

the disability collective

PRESENTS

# DIAL 1 FOR UK

Written and performed by Mohit Mathur



"Sometimes you are lucky enough to stumble upon a little gem, and this was a polished diamond." - Green Room Reviews



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# DIAL 1 FOR UK

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## Cast & Creative Team

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**Mohit Mathur**

Writer and Performer

**Phil Willmott**

Director

**Ralph Jefferys**

Assistant Director

**Scarlett Larry\***

Stage/Tour Manager

**Evan Reid\***

Toronto Stage Manager

**Rachel Sampley**

Lighting Designer

**Caitlin Abbott**

Set Designer

**Ansuman Biswa**

Sound Designer

**Dhanu Chinniah**

Canadian Cultural Dramaturg

**Dustin Woods-Turner**

Technical Coordinator

\*The participation of this Artist is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT).

## Toronto Access Team

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**Jaideep Goray**

Deaf Performer

**Rogue Benjamin**

ASL-English Interpreter

**JJ Hunt**

Audio Describer

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**Thank You:** Ramya Amuthan, Breann O'Hara-Johns, Elias Rose, Canadian Hearing Services, Inside Out Theatre, VocalEye, Tarragon Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, Presentation House Theatre

Stage Employees of Tarragon are represented by Local 58 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.



# A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

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My late friend Abdul Shayek once told me: if you want to say something in the world, you have to write it yourself, because no one else will know how to say it better than you. That stayed with me, and it's why this play exists.

This is a play which lives in the distance between the West we imagine from far away and the West we actually arrive in, between who we were told to become and who we find ourselves being.

I never thought of myself as a writer. Vital Xposure's writing programme for deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent writers pushed me to write my first draft of a subject I was passionate about for years, and Phil Willmott believed in me and brought so much to this show through his years of experience and trust, when no one else gave me that.

## Mohit Mathur

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### Mohit Wishes to Thank:

Vital Xposure, for the programme that facilitated me into believing I can write.  
Arts Council England, for supporting the UK tour and development.

Phil Willmott, for his years of experience and coming on board.

Emily and Nathan at The Disability Collective, for believing in this show since 2024 and bringing it to Canada.

Lucy Eveleigh, for constantly taking the time to support and push this work forward.

Keep It Fringe, for the award that first took this show to Edinburgh Fringe and gave it its first push out into the world.

# A NOTE FROM THE DISABILITY COLLECTIVE

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Welcome to the theatre! We are so glad you have joined us for *Dial 1 for UK*, the Canadian premiere of this hilarious, poignant, and deeply moving one-man play by Mohit Mathur.

The Disability Collective first discovered *Dial 1 for UK* in 2024, and we were immediately struck by Mohit's unique voice and the play's ability to hold humour, ambition, displacement, identity, and the realities of disability and care alongside one another. We knew then that this was a story we wanted to help bring to Canadian audiences.

We are particularly honoured to be presenting this work as part of The Disability Collective's commitment to bringing bold, disability-led and disability-centred stories to audiences in Canada. Mohit's journey as a playwright began through Vital Xposure's writing programme for Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent writers, and this play is a powerful reminder of what becomes possible when disabled artists are given the opportunity, resources, and trust to tell their own stories.

We are thrilled to welcome Mohit to Canada and to share this remarkable production with you. We hope you will laugh with Uday, root for him, question your own assumptions, and leave the theatre thinking about his story long after the lights come back up.

Thank you for joining us for this very special Canadian premiere. Enjoy the show!

## **The Disability Collective**

Emily Maxwell, Artistic Director

Nathan Sartore, Managing Director

Ali Hand, Director of Accessibility & Consultation





the disability collective

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## CAST & CREATIVE

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### MOHIT MATHUR - Writer and Performer

Mohit Mathur is an actor, dancer, and theatre maker from Delhi, India, now based in London. He obtained his Masters in Acting from the Drama Centre London and has since built an international career spanning theatre, film, and dance.

He made his West End debut in 2015 as the lead in *Beyond Bollywood* at the London Palladium, later touring across multiple continents. In 2022, he returned to the West End in Max Webster's *Life of Pi* at Wyndham's Theatre before

embarking on its international tour in 2024.

Mohit has performed in accessible Shakespeare productions designed for autistic audiences when extensively working with Flute Theatre. His work with the company has taken him across Romania, Serbia, and leading theatre festivals, where he starred in *Pericles* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, both for people on the autism spectrum and diverse audiences.

In 2023, Mohit was part of the revival of *Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes* in a UK tour with Waterperry Opera. His passion for storytelling extends to opera, where he served as a consultant, dance captain, and performer in the Welsh National Opera's *Migrations*, a powerful production exploring themes of migration and belonging.

As a theatre maker, Mohit is committed to examining the impact of colonial histories on contemporary identities. He is currently developing and planning a UK tour of *Dial 1 for UK* in Autumn 2025, a show he is producing himself, which was originally written as part of Vital Xposure's writing cohort. Additionally, he is collaborating with Tara Theatre on *Azaad*, an ACE-funded project that navigates the revolutionary story of Udham Singh alongside his personal journey moving to the UK. In 2019, Mohit created *Zindagi – Tales of Bollywood*, a commercial Bollywood dance show.

Beyond theatre, Mohit has worked extensively in screen and choreography. He was a choreographer for dance reality TV shows in India and has choreographed for multiple productions. His love for movement and exploring storytelling through dance and physicality remains central to his creative practice. He has starred in multiple short films in the UK, including *London, Punjab*, which was screened at Cannes in 2024. His work can also be seen in Netflix's *Bhangra Paa Le*.

## CAST & CREATIVE

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### **PHIL WILLMOTT - Director**

Phil Willmott is a multi-award-winning British director, playwright, composer and Dramaturg, and the founder of London theatre production company The Steam Industry. He was the Artistic Director of the Finborough Theatre in London's Earl's Court from 1994 to 1999, and has since directed classics, musicals and cutting-edge new writing internationally. He is also a Dramaturg, Arts journalist, teacher, and occasional actor, and a former co-head of musical theatre training at ArtsEd. His musicals, including *Once Upon a Time* at the Adelphi and the *Dick Barton Special Agent* trilogy, have toured internationally and won multiple industry awards.



### **RALPH JEFFREYS - Assistant Director**

Ralph Jeffreys writes theatre reviews for North West End UK alongside his directing and assistant directing work, including on *Cyrano* at Park Theatre, *Gigi* and *Dar* (Arcola Theatre), Flabbergast Theatre's *Endgame* (Edinburgh Fringe).

## CAST & CREATIVE

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### SCARLETT LARRY - Stage/Tour Manager

Scarlett is a disabled stage manager who has worked across the country and internationally. Favourite credits include *The Secret Chord*, *Detroit*, *The Welkin*, *Kim's Convenience* (Soulpepper), *Get That Hope*, *Wedding Band*, *Richard II*, *Little Women*, *I Am William* (The Stratford Festival), *Macbeth*, *The Division*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Wolves* (Crows), *Kiviug Returns: An Inuit Epic* (Qaggiavuut!, National Theatre of Greenland, Tarragon), *The Stage Managers Guide to Dating Assholes* (Edinburgh Fringe). Scarlett has a BFA in Theatre Production and an MA in Art History from York University. She is a member of Artists For Real Climate Action.



### EVAN REID - Toronto Stage Manager

Evan Reid (he/they) is a queer stage manager, knitter, and stationery enthusiast.

Credits include: *Tiger Bride*, *A Strange Loop*, *King Gilgamesh and the Man of the Wild* (Soulpepper); *The Division* (Project: Humanity/Pyretic Productions); *Snow White and the Secret Vault*, *Freezing: A Holiday Pantomime* (Burloak Theatre Group); *Uncovered: Madonna & Cher*, *Uncovered: U2 and The Rolling Stones* (The Musical Stage Company); *Dear Ms. Kitt* (Hardbitten Productions); *Boy Boy and The Magic Drum* (Toronto Fringe 2024).

Training: Evan is a graduate of Sheridan College's Technical Production program.



## CAST & CREATIVE

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### **RACHEL SAMPLEY - Lighting Designer**

Rachel Sampley is a London-based lighting designer who holds an MA in devised theatre from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and a BFA in lighting design from University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Her design credits include *The Comedy of Errors* (RSC Dell Space), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Yvonne Arnaud Theatre), *Silk Road* (Trafalgar Studios 2), and *Perfect Show for Rachel*, a touring production built around accessibility for disabled audiences.



### **CAITLIN ABBOTT - Set Designer**

Caitlin Abbott trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, was a finalist for the 2019 Linbury Prize for Stage Design, and was an Assistant Designer at the RSC from 2019 to 2020. She wants to make theatre that is vibrant, engaging and accessible, with designs that are playful and become part of the storytelling. Her set and costume design credits include *Time and Tide* (Park Theatre), *Perspective* (National Theatre's New Views), and *The Elephant Man* (Bristol Old Vic).



### **ANUSMAN BISWAS - Sound Designer**

Anusman Biswas was born in Calcutta and trained in the UK, and now has an international practice encompassing music, film, live art, installation, writing and theatre. His work as a composer spans genres from free improvisation to pop and jazz to classical music from around the world, and he has composed for theatres worldwide including off-Broadway, the West End and the Royal National Theatre. He is a Director of Arts Catalyst, the science-art agency, and of the Live Art Development Agency.



## CAST & CREATIVE

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### **DHANU CHINNIAH – Canadian Cultural Dramaturg**

Dhanu is a multidisciplinary artist and comedian. Her theatre credits include Stratford Festival, We Quit Theatre, and others. You can spot her in various improv shows in Toronto. Upcoming: Dhanu will be co-creating and performing in *Glory!* at Buddies in Bad Times in January, 2027.

She plays centre mid in soccer and is one half of trans music duo SL\*TCANNON with Jake Runeckles. She speaks 5 languages.



### **DUSTIN WOODS-TURNER – Technical Coordinator**

Dustin is a Canadian theatre artist and technical director whose work spans theatre, independent film, and nonprofit organizations. A graduate of Humber College, they bring a multidisciplinary approach to production, with a background in sound, lighting, and technical direction.

As a Technical Consultant with The Disability Collective, Dustin is passionate about supporting stories that centre marginalized and disabled voices. They see technical theatre as an integral part of storytelling, using sound, light, and production design to create environments that deepen a performance and connect audiences to the world of a piece.

Dustin's work is grounded in collaboration, creative problem-solving, and a belief in the transformative potential of live performance. Their practice extends beyond the stage into independent film and nonprofit work, where they continue to explore the ways technical craft can support meaningful stories, diverse perspectives, and more inclusive creative spaces.

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# the disability collective

The Disability Collective (TDC) is the only fully disability-led multidisciplinary arts organization in Toronto. Dedicated to celebrating and showcasing work created solely by disabled artists, TDC strives to de-stigmatize disability and challenge perceptions of disability by providing disabled artists with paid opportunities to share their work in a variety of forms, along with actively advocating for and improving accessibility and inclusion in the Canadian arts community by providing disability consultation services. We are committed to strengthening the disability community's presence in the arts and creating a space where disabled artists can connect and grow their practices together.

**TO LEARN MORE VISIT: [thedisabilitycollective.com](https://thedisabilitycollective.com)**

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**Beth Airton**

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