

# SETU – Stage Ensemble Theater Unit

www.setu.us  
contact@setu.us

SETU means “bridge” in several Indian languages. SETU is a not-for-profit under section 501(c)(3) theater group in the Boston area. Our **mission** is to build bridges between Indian and Western cultures through the medium of theater.

**SETU’s Past Productions:** Once Upon a Time NOT in Bollywood, June 2015 and Oct 2015; Shah Jahan, Dec 2013 and Feb 2014; Mahabharata, Sep and Dec, 2012; Karna-Kunti Sambad, May 2012; Mareech, The Legend, Nov 2009; The Back Door, Oct 2009; Rape, Regret, and Retribution, May 2008; Hayavadana, May 2006; The Back Door, May 2006; Kamala, Mar 2005; Kamala, Feb 2005; The Masquerade, Feb 2005; Power to the People, Nov 2003; Kamala, Nov 2003.

## Ramayan in a poem by Purvi Shah

### 1st HALF

Valmiki's foresight is commendable for Ramayan was written years ago

Karma knows it all for it settles all we owe

Manthara's viciousness and Kaikaye's actions created a tale unheard

A father sent his son to exile for the king in Dasarath had to keep his word

Urmila's despair shows how emotions get scattered when love is poured in selfish moulds

But admiration for Ram heavily holds as he takes Sita and Lakshman where Dharma unfolds

His golden body became an obstruction and Sita forced Ram to her own destruction

Even Lakshman's sacred line couldn't stop her abduction

And how could it! The powerful, dominant and conniving Ravan was behind its construction

Ravan forced Sita to Lanka without a delay

Jatayu tried but lost her wings in a courageous way

He used his sister's revenge as a shield

But if you ask Surpanakha, a different truth will be revealed

Ram was sad and Lakshman was furious

What will happen next! now everyone was curious.

### 2nd HALF

Vanars took over the second half of the story as Ram needed an army and an ally

Sita's separation was getting difficult as he could hear her far reaching cry

Ravan's lust brought disgrace to Mandodori and all his other wives

But those times were different or were they! for women had to keep quiet in order to survive

When Hanuman met Sita he found the situation to be dire

So he Strategized to spread anxiety and his tail put Lanka on fire

He played a role in Meghnad's killing, which was influential

Vibhisan was quick to grasp Ram's potential

Ravan's brashness knew no bounds

He decided to kill Sita on those grounds

His ego did half the work and the great king Ravan was killed at length

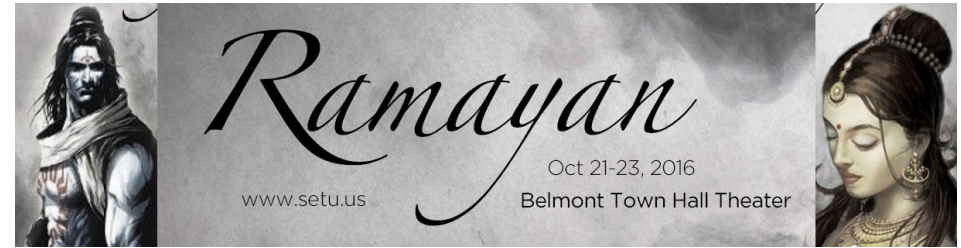
For Ram's army had his blessings, his morality and his strength

Agnipariksha is what, in the end, Sita had to endure

For Ram, the ideal king, righteousness came first for sure.

They truly loved each other and Sita will forever be Ram's wife

You can consider this an end or an awakening in your own life.



A humanistic and women-centric portrayal of an epic story of war and sacrifice to protect *Dharma*

*Running Time: 2 hrs 40 mins + Intermission 20 mins*

*Brought to you by*

# SETU

Belmont Town Hall Theater, Belmont, MA

*First Run: Oct 21-23, 2016*

*Rerun: Dec 9-10, 2016*

## *Friends of SETU:*

Gautam & Jayanti Bandyopadhyay, Gouri Banerjee, Rohit Chandra, Harish Dang, Ravi Kacker, Nirmal Kumar, Razia Mashqoor, Rachna Parwani, Lata Rao, Raj Sharma, Ameeta Soni, Mohan Subramaniam, Meena Sundaram & Sundaram Laxman, Sangeeta Tandon

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## Cast ...

### HUMANS:

Dasarath	King of Ayodhya	Ravi Kacker
Kausalya	Wife (1) of Dasarath	Dipali Trivedi [Shamita Behl] +
Kaikaye	Wife (2) of Dasarath	Kumkum Pareek Malik
Sumitra	Wife (3) of Dasarath	Ridhima Mahajan [Urmi Sahni] +
Ram	Son of Dasarath & Kausalya	Rishi Naik [Rishi Naik/Ajay Jain *]
Lakshman	Son of Dasarath & Sumitra	Ganesh Davuluri
Bharat	Son of Dasarath & Kaikaye	Nirmal Kumar +
Shatrughna	Son of Dasarath & Sumitra	Navnit Shukla [Ajay Jain/Rishi Naik *]
Janak	King of Videha	Sanjay Kudrimoti
Sunetra	Janak's Wife	Monisha Prakash/Yogita Miharia *
Sita	Janak's Daughter/Ram's Wife	Yogita Miharia/Monisha Prakash *
Urmila	Janak's Daughter/Lakshman's Wife	Dhanashree Ramachandran
Mandavi	Janak's Daughter/Shatrughna's Wife	Aditi Taylor +
Shrukirti	Janak's Daughter/Bharat's Wife	Shirin Bakre +
Manthara	Maid of Kaikaye	Chandrika Shah
Vishwamitra	Preceptor of Ram	Ravi Nimmagadda/Nilay Mukherjee+*
King 1	King in Janak's Swyamvar	Sushil Motwani +
King 2	King in Janak's Swyamvar	Je Kori Koteswara Salmon +
Palace Guard	Ravan's minister	Purvi Shah

### RAKSHASAS:

Ravan	King of Lanka	Nilay Mukherjee/Ravi Nimmagadda *
Mandodari	Wife of Ravan	Ananya Chatterjee [Nidhu Nids]
Vibhisan	Brother of Ravan	Rohit Chandra
Meghnad	Son of Ravan	Je Kori Koteswara Salmon +
Surpanakha	Sister of Ravan	Aditi Taylor/Jayati Banerjee *
Prameela	Wife of Meghnad	Japneet Kwatra
Trijata	Rakshasi at Ashok Vatika	Ridhima Mahajan [Urmi Sahni] +
Rakshasi Guard	Rakshasi at Ashok Vatika	Dipali Trivedi [Shamita Behl] +
	Guard in Ravan's court	Navnit Shukla, Nirmal Kumar +

### VANARS:

Vali	King of Kiskindha	Ravi Nimmagadda/Nilay Mukherjee+*
Sugreev	Brother of Vali	Sushil Motwani +
Hanuman	Vanar Warrior & Narrator	Sridhar Pola

### ANIMALS:

Jatayu Bird	Queen of Eagles	Shirin Bakre +
Golden Deer	Maricha in Disguise	Ishaan Naik, Shefali Bakre

**DANCERS:** Swasti Bhargava, Pallavi Gupta, Vasudha Kudrimoti, Susmitha Mallidi, Nishtha Saxena, Rakhee Wagal

+ dual role, \* double casting (2 shows each), [...] cast in the original run

## Crew & Backstage ...

Costumes & Jewelry	.....	Noorain Buxamusa, Jayanti Bandyopadhyay
Choreographers	.....	Vasudha Kudrimoti, Shirin Bakre
Lighting & Sound	.....	Prateek Paul, Marcus, Ravi Nimmagadda
Music	.....	Pra Deep, Meena Sundaram
Publicity and Web	.....	Nirmal Kumar, Ravi Nimmagadda
Gate Management	.....	Janique, Japneet, Nidhu, Ajay, Shahshank, Lakshmi
Makeup	.....	Gopika Narula, Susmita Ghosh, Anchal Dubey, Kabita Das, Sebastien Das
Stage Management	.....	Deven Atmoor, Mala Krishnamurthy
Tickets Management	.....	Nirmal Kumar
Posters	.....	Harun Razith
Script (scenes 1-15)	.....	Dhanashree, Kumkum(2), Jayanti, Nilay, Rohit(2) Chandrika, Ajay Jaisingh, Ravi N., Yogita, Sridhar, Nilay, Subrata, Sridhar, Monisha; Narration pieces - Nilay
Script Editing	.....	Subrata, Nilay, Rohit, Jayanti
Fund Raising	.....	Kumkum Pareek Malik
Assistance in Direction	.....	Aditi, Jayanti, Je-Kori
Direction	.....	Subrata Das
Special Thanks	.....	Debra Wise, Shobha Shastri, Gauri Chandna, Plymouth Church Belmont, Upendra Mishra, Anil Saigal, Arabinda and Dolgobinda Das, Munira Jawadwala, Greg Cook, Kolam Media Creations

### An epic undertaking ...

Presenting Ramayan in just two-and-a-half hours is an attempt to scratch the surface. Nonetheless, the objective here is to expose people of Indian origin and the mainstream American audience to our rich and ancient cultural heritage.

Our take on this epic is very different from a traditional one. Written by a dozen of our own members, covering all seven kands in fifteen scenes, this production is both a humanistic and women-centric stage production brought to life by two dozen actors and dancers. Our humanistic angle places less emphasis on the characters' traditional godly attributes, but rather approaches these characters as relatable, vulnerable human beings. Our colorful stage production accentuates the powerful roles of some of the lesser known women characters.

Without a doubt, an epic undertaking given the cast size with volunteers and part-timers, but every step always highlighted the fun aspect as a SETU extended family. We hope to live up to our audience's expectation as we stage at such a unique venue. Enjoy!

**Subrata Das, Director**

SETU is in its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We thank our audience, sponsors, and well-wishers who have been supportive to achieve our mission. – Jayanti Bandyopadhyay and Subrata Das, Founding Members