



BROWNSTAR

ABOUT

BROWNSTAR

**IN A SKY OF BLACK AND WHITE,
A BROWNSTAR SHINES BRIGHT.**

Described by spoken-word pioneer and founder of the Boston Progress Arts Collective, Giles Li, as “carrying on the legacy of the great storytellers across generations” BROWNSTAR is a spoken-word duo based at the origin of the American revolution: in Boston, Massachusetts. A rising star in the Asian-American artistic community, BROWNSTAR merges high-energy comedy, personal memoir, and science fiction to ignite a conversation about the South Asian American community and give a generation its voice and song.

BROWNSTAR bursts forth from the pens of poet-performers Pushkar NORTH STAR Sharma and Sathya SOUTH STAR Sridharan, who joined together in 2007. The duo has performed at universities, poetry venues, and fundraisers across the US, and shared the stage with the likes of Def Poets Kelly Tsai and Reggie Cabico, and emcees Magnetic North and Taiyo Na, and comedians Hari Kondabolu and Aparna Nancherla. BROWNSTAR produced UNIFICATION, a joint celebration of the Indian and Pakistani Independence Days in Manhattan in August 2009 and will reprise the show in New York in August 2010.

**ASKING THOSE TIMELESS, HUMAN
QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR WORLD,
OUR GALAXY, AND OUR UNIVERSE.**



"There could have been no better time to see Brownstar than now. Just when I thought I was getting too jaded to ever care about spoken word again, Brownstar made me remember why I fell in love with it in the first place. Seeing them do a set made me feel 19 again - 19 and hungry and powerful and ready to both embrace and fight the world. More than simply being fun to watch, Brownstar is carrying on the legacy of the great storytellers across generations."

-Giles Li, founder of Boston Progress Arts Collective

"I wish Brownstar were around when I was in college...Brownstar skillfully guides their audience into sharing their unique Desi-American experiences, demonstrates why that experience cannot be marginalized, and it is all done with humorous finesse. What is Brownstar? Is it theater? Is it spoken-word? Is it witty stand-up comedy? Is it a discourse on the South Asian American experience? Yes."

-Tanzila Ahmed, Sepia Mutiny

"BROWNSTAR's original performance left the audience with a deeper appreciation for the complexities that exist within South Asian-American identity...BROWNSTAR had not only South Asians but non-South Asians alike talking about its entertaining, yet thought provoking performance for weeks after."

-Safia Tapal, Tufts Association of South Asians (TASA)
Vice President, Tufts University

A FEW PAST PERFORMANCES

Wellesley University

Loyola University Chicago

Tufts University

Northeastern University

Boston Asian American Student Intercollegiate Conference (BAASIC)

Washington University in St. Louis

The Sulu Series @ The Bowery Poetry Club in NYC

Nuyorican Poets Cafe in NYC

The Cantab Lounge in Boston

East Meets West Bookstore in Boston



NORTH STAR

Pushkar has a broad background in theatre on and offstage, recently producing THE REVOLUTION's production of UNIFICATION: A DEMONSTRATION FOR PEACE in New York City, an event that brought together a variety of South-Asian performers for a joint celebration of the Pakistani and Indian Independence days. As one-half of BROWNSTAR, Pushkar has performed across the US. Recently Pushkar contributed two monologues for Rasaka Theatre's 2010 production of Yoni Ki Baat in Chicago. Rasaka also produced his poetry-infused play, Midnite's Vultures in the fall of 2009. Pushkar's directorial work on the South African ghost story, Ipi Zombi?, was hailed by St. Louis' River Front Times as "a stunning release of imagery and color... the kind of event that makes our pre-conceptions about theatre seem restrictive and even irrelevant.... [it] ignores conventions and expands the possibilities of imagination." As an actor he has performed in a variety of contemporary and classical works. Pushkar feeds his mind with his work in the social sector, working at Bridgespan, a nonprofit strategy organization, and India's largest education NGO, Pratham.

SOUTH STAR

Sathya Sridharan is an actor, writer, and poet born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Sathya earned his bachelor's degree in English Literature and Drama. As an actor, Sathya has taken on roles both modern and classic, the latter including Shakespeare's Lucio (Measure for Measure) and Hamlet (Hamlet), a performance noted as having an "unmatched" energy and reviewed as being "truly inspiring". Sridharan also spent a summer studying at Shakespeare's Globe Theater where he worked with theater practitioners and actors on Shakespearian performance and textual analysis. Further, Sathya is a skilled improviser, having studied and performed both short and long form improv comedy for the last decade with a variety of troupes, including a performance at the NYC Del Close Festival in 2009. As a poet, Sathya has been bettering his spoken word craft for some time but finds his real niche in prose-poetry, where he most recently completed a collection entitled Finding Elsinore, marrying his two great artistic loves. Sathya is also a brave fan of the X-Men Universe, the poetry of Jack Gilbert, a Harry Potter fanatic, and a lover of the music of Sufjan Stevens.



UNIFICATION

BROWNSTAR's leadership in the South-Asian American community has been highlighted by their production of UNIFICATION, a joint celebration of the Indian and Pakistani Independence Days in August 2009. Hosted at the E. 13th Street Theatre in Manhattan, UNIFICATION featured prominent and rising South-Asian American performers (including BROWNSTAR) and was supported by the Asian-American Writers' Workshop, the Indo-American Arts Council, and PakUSOnline. Due to its success the show will be reprised in Manhattan in 2010.

ABOUT THE
BROWNSTAR

REVOLUTION

THE BROWNSTAR REVOLUTION unites socially-minded BROWN artists, thinkers, and revolutionaries -creating a nexus where new and needed voices can forge a fresh conversation on hyphenation, identity, and diasporic politics.

THE BROWNSTAR REVOLUTION unites ALL BROWN, embracing our ability to walk forward together - not just as hyphenated-Americans, but as one people: To believe that this is possible and necessary is to be a BROWNSTAR.



HOSTING BROWN STAR

BROWNSTAR's standard performance consists of an hour long show featuring 3 duo pieces and 2-4 solo pieces.

BROWNSTAR often follows their set with a 20-30 minute post-show talk back with the audience.

Student groups generally collaborate together to host BROWNSTAR and book an open mic/opening act or two to perform before BROWNSTAR does its thing.

BROWNSTAR's standard rate for a performance is \$1200

BROWNSTAR is always willing to be flexible to meet your group's needs; have a question? Just ask; brownstar@brownstarrevolution.com

Need references?

You can contact Purvi Patel at Loyola University Chicago (ppatel11@luc.edu), or Wendy Schiller of the Chicago Shakespeare Theater Company (wschiller@chicagoshakes.com).

WWW.BROWNSTARREVOLUTION.COM