

HOLLOW/WAVE

an autobiographical one-woman show



written and performed by

Anu Bhatt

Presented at the United Solo Theatre Festival
Tuesday, October 29th at 7:30pm
Studio Theatre at Theatre Row
401 W. 42nd St. New York, NY 10036

ABOUT ANU



Anu Bhatt is an actor, dancer and writer recently relocated to San Diego after nine years in Chicago. Her autobiographical one-woman show *Hollow/Wave* has been touring around the country, including off-Broadway at the United Solo Festival. Anu received her B.A. in Linguistics at U.C. Berkeley and her M.F.A. in Acting from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

Recent Chicago theatre credits: *Mansfield Park* (Northlight Theatre); *Hollow/Wave* (Silk Road Rising); *The Antelope Party* (Theater Wit); *A Disappearing Number* (TimeLine); *The Burials* (u/s, Steppenwolf). Regional: Michigan Shakespeare Festival. TV credits: *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago Med* (NBC); *Electric Dreams* (Amazon). Anu is a trained Indian classical dancer and is fluent in French.



I want to validate the experiences of people in the audience who look like me by sharing the pain and joy in my own life. I hope to foster communication and spread empathy through my work.

Anu Bhatt

ACCOLADES



#11 of 11 Asian-American Shows to Watch For in the 2017-18 Season

"This has...the kind of eye-opening perspective that could...highlight the struggles of Asian performers...to make a dent in the entertainment landscape."



Guest speaker on The Morning Shift with Tony Sarabia (August 2018)



Featured in Voyage Chicago (June 12, 2018)

"No population or type of person is free of trauma, so let us embrace our shared humanity as a result."

AMERICAN THEATRE
A PUBLICATION OF THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP



Andrew Fillmore

Featured in American Theatre Magazine for CAATA ConFest 2018


HOLLOW / WAVE IN NYC

Hollow / Wave



Tuesday, October 29, 2019

7:30PM @ United Solo Theatre Festival
410 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036

 @HollowWaveThePlay



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ABOUT HOLLOW / WAVE

Full-length 90 min / Touring 45 min

Hollow/Wave tells a story of pain and joy through dance and poetry, deftly weaving serious subject matter into the larger narrative of finding and embracing one's unique voice. In the immortal words of Swami Vivekananda:

“No winter was but summer came behind/Each hollow crests the wave/They push each other into light and shade/Be steady then the brave.”

Anu was a smart, funny kid with nothing to fear but a B on a report card. But when a wave of dark memories threatens to consume her, she must embrace a new identity in a daring dance for survival.



Crimson Cat Studios

PRODUCTION HISTORY (partial list):

Hollow/Wave was developed under the guidance of Arlene Malinowski and workshopped at Silk Road Rising from Fall 2017 to Spring 2018 in Chicago, Illinois. It had its first full-length workshop production at Silk Road Rising in May 2018, directed by Barbara Zahora.

August 2019 - National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP) leadership conference, Kansas City

May 2019 - Statera Mentorship Foundation partnership, Chicago, IL

January 2019 - U.C. Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

August 2018 - Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists (CAATA) annual conference, Chicago, IL

PRODUCTION PHOTOS



All photos by Crimson Cat Studios,
courtesy of Silk Road Rising. Available
at http://anubhatt.com/?page_id=174.



AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"Anu's show should be seen by students, organizations, artists, and anyone willing to put themselves in someone else's shoes...to learn about their own shared humanity." – Dana Black, Chicago performer

"The issues of exploring sexual trauma, particularly for South Asian Americans, was priceless. These issues are never discussed in our communities." - Audience member

"The amount of fun, vibrancy, and acting specificity Anu Bhatt brings to her performance is only bested by her willingness and bravery in sharing such a personal, relatable, and poignant story. It's an invitation for a dialogue." – Ian Geers, Chicago actor

Being trained in Indian Classical dance myself, I really appreciated her seamless, elegant integration of Bharatnatyam into her storytelling."
– Priya Mohanty, creator of FOBia web series

"Making me as a male, recognize even more deeply how our actions (comments, gazes, looks, etc.) toward females...can potentially leave a jarring effect." - Audience member

"It has been one of the only experiences during all the "Me Too" conversations...that helped me pull together my own "me too" experiences."
- Audience member

"This is a deeply personal and profoundly moving solo play. Her voice is singular and this lyrical story and dance reaches across the cultural divide. Hollow Wave chronicles the difficult topics of sexual abuse and mental health and does it with heart, humor and honesty."
– Arlene Malinowski, solo performer, playwright, teacher

NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

I wrote *Hollow/Wave* in Fall 2017, as part of my mission is to empower survivors, especially South Asian women. There is a culture of silence in the South Asian community that leads to discomfort around topics such as sexual abuse, depression and even body image. That needs to change.

This play helped me to process the insidious nature of abuse: how it can happen anywhere, at anytime; how latent trauma can be held in a child's body for years and years, but live side-by-side with joy; and how long and how deeply this trauma has affected me, in surprising and shocking ways.

I want to speak to those survivors who think their trauma is not as important as others', because it's "not as bad". I want to encourage them to validate their stories as I have tried to do mine. Everybody has a story worth telling, and each story matters.

Hollow/Wave is universal in its specificity. Though specific to my body and my experiences, this story is for anyone moved by courage over fear; by love over loss; and by hope over darkness. Where South Asians and South Asian-Americans have previously been silent, I hope to help create some noise.

In addition, by representing my story and my person onstage, I am presenting an Asian character who is multifaceted, and whose existence is based on her thoughts and experiences, not her skin tone. As we, hopefully, move into a refreshing new era of positive and accurate Asian representation, we will see more characters not defined by their ethnicity but by their courage, their ambition, and even their flaws.

CONTACT

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