LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF BHANGIN’ IT: A BANGIN’ NEW MUSICAL

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse is pleased to announce the cast for its world-premiere production of Bhangin’ It: A Bangin’ New Musical, book by Mike Lew (Playhouse’s Tiger Style!) and Rehana Lew Mirza (Playhouse’s DNA Series’ Child of Colonialism), music and lyrics by Sam Willmott (Yo, Vikings!), with additional music by Grammy Award nominee Deep Singh. The piece will be directed by Stafford Arima (Broadway’s Allegiance), with choreography by Rujuta Vaidya (Slumdog Millionaire Academy Awards performance) and musical staging by Lisa Shriver (Playhouse/Broadway’s Jesus Christ Superstar), along with Bhangra specialist Anushka Pushpala (Artistic Director of Bhangra Empire). The show is scheduled to run in the Playhouse’s Mandell Weiss Theatre March 8 – April 17, 2022 (press opening March 20).


“We are overjoyed to welcome this extraordinary cast to the Playhouse. They bring an incredible vitality to a show that is very much of our current cultural moment. Bhangin’ It: A Bangin’ New Musical is an utterly charming and vibrant new work about finding your identity and building community, and we can’t wait to share it with audiences this spring,” said Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse.

While East Lansing University senior Mary Darshini Clarke has spent her entire life trying to figure out where she fits in, she has always found community dancing on the school’s prestigious bhangra team. But when she becomes the self-appointed captain of a new team of enthusiastic novices more interested in making friends than the right moves, Mary quickly learns that carving out her own path complicates her journey. As the pressure of the big national competition approaches, can both teams learn that what makes them unique could actually be the key to their success? Bursting with vibrant dance and electrifying music, Bhangin’ It: A Bangin’ New Musical is an exhilarating and joyous new musical comedy for America today.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what’s new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 105 world premieres, commissioning 60 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway – including the hit musical Come From Away – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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FACT SHEET

WHAT: **Bhangin’ It: A Bangin’ New Musical**  
Book: Mike Lew and Rehana Lew Mirza  
Music and Lyrics: Sam Willmott  
Additional Music: Deep Singh  
Director: Stafford Arima  
Choreographer: Rujuta Vaidja  
Musical Staging: Lisa Shriver  
Bhangra Specialist: Anushka Pushpala

WHEN: March 8 – April 17, 2022 (Press Opening: March 20)  
Tue/Wed at 7:30pm; Thu/Fri/Sat at 8pm; Sun at 7pm; Sat/Sun at 2pm

WHERE: **Mandell Weiss Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse**  
2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

WHO:  
Scenic Design: Robert Brill  
Costume Design: Linda Cho  
Lighting Design: Amith Chandrashaker  
Sound Designer: Jonathan Deans  
Projection Designer: David Bengali  
Dramaturg: Natasha Sinha  
Stage Manager: Julianne Menassian  
Casting: Calleri/Jensen/Davis; Jacole Kitchen

Cast:  
Ari Afsar as Mary  
Aryaan Arora as Mohan  
Bilaal Avaz as Amit  
Jesse Bhamrah as Gobind  
Brandon Contreras as Billy  
Laura Dadap as Constance  
Henry Walter Greenberg as Noah  
Jason Heil as Wallace  
Terrance Johnson as Jake  
Jaya Joshi as Sunita  
Madison McBride as Lily  
Anu Mysore as Shetal  
Amey Natu as Big Bob  
Alka Nayyar as Rekha  
Zain Patel as Varun  
Devi Peot as New Mary  
Vinithra Raj as Preeti  
Ramita Ravi as Shilpa  
Swings: Nikki Mirza, Gerry Tonella, Levin Valayil

BACKGROUND: Winner of the Richard Rodgers Award, **Bhangin’ It: A Bangin’ New Musical** is an exhilarating piece that celebrates the traditions we inherit from yesterday and those we create for tomorrow. When a young woman finds her identity cannot be defined by checking a box, she sets off on a quest to dance to her own beat. Drawing from competitive Bhangra and mixing it with other Indian and Western dance forms alike, **Bhangin’ It: A Bangin New Musical** is a brash, intoxicating and joyous musical for America today.

SPONSORS: Mintz, Dowling & Yahnke, Show Imaging

TICKETS:  
(858) 550-1010; LaJollaPlayhouse.org

Due to changing COVID-19 conditions, COVID safety requirements will be updated closer to the performance dates.