

Compiled from *MANY PATHS*

The Hindu and the Cowboy and Other Kansas City Stories

Nov 2 at the Bruce Watkins Center, the CRES auxillary Mosaic and its Stories Project, presented a directed reading of the play created from 60-some interviews of area residents of every faith from A to Z — American Indian to Zoroastrian, an outgrowth of our 2001 “Gifts of Pluralism” conference.

The play begins with a reference to the State Line and ends with a sharing of bread from as many cultures as the stories. We learn of a black man being dragged behind a truck because he asked his boss not to bother his wife anymore, a Holocaust survivor’s way of surviving both Auschwitz and difficulty in Kansas City, travails of a young Muslim after 9/11, the friendship that developed between a cowboy and the Hindu Temple in Shawnee, the development of an unbeliever, and many other gripping stories we should know if we are to appreciate who we are in the Heartland.

Friend, councilman, Mayor Pro Tem, and recipient of our 2002 Thanksgiving award Al Brooks presented greetings to the crowd. Surveys offer many ideas for the future use of this great Kansas City area material.



—December, 2003

Friend, councilman, Mayor Pro Tem, and recipient of our 2002 Thanksgiving award Al Brooks presented greetings to the crowd. Surveys offer many ideas for the future use of this great Kansas City area material.



The Hindu and the Cowboy and Other Kansas City Stories

CAST MEMBERS: Diane Bulan, Charles Christesson, Maura Conroy, Sam Cordes, Pilar I. D’Aso, George L. Forbes, Taylor Gass, Cheryl Hood, Soleah Hood, Geneva Price, Arthur Saldanha, Charles White, Justin M Zimmerman.

STORY TELLERS: Anab Abdulahi, Shaheen Ahmed, Joe Bader, Vern Barnett, Caroline Baughman, Darren Beck, Holly Benson, Anand Bhattacharyya, Alvin Brooks, Russel Brown, Phyllis Clay, Bart Cohen, Linda Coonley, Robin Cunningham, Dawn Dahlstrom, Marcie Eisterhold, Rushdy El Ghussein, Gene Flannery, Katie Garman, Genden Gyatso, Wallace Hartsfield, Kara Hawkings, Suma Hegde, Sonia Hegde, Charanjit Hundal, Jagjit Hundal, Joseph Jung, Bethany Klug, Gulab Kothari, Barbara McAtee, Deep Medhi, Karen Medhi, Aparna Mehra, Kaitlin Mesh, Evan Mesh, Ellen Miles, Warren Molton, Dolie Moore, Amanda Moran, Bilal Muhammad, Mike Nichols, George Noonan, Corinthian Nutter, Pam Peck, Sat Inder K. Purkh, Karta Purkh S. Khalsa, Simeon Kohlman Rabbani, Se-



lene Rati, Cameron Rejali, Reid Riley, Bronia Roslawowski, Steven Rubenstein, Farideh Sabet, Mona Sabet-Edalati, Mohebat Sabet-Sharghi, Rosie Shahlari, Saraswati Shanker, Barry Sims, Lucia Sims, Kanwar Singh, Roberta Solomon, Larry Sousley, William Steinhart, Connie Rahimah Sweeney, Uma, Mimi Vo, Debbie Wallin, Ben Worth, Kira Wyrick

WRITTEN BY: Donna W Ziegenhorn; DIRECTED BY: Ernest Williams; COSTUMES: Mary Traylor; SETTING: Charles White; FRONT OF HOUSE COORDINATOR: Diane Bourgeois.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Jessica Abutwum, Joe Archias, Caroline Baughman, Diane Bourgeois, Breadsmith, Cate Browder, Bruce R Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, Anne Canfield, Community Performance Inc, The Coterie Theatre, Country Club Congregational United Church of Christ, Wenda Davis, Samantha Downs, Barbara B Dundon, Fred D. Fowler MD, Travis Grossman, Larry Guillot, Brian Hamasaki, Myra Harper, Strangefruit Catering Services, Sonia Hedge, Frank Higgins, Cheryl Hood, Jim Houx, Joan Israelite, Kansas City Friends of Jung, Shirley Laird, Carolyn Macke, Missouri Repertory Theatre, Warren Molton, Genny O’Laughlin, Pam Peck, Beth and Greg Rieke, Linda Sher, Linda Tippit, Trinity United Methodist Church, The Unicorn Theatre, John van Keppel, Ernest Williams, Mary Woodard, Beret and Dallas Ziegenhorn. SPECIAL THANKS FOR PROVIDING FOOD: Myra Harper of Strangefruit.

TASK FORCE: Jane Heide, Kathy Riegelman, Fred Schuele, Valerie Sieverling, Donna Ziegenhorn

STORY GATHERERS: Julia Cordill, Jane Heide, Genny O’Laughlin, Greg Rieke, Fred Schuele, Valerie Sieverling, Donna Ziegenhorn

SPONSORS: CRES (Vern Barnett, President), Kansas City Harmony (Diane Hershberger, Executive Director), National Conference for Community and Justice (Juan Rangel, Executive Director). SPECIAL THANKS to John van Keppel for practical support.

—December 2003



The Hindu and the Cowboy — and other Kansas City Stories

Ernest Williams, Kathy Riegelman, Pam Peck, Donna Ziegenhorn, Wenda Davis, Cheryl Hood, Greg Rieke, Valerie Sieverling, and Jane Heide form a circle reading a draft of a play developed by Donna from 60 interviews with Kansas City folks from all faiths on the Interfaith Council. The group is excited by the drama as people’s lives of tests and triumphs are revealed. One suggested title for the play is *The Hindu and the Cowboy and other Kansas City Stories*. The production is tentatively scheduled for Oct 25-27.

—July 2003



Hindu and Cowboy

The Mosaic play tentatively called “The Hindu and the Cowboy and Other Kansas City Stories” was read by actors directed by Ernie Williams at the Coterie Lab Theater to a very appreciative audience July 26. Donna Ziegenhorn has adapted many of the 60 amazing stories collected from Kansas City people of faith. The next directed reading is at the Bruce Watkins Cultural Center, Nov 2Sun 2-5p.

—September 2003

On the Path —August 2003

Last Saturday I joined about 50 others for a private reading/acting of “The Hindu and the Cowboy and Other Kansas City Stories” at the Coterie Lab Theater. This was part of the process of developing a public performance bringing to the Kansas City area some of the amazing personal stories collected in the past year by the Mosaic Stories Project, itself an outgrowth of the 2001 “Gifts of Pluralism” conference.

The play begins with a reference to the State Line and ends with a sharing of bread from many cultures as the stories. In between we learn of a black man being dragged behind a truck because he asked his boss not to bother his wife anymore, a Holocaust survivor’s way of surviving both Auschwitz and difficulty in Kansas City, travails of a young Muslim after 9/11, the friendship that developed between a cowboy and the Hindu Temple in Shawnee, the development of an unbeliever, and many other gripping stories we should know if we are to appreciate who we are in the Heartland.

To build community, we do need to know who we are. Our religious perspectives are central to many of us. This play will bring us together as a community by achieving the necessary paradox of interfaith relations: honoring both our differences and our kinship.



Vern Barnett