrick** (*This Train*), **Arlene Malinowski** (*Aiming for Sainthood*), **Tanya Saracho** (*Kita y Fernanda*), poet **Susan Hahn** (*The Scarlet Ibis*) and Rohina Malik (*Unveiled*). Supported in part by The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and individual donors, 16th Street is under the umbrella of the Berwyn Cultural Center, a part of the North Berwyn Park District.

This is 16th Street Theater's first time presenting a show outside of their 49-seat venue in Berwyn.

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