

ICCJ “VIRTUAL” BOOK CAFÉ

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022 @ 10:30AM

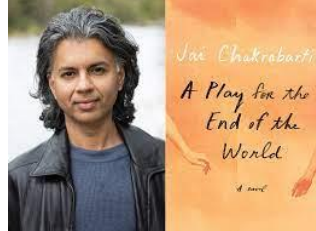
with Guest Author

JAI CHAKRABARTI

featuring his

AWARD-WINNING BOOK

“A Play for the End of the World”



The Book

NEW YORK CITY, 1972. Jaryk Smith, a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, and Lucy Gardener, a free-spirited southerner who is newly arrived in the city, are in the first bloom of love when they receive word that Jaryk’s oldest friend from childhood has died under mysterious circumstances in a village in eastern India. Travelling there alone to collect his friend’s ashes, Jaryk soon finds himself enmeshed in the chaos of local politics and efforts to stage a play in protest against the government—the same play, written by the revered Bengali author Rabindranath Tagore, that Jaryk performed as a child in Warsaw as an act of resistance against the Nazis. Torn between the survivor’s guilt he has carried for decades and his feelings for Lucy, Jaryk must decide how to honor both the past and the present, and how to accept a happiness he is not sure he deserves. An unforgettable love story, a provocative exploration of the role of art in times of political upheaval, and a deeply moving reminder of the power of the past to shape the present.

The Author

Jai Chakrabarti is the author of the novel *A Play for the End of the World* (Knopf), which won the National Jewish Book Award for debut fiction, was the Association of Jewish Libraries Honor Book, and was long-listed for the PEN/Faulkner Award. He is also the author of the forthcoming story collection *A Small Sacrifice for an Enormous Happiness* (Knopf, 2023). His short fiction has appeared in numerous journals and has been anthologized in *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, *The Best American Short Stories*, and awarded a Pushcart Prize and also performed on Selected Shorts by Symphony Space. His nonfiction has been published in The Wall Street Journal, Fast Company, Writer’s Digest, Berfrois, and LitHub. He was an Emerging Writer Fellow and received an MFA in Creative Writing from Brooklyn College and is a trained computer scientist. Born in Kolkata, India, he now lives in New York with his family.

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE SENT CLOSER TO THE DATE

Israel Center of Conservative Judaism

167-11 73rd Avenue, Flushing, NY 11366

718-591-5353 aratzabi@gmail.com

