



Vancouver Fringe Festival
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Rohit Chokhani Joins the Fringe as New Executive Director

For Immediate Release: April 9, 2020 — President Sharon Sutherland and the Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society Board of Directors are proud to announce that Rohit Chokhani will be joining the Fringe as the new Executive Director.

Rohit is the founder of Diwali in BC, Project SAT (South Asian Theatre), and the co-creator of the Monsoon Festival of Performing Arts. He is a multi-Jessie Award winning producer and leader— including a recipient of the Vancouver NOW Representation and Inclusion Award. Rohit has worked with many established Vancouver theatre organizations including The Cultch, Bard on the Beach, urban ink productions, and Touchstone Theatre. But it all started at the Fringe. “When I first immigrated to this country, my first opportunity and success in the performing arts came through the Vancouver Fringe Festival,” Rohit said. “Little did I know that a few years later, I would have the honour of leading one of my favourite festivals.”

In 2011, Rohit served as production manager on *Siddhartha: A Journey Home*, a site-specific production at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden that took home the Talk of the Fringe Award. 2015’s *Mrs. Singh & Me*, that he co-produced at South Asian Arts, won the Public Market Pick of the Fringe Award, and in 2017, Rohit directed *Anosh Irani’s Bombay Black* as part of the Fringe’s Dramatic Works Series. *Bombay Black* went on to win the Public Market Pick of the Fringe Award, was remounted at the Firehall Arts Centre, the Evergreen Cultural Centre, and TheatreOne in Nanaimo, and was voted one of the top 20 shows on Vancouver stages in 2017 by *the Georgia Straight*.

The Fringe’s hiring committee, made up of Fringe Board Members, alongside community representatives Nyla Carpentier (*Dissection of a ... Mixed Heritage Woman*; Pow Wow Dancer), Parker Johnson (Facilitator, Mediator, and Intercultural Educator at Elevate Inclusion Strategies; Fringe EDI Committee Member), and Anoushka Ratnarajah (*Setting Bones*; Artistic Director, Out On Screen) reviewed more than 50 applications from across North America and selected Rohit as the new Executive Director.

“It is worth stating that even before I start, our team at the Fringe, our performing arts industry at large, and our community of global citizens have been challenged with this recent pandemic. My heartfelt support goes out to anyone and everyone affected by this,” Rohit said. “I look forward to working with our team of hard-working staff, board members, donors, volunteers, artists, and the extended performing arts community. We are resilient, currently online, and will soon be back making Theatre for Everyone in physical spaces!”



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The Fringe is thrilled to have Rohit, who brings a myriad of experiences leading organizations, especially festivals, and a long-standing history of advancing EDI work—making him ideally suited to step into this pivotal role.

Rohit officially commenced his role as the Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society's Executive Director on April 6, 2020.

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