

## Buddies in Bad Times Theatre Announces the Lineup for *I Won't Envy* A New Podcast from Vivek Shraya

**November 18, 2024 (Toronto, ON): Buddies in Bad Times Theatre today released the *I Won't Envy* podcast lineup for season one, created and hosted by award-winning author and artist Vivek Shraya.** Starting on November 27, listen in on Vivek's intimate one-on-one conversations with fellow artists working in various fields including drag artists **Denim** and **Pythia**, performance artist **Alok**, actor and filmmaker **Kiran Rai**, American photographer and artist **Paul Mpagi Sepuya**, musician **Sara Quin** from Tegan and Sara, and Tuscarora writer and editor **Alicia Elliott**, as they disclose their experiences with professional jealousy.

Over six illuminating conversations, Vivek digs into when the artists have felt most triggered, how they have managed (sometimes poorly) this feeling, and what they have learned from their jealousy.

"I have had a longstanding fascination (and frustration) with professional jealousy but my personal shame has prevented me from having meaningful conversations about this with other artists - until now!" shared **Shraya**. "I'm thrilled to partner with Buddies to realise my first podcast and hope that it will offer comfort, validation and even some "tips and tricks" to other artists who might be suffering with this feeling in silence, the way I have."

"It's inspiring to work with Vivek, an artist who captures our sense of audacity, risk-taking, and provocation, and who has built such an impressive career as a multidisciplinary artist. I'm so glad to have her back working with Buddies," said **ted witzel, artistic director, Buddies in Bad Times**. "While Buddies is anchored in Toronto, it is also a hub for queer theatre and arts in Canada; we are always keen to bring these conversations to a wider audience, which *I Won't Envy* is sure to do."

**Episode one of *I Won't Envy* featuring Denim and Pythia will be available for streaming on all platforms on November 27.** For more information, visit [BuddiesinBadTimes.com](https://BuddiesinBadTimes.com).

*I Won't Envy* is sponsored by the Queer and Trans Research Lab at the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies – University of Toronto.

**About Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** | [buddiesinbadtimes.com](https://buddiesinbadtimes.com) | @buddiesto

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre is the world's largest queer theatre. For 46 years, Buddies has carved out a sexy, disobedient edge in Toronto's theatre scene and has been a world leader in amplifying queer voices and developing their stories for the stage. In its year-round theatre season, Buddies is a home for artistic risk—a place where emerging talent hone their radical visions, and where established artists to do the daring works other theatres might shy away from. Since 1979, Buddies has welcomed over one million audience members and premiered over 1,000 new works for the stage. The Buddies in Bad Times Lead Season Sponsor is BMO. Learn more about the 2024–25 season [here](#).

**About Vivek Shraya**

Vivek Shraya is an artist whose body of work crosses the boundaries of music, literature, visual art, theatre, TV, film, and fashion. A three-time Canadian Screen Award winner, Vivek is the creator and writer of the new CBC Gem Original Series *How to Fail as a Popstar*, which had its international premiere at Cannes. She has collaborated with musical icons Jann Arden, Peaches, and Jully Black, and was nominated for the Polaris Music Prize. Her best-selling book *I'm Afraid of Men* was heralded by *Vanity Fair* as "cultural rocket fuel," and she is the founder of the award-winning publishing imprint VS. Books, (featured on CBC's Canada Reads) which supports emerging BIPOC writers.

Vivek has been a brand ambassador for MAC Cosmetics and Pantene, and she is a director on the board of the Tegan and Sara Foundation.

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