

# Written and Directed by Deepali Lindblom

Sept 22 at the Vintage Theatre, 1468 Dayton St. Aurora, 7.30 - 9 pm

Sept 23 at the MLK Jr. Library, 9898 E. Colfax Ave. Aurora, 7.30 - 9 pm



There is a memorial service for my father. I am surrounded by people and a pall of sadness. I'm unable to cry. I don't cry. I never cry. A professional mourner is invited, to help me grieve.

She dances. Soon enough all eyes are wet, except mine. Then, it's just the two of us and she tells me stories. It is when I hear the end, I come undone.

When we started looking for ideas for the final artwork, one thing that stood

out was the many lives we've lost in the last 2+ years. To the pandemic (direct & indirect), natural disasters and man-made violence. We felt a deep need to grieve and heal as a community and thus the idea for this play came about. Though a work of fiction, the stories presented here are based on real life experiences, woven together to depict how we experience grief in diverse ways and our path towards acceptance and healing.

The play is in two parts with an intermission. At the same time a '**Mandala**' will be created, inviting the audience to be a part of its creation and its dissolution. A mandala (Sanskrit for "circle") is *an artistic representation of higher thought and deeper meaning given as a geometric symbol used in spiritual, emotional, or psychological work to focus one's attention. In other words, being in the 'present'.* The Mandala is intended to guide us in the meditative process of understanding our impermanence, of grieving, acceptance and consequently healing. Finally, embracing our paths, and celebrating the precious gift of life.

*"In the Lakota/Sioux tradition, a person who is grieving is considered most waken, most holy. There's a sense that they stand on the threshold of the spirit world. For the time being, they've accepted the reality of loss and has stopped clinging to the past or grasping at the future. In the groundless openness of sorrow, there is a wholeness of presence and deep natural wisdom."*  
— Tara Brach, *True Refuge: Finding Peace and Freedom in Your Own Awakened Heart*