



For Immediate Release

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Brava! For Women in the Arts
& RasaNova Theater
present the **West Coast premiere** of
Waxing West by Saviana Stanescu
Directed by Brava Artist-In-Residence, **Vidhu Singh**

WHO: Brava! For Women in the Arts, RasaNova Theater

WHAT: West Coast Premiere of **Waxing West** by Saviana Stanescu
Directed by Vidhu Singh

WHERE: Brava Theater Center, 2781-24th Street at York, San Francisco, CA 94110

WHEN: May 1 -18, 2014, shows Thurs-Sat 8pm; Sun 3pm (except Saturday, May 3 at 3pm)

TICKETS: \$20

Almost 25 years since the execution of Romania dictators. Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, Saviana Stanescu's Waxing West tells the story of Romanian mail-order bride, Daniela, who arrives in New York to marry businessman, Charlie. The play moves back and forth between Bucharest and New York city over a 17-month period between April 11, 2000 and Sept. 11, 2001, as Daniela's quest for identity parallels that of post-Ceausescu Romania. The late dictators appear in Daniela's nightmares as insatiable vampires and offer surreal commentary on her journey towards the American Dream.

About the Director:

BRAVA Artist-in-Residence, **Vidhu Singh**, who directed last year's hit comedy, Burqavaganza, is an Indian-born theater director and scholar. She has a Master's degree in Dramatic Art from UC Santa Barbara with a Western theater focus and a doctorate in Asian theater from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During her doctoral research, Vidhu investigated a historic Indian theater experiment of the 1990s, focusing on ten 'Theatre Laboratory Network' companies that received substantial funding to develop actor-training methodologies that blended Indian and Western actor-training techniques. She has worked as the Managing Director of the Asian American Theater Company and taught theater at Foothill College. Vidhu is a graduate of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and since 2011 is a member of World Wide Lab, an international theater directors collective, which she co-founded. Thus far, she has collaborated on World Wide Lab residencies at Robert Wilson's prestigious Watermill Center in the Hamptons in World Wide Lab 2011 followed by World Wide Lab 2012 and 2013 at the Irondale Center, Brooklyn. World Wide Lab highlights include Burqavaganza by Shahid Nadeem, Waxing West by Saviana Stanescu and devised pieces, The Breakfast Variations and Last Request. She plans to co-direct Lion in the Street by Judith Thompson in World Wide Lab 2014 in Rome this September. In 2004, she founded RasaNova Theater to produce bold new plays from across the globe including South Asia and its diaspora. Recent productions include Dancing on Glass by Ram Ganesh Kamatham selected for the National Asian American Theater Festival in 2011, and the aforementioned, Burqavaganza by Shahid Nadeem at Brava Theater in 2013

About the Playwright:

Saviana Stanescu is a Romanian-born award-winning playwright. Her work has been widely presented internationally and in the US. Recent productions include Ants at NJ Rep, For a Barbarian Woman (a co-production Fordham/EST), Aliens with extraordinary skills at Women's Project (published by Samuel French), Bechnya at Hudson Theatre in LA, Waxing West (2007 New York Innovative Theatre Award for Outstanding Full-length Script) at La MaMa Theatre, Suspendida and Vicious Dogs on Premises (with Witness Relocation) at Ontological Theatre, Polanski Polanski and Aurolac Blues at HERE Arts Center, The E-Dating Project at Strasberg Institute for Theatre & Film, and the site-specific I want what you have at the World Financial Center. Aliens with extraordinary skills (Inmigrantes con Habilidades Extraordinarias) and Final Countdown (Cuenta Regresiva) ran for 8 months in Mexico City at Teatro La Capilla and Teatro El Milagro. Ms Stanescu has published books of poetry and drama and co-edited the anthology of plays "Global Foreigners" (with NYU professor Carol Martin) and "roMANIA after 2000" (with CUNY professor Daniel Gerould). Her plays have received readings and workshops at The Lark, Long Wharf Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, New York Stage & Film, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Playwrights' Foundation, Traveling Jewish Theatre, Immigrants Theatre Project, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, Origin Theatre Company, PS122, HERE, etc. Saviana is a member of EST (Ensemble Studio Theatre) and a Usual Suspect with New York Theatre Workshop. Saviana holds an MA in Performance Studies (Fulbright fellow) and an MFA in Dramatic Writing (John Golden Award for excellence in playwriting, shared with Rajiv Joseph) from New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, where she was on faculty in the Drama Department for 8 years. She also teaches playwriting at Primary Stages – Einhorn School of Performing Arts (ESPA). Currently she is a tenure-track



professor of Playwriting and Theatre Arts at Ithaca College. She also holds a PhD in Theatre from National University of Theatre and Film, Bucharest, Romania. Ms. Stanescu serves as Associate Artistic Director for Richard Schechner's East Coast Artists, Director of Eastern European Exchange for The Lark Play Development Center, and curator of playgroundzero for undergroundzerofestival of experimental theater in NYC, and founder/president of Immigrant Artists and Scholars in New York (IASNY).

RasaNova THEATER

Founded in 2004, RasaNova Theater produces bold new plays from across the world, including South Asia and its diaspora. Its work is cross-cultural, edgy and relevant. Highlights include *On a Muggy Night in Mumbai* by Mahesh Dattani at Jon Sims Center for the Arts; *Begum Sumroo: The Rebel Courtesan* by Pratap Sharma at Project Artaud, *Bhopal* by Rahul Varma at CounterPULSE; *Dancing on Glass* at CounterPULSE/Red Poppy Art House, selected for the 2011 National Asian American Theater Festival in Los Angeles and *Burqavaganza* by Shahid Nadeem at Brava Theater.

Brava! for Women In The Arts

Brava! For Women in the Arts celebrates its 26th year as a professional arts organization dedicated to cultivating the artistic expression of women, youth, LGBT, people of color and other unheard voices through the ownership and operation of Brava Theater Center. BRAVA producing history includes award-winning premieres by Diana Son, Eve Ensler, Debbie Swisher, Reno, Cherylene Lee, Suzan-Lori Parks, *Culture Clash*, Joan Holden, Anne Galjour, Elizabeth Summers, Kate Rigg, Dan Guerrero, and Mabou Mines, as well as works by internationally known playwrights like Jesusa Rodriguez and Liliana Felipe of Mexico, Jorge Drexler of Uruguay, and *Ojos de Brujo* and Ismael Serrano of Spain. BRAVA's current artistic programming includes traditional and contemporary music festivals, a variety of film festivals, contemporary and experimental theatrical productions, international comedy shows, lectures and professional dance productions - making BRAVA one of the most eclectic and multi-faceted arts venues in the Bay Area. BRAVA's resident youth programs include the long standing SF Running crew which pairs youth with professional mentors and hands on opportunities for technical theatre training; Cuicacalli Escuela de Danza, traditional and contemporary dance training for youth, Famooly Productions Salsa Band workshops and Loco Bloco dance and drum ensemble. Brava is committed to providing affordable space for artistic development and presentation and quality professional arts training for underserved youth in the San Francisco community.