

**News Release
Public Information
Department**

October 2002

Feminist Drama *Top Girls*, Family Sing-Along, and South Asian Dance Music by DJ Rekha featured at the BMA's November 2 First Saturday

In conjunction with the special exhibition *Judy Chicago: The Dinner Party*, November's **First Saturday** at the Brooklyn Museum of Art will present a staged reading of **Top Girls (Act I)**, the groundbreaking 1982 feminist drama by Caryl Churchill. The reading features six New York actresses as fictional and historical figures discussing their lives at a dinner table. The performance, at 9 p.m. in the Museum's 450-seat Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Auditorium, is free.

Allyn Chandler directs this reading, which will be repeated Sunday, November 3 at 4 p.m. in celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the New York premiere of the play.

In addition to the dramatic reading, visitors to First Saturday will enjoy the popular **Hands-On Art** family program from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at which they can emboss their own gold-and silver-colored jewelry inspired by the the exhibition *The Adventures of Hamza*.

At 7 p.m. the children's theatre group **Hot Pea's 'N Butter** invites the whole family to sing along with songs like *Mi Cuerpo*, *The Little Red Caboose*, and *Hambone*.

Also at 7 p.m., Dr. John Seyller, a leading scholar on Indian and Mughal painting and curator of *The Adventures of Hamza*, will discuss the exhibition. At 8 p.m. **DJ Rekha Malhotra**, who will spin tunes later in the evening at the BMA Dance Party, discusses South Asian music and her interest in community activism. Born

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in London, raised in Queens and Westbury, Long Island, DJ Rekha is one of the pioneers of New York's South Asian music scene. As founder of Basement Bhangra and cofounder of Mutiny, she has been instrumental in introducing the sounds of Bhangra and British Asian music to North America. Following her talk, DJ Rekha swings into action in the Museum's Beaux-Arts Court for a dance party from 9 to 11 p.m.

Since it was introduced four years ago, the **Brooklyn Museum of Art's First Saturday** series has become a phenomenal success, with thousands of visitors attending this free program of art and entertainment each month. All evening long, Mummy's Café serves a wide selection of sandwiches, salads, and beverages and a cash bar offers wine and beer. Parking is a flat rate of \$4 starting at 5 p.m. All other Saturdays the Museum closes at 6 p.m.

Major support for First Saturdays is provided by The Edward John Noble Foundation and Target Stores. *The New York Times* is media sponsor.

Minneapolis-based Target Stores serves guests at 1,107 stores in 47 states nationwide by delivering today's best retail trends at affordable prices. Whether visiting a Target store or shopping online at target.com, guests enjoy a fun and convenient shopping experience with access to thousands of unique and highly differentiated items. Target Stores, along with its parent company Target Corporation (NYSE:TGT), gives back more than \$2 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs.

November 2 Schedule of Evening Programs

6:30–
8:30 p.m. **Hands-On Art:** Emboss your own gold-and silver-colored jewelry.

7–8 p.m.: **Family Performance:** Sing along with Hot Peas 'N Butter.

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- 7–8 p.m. **Curator Talk:** Dr. John Seyller discusses *The Adventures of Hamza*.
- 8–9 p.m. **Modern Voices: Artists, Curators, and Critics Speak Out:**
DJ Rekha Malhotra discusses her music and community activism.
- 9–10 p.m. **Young Voices:** BMA Student Guide Kimberly Peters discusses *Judy Chicago: The Dinner Party*.
- 9 p.m. **Performance:** Reading of *Top Girls*, (Act I) the groundbreaking 1982 feminist drama by Caryl Churchill.
- 9–11 p.m. **BMA Dance Party:** DJ Rekha spins contemporary South Asian music.

Media Contacts: (718) 638-5000

Sally Williams, Public Information Officer, ext. 330

James Gordon, Media Relations Manager, ext. 334

Reggie Cameron, Sr. Public Information Associate, ext. 354

Adam Husted, Public Information Associate, ext. 331

www.brooklynmuseum.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$6; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$3. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (1 or 2) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 1 or 2. **Bus:** B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.