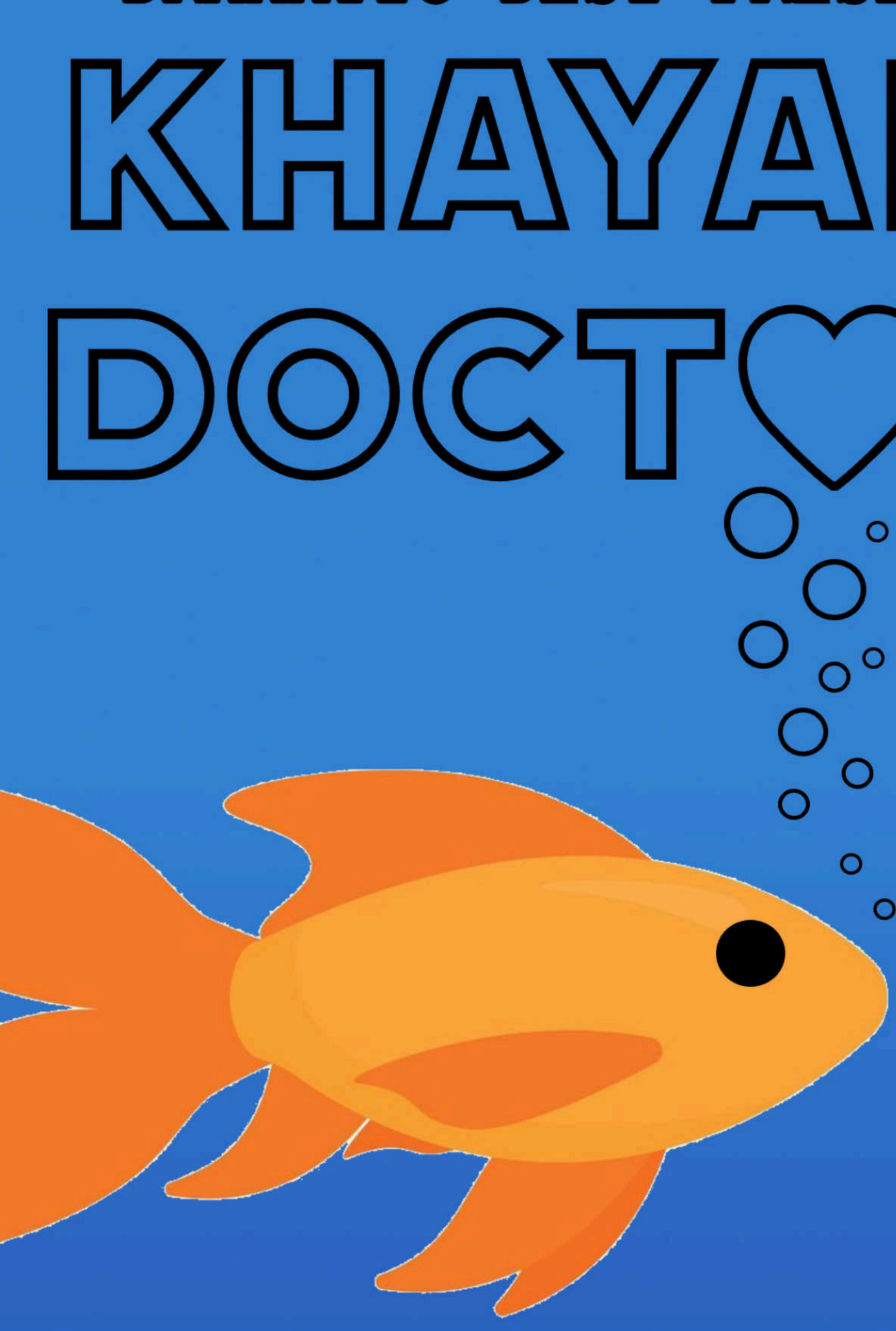
PROGRAM

THE GRAND | RITZ THEATER

DRAMATIC DESI PRESENTS

KHAYALI DOCTOR





WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
SANJAY NICHANI

THE GRAND | RITZ THEATER

PRESENTED BY DRAMATIC DESI
November 13, 2026

KHAYALI DOCTOR

Inspired by Molière's Imaginary Invalid

Written & Directed by
Sanjay Nichani

Produced By
Anuradha Atri
Sanjay Nichani

Assistant Director
Anuradha Atri

Starring

Champ Iyengar Rashmi Savgur Manupriya Sharma
Divya Bandyopadhyay Mohan Koujalagi
Shubham Mehta Rohan Sharma Sachin Chawla

With Special Appearances From
Anuradha Atri Paramita Datta Sanjay Nichani

Music, Projections, Video & Sound Design
Sanjay Nichani

Technical Operations
Rohan Bharadwaj
Sanjay Nichani

Dance Director
Paramita Datta

Costume Director
Mamta Malhotra

Hair & Makeup
Riya Agrawal

Stage Manager
Gayathri Srinivasan

Promotion, Marketing & MC
Sonal Kanodia

Program Booklet & Cover Art
Rohan Bharadwaj

Videography & Photography
Ravi Sooderlu
Bryan Dahl

Production Support
Santosh Nichani Jayanth Bharadwaj
Manjinder Sandhu Sachin Chawla

Original play music and visuals created using AI tools

DRAMATIC DESI

FROM THE FOUNDERS OF DRAMATIC DESI

The art of storytelling has always held a deep fascination for me. As an avid reader, seeing characters, worlds, and emotions come alive across books, television, and film was the primary lens through which I came to understand the world. Some narratives carry profound weight, prompting us to ponder life's larger questions and shifting how we see ourselves. Others simply entertain, offering much-needed relief, joy, and a hearty laugh. But beyond the story lies the magic of the shared experience: the quiet connections, the spirited conversations, and the vibrant community built when we come together to listen, observe, and experience a show together.

Dramatic Desi is the realization of a long-held dream. My goal is to create a vibrant platform—for San Diego and beyond—where storytelling can be explored across diverse mediums, performance styles, and artistic formats. That I get to build and nurture this dream alongside family and friends makes every step of the journey extraordinarily meaningful. Bringing Khayali Doctor to the stage with this incredible team has been a labor of love, joy, and community. Thank you for joining us tonight and for being a part of our story.



-Anuradha Atri
Founder, Dramatic Desi

Every story starts with a khayal: a thought, an imagining. Mine came while watching one of the many adaptations of a centuries-old classic. The set was simple, the cast was small, and actors moved between roles, yet the story was strong enough to need nothing more. And it was a farce. I've always loved farce, spoof, mistaken identities, disguises and anything irreverent that pokes fun at the establishment: stories that remind us not to take ourselves too seriously.

That seed grew into a Desi household: one living room, five acts, and a man convinced he's dying of everything. Because I've always loved Bollywood, it to sing and dance too, and borrow a few filmi lines, a little nostalgia for films that stayed with us.

Then the story found its people. Our actors breathed life into characters who existed only on paper. The music gave it a voice, dance gave it rhythm, and projection and video gave it a world. It didn't stop there. Dramatic Desi was born form this play, as we realized it could be the start of something larger: a home for stories that resonate with people from the Indian subcontinent.

Thank you for being here. Tonight, you complete the story.



-Sanjay Nichani
Founder, Dramatic Desi

Follow Our Journey!

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MEET THE CAST



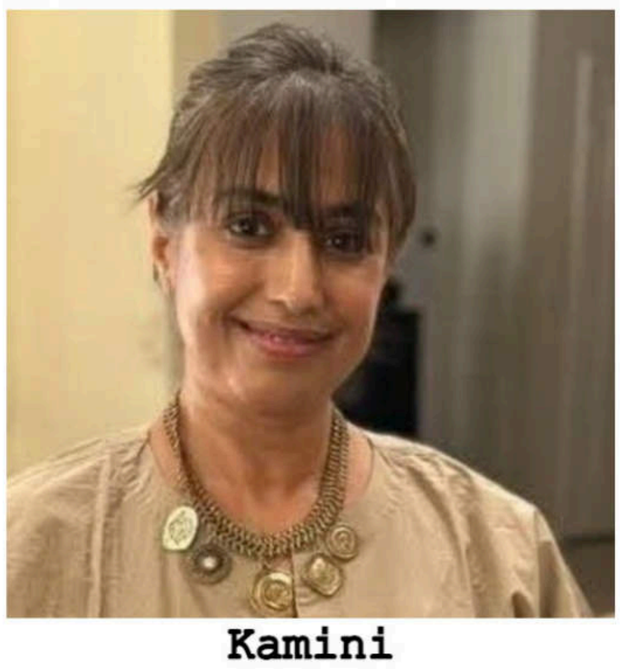
Raskilal
Champ Iyengar

My journey to Khayali Doctor has been anything but straightforward. Back in Bengaluru, I dabbled in amateur acting, only to have my acting skills ridiculed—ironically, by fellow amateur actors! Years later, after moving to San Diego, Hamid Daudani of the Daudani Group gave me an opportunity to return to the stage. I slowly found my way back to something I genuinely love. At the end of the day, acting gives me something that real life cannot—the chance to live someone else's life, just for a little while. And honestly, I can't think of anything more exciting than that!



Chameli
Rashmi Savgur

After spending the past three years exploring theater from behind the scenes, Rashmi Savgur is delighted to be back on stage and reconnecting with her love for acting. Drawn to the magic of storytelling, Rashmi loves the opportunity to step into different worlds, explore the complexities of human nature, and bring compelling characters to life. For her, theater is as much about the creative journey and camaraderie of an ensemble as it is about the power of a story to make people laugh, move them, and offer a fresh perspective. Rashmi is excited to be part of Khayali Doctor.



Kamini
Manupriya Sharma

This is Manupriya's 16th year in theatre, and she’s had a blast playing all kinds of characters over the years. She credits her dad for sparking her love for the arts, a passion she’s now passed on to her boys, Ranveer and Zoraver. When she’s not on stage, Manupriya is busy being a Professor of Physics. She feels incredibly lucky to have her husband, kids, and mother-in-law cheering her on and supporting her artistic adventures alongside her career. She’s thrilled to be part of Dramatic Desi and its fresh new take on Desi theatre in San Diego.



Anjali
Divya Bandyopadhyay

Divya is an IT Product Manager by profession and a theatre artist at heart. Her journey with the performing arts began when she worked extensively as a child artist. After a 17-year hiatus, she rediscovered her passion for the stage and has been actively involved in Bengali theatre for the past three years. She finds joy not just in the performance, but in the entire journey of storytelling, collaboration, and artistic discovery. She is thrilled to share the stage with such a talented ensemble, bringing her enthusiasm and love for theatre to Khayali Doctor.

MEET THE CAST



Purohit
Mohan Koujalagi

I am a technology professional by career and a proud father of two wonderful kids and a lovely wife. My acting journey, however, began in childhood, when I had the opportunity to join All India Radio (AIR), Dharwad as a child artist. Even as I progressed through college and into my professional life, I continued to nurture my love for acting whenever opportunities came my way. It has been a truly enriching experience, and I feel grateful to learn and collaborate with talented individuals like Sanjay, Anuradha, and many more.



Tinku
Shubham Mehta

My love for theater began in childhood, with school plays that introduced me to the thrill of performing. Although life led me toward a different career, acting never truly left my heart. Today, I find myself embracing an entirely different challenge as Tinku, a nerdy medical student in Khayali Doctor. Stepping into comedy and satire has pushed me beyond my comfort zone. I owe immense gratitude to our director, cast, and crew for their unwavering support and belief in me. Tinku has become the most fulfilling role of my theatrical journey.



Kunal
Rohan Sharma

Every story has a beginning, and mine started at the age of 12. During my college years, my passion for performance found a new outlet in dance. Each of these small milestones was a stepping stone, keeping the inner actor alive. Joining Dramatic Desi for Khayali Doctor feels like a true call of destiny. Stepping into this production has given me authentic theatrical exposure and allowed me to share the stage with phenomenal actors from wonderfully diverse backgrounds. I am loving every second of this journey.



Vakil
Sachin Chawla

Sachin’s love for theatre began during his boarding school days in India, where performing in Hindi plays sparked a passion for storytelling, comedy, and bringing characters to life. Life took him through engineering, corporate leadership, and the world of business, but the actor within never quite left the stage. Sachin enjoys the magic of transforming into someone else, making people laugh, and connecting with audiences. His philosophy? Life is already full of drama. Why not put it on stage and make everyone laugh?

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DRAMATIC DESI

NEW TO HINDI THEATER?

A Guide for English-Speaking Viewers

The Five Acts

The whole play takes place in the Mehta family's living room. Each act's title appears as it begins...

Act 1: The Symptoms ♫ **Ramta Jogi**
Meet the Mehtas, learn about Rasiklal's latest ailments, and a wedding proposal

Act 2: The Virus ♫ **Ek Kamini Thi**
Medicine, money, and marriage: not everyone in the house wants the same thing

Act 3: The Consultation ♫ **Waada Karo**
The doctor and his son pay a visit, and a music lesson is arranged.

Act 4: The Prescription ♫ **Rang Jamake**
Some hard truths are prescribed

Act 5: The Cure ♫ **Jhinga Laa-Laa**
Every patient needs a cure, but not every patient gets the cure they expect.

The Story

Rasiklal Mehta is a wealthy, penny-pinching businessman who is sure he is dying, of everything, every day. His pill organizer is always full, his pulse is always being checked, and his family doctor, Dr. Purohit, never leaves without writing a brand new prescription.

His plan to keep up his health is to marry his daughter, Anjali, to his doctor's son, Tinku, so that there's always a doctor in the family. However, Anjali's heart already belongs to someone else. Meanwhile, three others each have their own plans for Rasiklal's future: Kamini, his glamorous second wife; Chameli, Anjali's sharp-eyed governess; and the family lawyer. Rasiklal is caught inside a comedy of pills, plots, and matchmaking. Who will help him find his way through the chaos?

Words You'll Hear

Khayali..... Imaginary
Bimaari..... Illness
Shaadi..... Wedding
Sethji..... Boss/Sir
Beta..... Son/Child
Arre!..... Hey!/Oh no!
Haan/Nahi..... Yes / No
Ilaaj..... Cure/Treatment
Dawai..... Medicine
Rishta..... Marriage Match
-ji..... Honorific
Ustad..... Music Teacher
Accha..... Okay/Really?
Hai Rabba..... Oh God! (Punjabi)

DRAMATIC DESI

NEW TO HINDI THEATER?

A Guide for English-Speaking Viewers

Who's Who

Rasiklal Mehta
Head of the household and a world-class hypochondriac, with pills for every day of the week.

Chameli
Anjali's governess for over ten years. Half family, half staff. Little escapes her.

Kamini
Rasiklal's sugary, glamorous, dramatic second wife. Always keeps her eye on the prize.

Vakil
The Mehta family lawyer. Sees everyone for who they really are.

Anjali
Rasiklal's spirited daughter from his first marriage. Not happy with her father's marriage plan.

Dr. Purohit
The family doctor. Confident and pompous, always ready with both a prescription and a bill.

Kunal
The one who stole Anjali's heart. An engineer with quite a few hidden talents.

Tinku
Dr. Purohit's son and a medical student. More experience with human anatomy than human nature.

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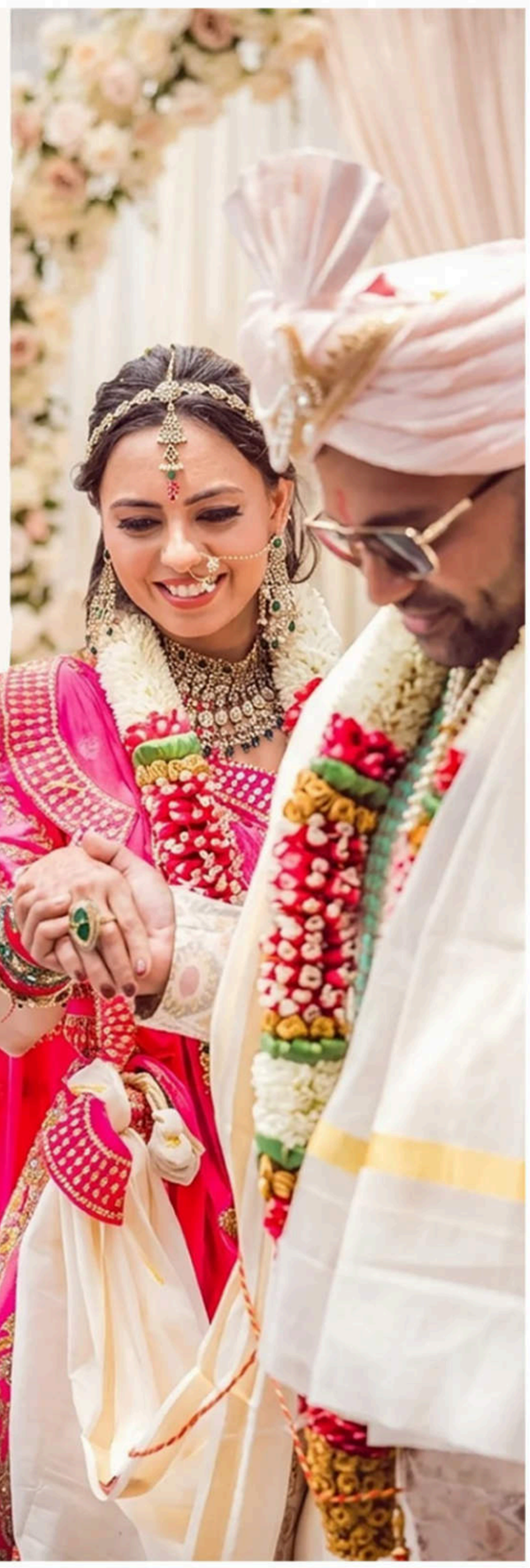

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