

## Impact Report 2024

In 2024, Roommate Art Company was founded, with the help of friends and family, some working as volunteers. We have had a transformative year, producing a series of impactful shows that strengthened cultural ties, sparked meaningful dialogue, and engaged diverse communities through the power of storytelling.

Below is an overview of the theatre productions that defined our year and their impact on the community:

### 1. Thirteen

Director: Saeid Asgarian

Date & Location: November 2023, cSPACE Marda Loop, Calgary

Description: A Farsi-language adaptation of *12 Angry Men* by *Reginald Rose*, this play resonated deeply with Calgary's Iranian community. After three months of intense rehearsals, Thirteen was brought to life, creating a space for shared experiences and cultural reflection. Nearly all actors had their first experience on stage. This experience was described as transformative and empowering, as it not only nurtured the actors' talents but also built their confidence and strengthened their connection to the community.

Impact:

- Engaged the Iranian community by presenting a culturally significant piece in their native language.
- Fostered discussions on justice and individual responsibility through the themes of the play.
- Strengthened connections within the Iranian diaspora in Calgary.

### 2. Empty Room

Playwright, Stage Designer, & Director: Saeid Asgarian

Date & Location: May 2024, cSPACE Marda Loop, Calgary

Description: Inspired by *Neil Simon's* works, this original comedy featured a talented cast of 11 actors. Performed to an audience of over 400, this production showcased Saeid's versatility in creative writing, direction, and stage design.

Impact:

- Provided an engaging platform for local talent, enhancing the visibility of Calgary's theatre community.
- Highlighted the value of collaboration and creativity in producing professional-grade theatrical works.

### **3. Home**

Co-Writers: Sofia Garcia & Saeid Asgarian

Date & Location: Scheduled for November 2024, Calgary

Description: Drawing inspiration from *Kafka's* novels, this absurdist play explores themes of colonization through the story of a woman whose home is claimed by an invading family. *Home* tackles universal issues of displacement, identity, and belonging.

Impact:

- Promoted conversations and thoughts around colonization and cultural ownership.
- Engaged diverse audiences in an intellectually stimulating and emotional narrative.
- Strengthened Roommate Art Company's reputation for addressing contemporary social issues.

### **4. Art**

Date & Location: November 2024, Calgary & Edmonton

Description: This Farsi-language play follows a man's journey as he grapples with the fading ties to his homeland and struggles with a sense of invisibility in his host community. The story resonated with Persian audiences, shedding light on the immigrant experience and themes of belonging and cultural erosion.

Impact:

- Unified Persian communities in Calgary and Edmonton, fostering a sense of solidarity.
- Encouraged dialogue around immigrant identity, cultural loss, and acceptance in a new society. Highlighted the importance of storytelling in preserving cultural narratives.

## **Overall Impact**

This year, we reached over 800 audience members, brought together diverse communities, and addressed key social issues through the lens of art. Each production was designed to spark empathy, build connections, and celebrate the richness of cultural diversity.