

Media Contact:

**Bethann Carbone**  
609-670-8116  
[bethann@brandingovation.com](mailto:bethann@brandingovation.com)

# Virus Bomb

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### One-night Only Special Preview Presentation of Virus Bomb: A Twisted Look at Societal Immunity

October 22, 2022 at 8PM at Baruch Performing Arts Center, New York, NY

New York, NY (October 12, 2022) **DYK Films** and **Branding Ovation** announce a **one-night only special preview presentation of *Virus Bomb: A Twisted Look at Societal Immunity*, written and directed by Mumtaz Hussain, with an immersive musical score by Jeremiah Bornfield. The evening starts with a reception at 6:30PM, with a presentation by the director, and words from special guests Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York, H.E. Munir Akram, Pakistani Consul General of New York, Ayesha Ali, and renowned fashion icon, Mary McFadden. The performance will take place immediately following the reception, at 8PM.**

**Proceeds from the suggested \$20 donation per ticket benefit Pakistani flood rescue and disaster recovery efforts.**

"We are facing not one, but many types of viruses in our society," says Hussain, describing some prominent themes in the show. "For example, American society has not yet gotten rid of the racism that seems to be contagious in times of national or world crisis." Hussain explains that the characters of the play deal with various themes such as virus conspiracy theories, the arrogance of scientists, human tragedy, and the search for a bright future in the midst of uncertainty.

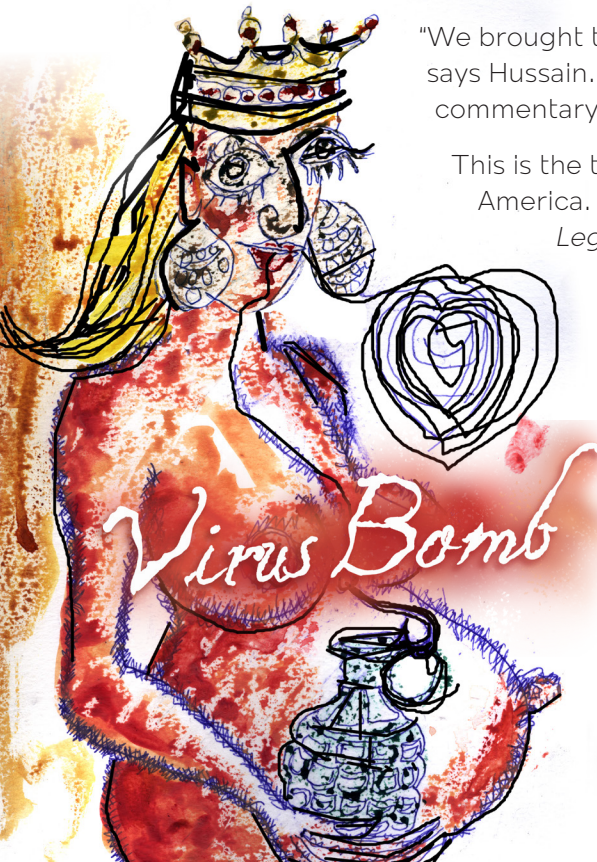
"We brought together talented actors from different communities living in America," says Hussain. "I'm honored that they will showcase their talents on stage for this commentary on human values. This cast is family to me."

This is the third stage play for Hussain, a writer who studied in Pakistan, Europe and America. He previously produced two plays in New York, *The Barking Crow* and *Legal Alien*, which were well received by the city's immigrant communities.

Introduced by Martin Scorsese as a composer to watch, and described by Rolling Stone critic Peter Travers as "gifted", musical composer Jeremiah Bornfield lends another creative perspective to the narrative weaved throughout this production.

"The play's general brilliance and stunning originality have inspired a lengthy musical prelude that acts as a prologue," offers Bornfield, as he describes the score. "I love writing vocal music, and have completed a few short operas and many classical songs. I am very excited to present the soprano Maria Eleni Zollo as not only a live soloist, but also as a taped element that makes use of our theater's unique surround sound capabilities. Writing immersive music at this scale has been a great joy."

*Continued...*



"Mumtaz Hussain has assembled some very serious, dedicated and wonderful talents for Virus Bomb. His directing style is very hands-on, and also flexible in terms of not getting in the way of inspired performances with unique perspectives. I've been astonished by the commitment and drive that the cast has brought. I cannot wait for this project to be brought to fruition."

Hussain adds, "I'm excited to work creatively with this cast of talented souls, as they highlight the range of emotions many of us at one time or another felt before, during, and after this unprecedented global health crisis."

"There really couldn't be a more timely production than Virus Bomb, in content or presentation," says producer, Bethann Carbone. "In the wake of a global pandemic, Mumtaz Hussain has created a relatable story about a mother who has experienced the tragic loss of a husband and son, but yet stands up to question the indifference of the elite and protect her unborn second child, at all costs. When tragedy is about to strike again, she realizes in no uncertain terms that it is up to each and every one of us to protect the future."

Carbone continues, "I am so moved by the abandon with which this dedicated cast has taken on the complex elements addressed in this drama. In addition, we've got some truly amazing talent being showcased here."

*About the play:*

### **VIRUS BOMB: A Twisted look at societal immunity.**

A very pregnant Mary has lost her 12-year-old son and her husband to the Alone-a-virus. Now she must save the son who rests in her womb. She goes to the United Nations headquarters in New York to present her case to the International Court of Justice. The session is in full swing when Mary feels intense labor pains and runs to get help. On her way out of the building, Mary accidentally steps on a bomb button strategically placed by the Opportunists. If Mary lifts her foot, the bomb will go off.

### **CAST**

(In order of appearance)

NIAMH COLLINS   Soul	STEVEN ACKERMAN   Israeli
DAVID WALTERS   Knotted Gun / Head Judge	KEN JACOWITZ   Palestinian
DEBORAH De LORENZO   Mary	STEVEN VEGA   Lawyer
JOHNNY MacDONALD   African American	BERNARD BOSIO   Mr. Ugly
MARTY   Native American / Ukrainian	LARS STEVENS   Dracula
MARLENE VILLAFANE   Lady in Black / Receptionist	SURGE   Cab Driver / Bat
OWN NAQVI   Pakistani	KARAI ASPEN   Sparrow
MUJADDAD JAVED   Indian / Russian	MARIA ELENI ZOLO   Vocalist

### **CREATIVE TEAM**

MUMTAZ HUSSAIN | Writer and Director  
MUJADDAD JAVED | Assistant Director  
JEREMIAH BORNFIELD | Composer  
BETHANN CARBONE | Producer

*Continued...*

**For more information, actor bios, and to purchase tickets, visit [www.virusbomb.org](http://www.virusbomb.org) or follow @virusbomb on Facebook.**

-----

**About Director Mumtaz Hussain:**

Mumtaz Hussain is an artist, graphic designer, filmmaker and a writer. His Urdu book of short stories GOOL AINAK KA PECHAY, LAFZON MAIN TASVARIAN, PELI PATI CHUNA KUM, MUMTAZ HUSSAIN DIAN CHUWIAN KAHINIAN (GURMUKHI), and PORTRAIT IN WORDS (ENGLISH) is about to published.

Films include:

*This is my Pakistan* for a Pakistani TV Channel GEO  
*Inside You* based on Rumi's poetry;  
*Push Button For* based on a Pakistani short story  
*Butterfly Screams*. based on the tragedy of 911  
*Art=(Love) 2 (feature film)*

Plays include: *Virus Bomb*, *Legal Alien*, *Barking Crow*

For more information, visit [www.mumtazart.com](http://www.mumtazart.com)

###