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SOUTH ASIAN CULTURE FEATURED IN A SERIES OF EVENTS AT RAMAPO COLLEGE

(Mahwah) – The School of Contemporary Arts at Ramapo College of New Jersey will present “Re-envisioning South Asia: Cultures at Crossroads” on the College campus Tuesday, May 3 through Thursday, May 5. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. For information about each event, call 201.684.7813.

Breast Bequeather, a short play by Gargi Mukherjee of the Epic Actors Workshop, NJ will be presented from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on May 3. A reception with the artist, featuring Indian snacks and refreshments, will be held at 6:30 p.m. The play is an adaptation of highly acclaimed author Mahasweta Devi’s short story of the same title and vividly portrays the struggles of a woman’s life within the confines of a rigidly defined class structure. The mission of the Epic Actors Workshop has been to showcase and underscore the importance of South Asian theaters, mostly Bangla theaters, performances and arts within the New York metropolitan community and in the larger context of mainstream American culture.

On May 4 from 1 – 2 p.m., there will be a slide-show presentation, “An Introduction to Mughal Painting, c. 1550-1700,” featuring Islamic art from South Asia. Navina Haider of the Metropolitan Museum of Art will give the presentation in the College’s H-Wing Auditorium, to be followed by a question and answer session.

The Ananya Dance Theater, based in Minnesota, will present “Bandh: A Meditation on Dreams” from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Sharp Theater on May 5. A reception with the artists and a light Indian dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. The Ananya Dance Theater is led by choreographer and artistic director Ananya Chatterjea. The

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dancers will present excerpts from the theater's newest production, featuring musical composition by Shubha Mudgal, a Hindustani classical singer and composer. "Bandh," a project on women's dreams, is inspired by the yogini temples of Orissa, India where female saints are imagined as dancing in their spiritual ecstasy, darkening the sky with their flying hair.

This program is made possible by a Ramapo Foundation Grant, with additional support from the Office of Student Affairs, Student Activities Platinum Series, International Events Committee and the Women's Center, and is promoted as part of the College's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Activities.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Ruma Sen, 201.684.7813.

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