

Esplanade Presents

Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts 2023

17 – 26 Nov 2023

www.esplanade.com/kalaautsavam



From 17 – 26 Nov 2023, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay's *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts* presents on-the-pulse explorations of culture and identity by some of India and Singapore's best-known names in the performing arts, alongside exciting musicians and bands who have emerged in the last decade. Southeast Asia's first Indian arts festival with a multi-genre focus will celebrate these talents as well as the power of stories and folklore in both traditional and contemporary contexts.

Through forms ranging from comedy to dance, the festival promises bold expressions of female divinity and desire as well as incisive reflections on Indian culture within cities and across the diaspora. Leading Singapore comedian **Kumar** will be in a new work specially commissioned by Esplanade on Indian culture in the Lion City and beyond in ***The Great Indian Mix – Kumar Spills the Tea***. In the solo work ***FORBIDDEN***, world-renowned contemporary *kathak* dancer and choreographer **Aditi Mangaldas** ponders the myriad ways in which women are routinely persecuted the world over just for being themselves, and the courage needed to reclaim their sexuality. Esplanade has co-commissioned *FORBIDDEN* together with London's Sadlers Wells Theatre and the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai. Emerging writer **Shiv Tandan** explores a young man's move from sedate Singapore to over-the-top Mumbai in the award-winning comic play ***Fistful of Rupees***.

The festival continues to provide a stage for the next generation of artists. Making his Singapore debut, Bollywood playback singer and popular crooner **Armaan Malik** will regale audiences with the hits that catapulted him to superstardom like *Main Ragoon Ya Na Ragoon* and *Pehla Pyaar*; feted young music composer **Sean Roldan** and his band present an evening of their well-loved songs; while ***Carnatic 2.0*** will whet the appetite of all fusion music lovers, featuring renowned musician-composer **Mahesh Raghvan** with violinists **Nandini** and **Ragini Shankar** from **Taraana**. One of India's top indie bands, **When Chai Met Toast**, makes a welcome return to the festival, while **Euphonic Masala** from the festival's *Fusion Beats* mentorship programme presents a night of wedding songs in ***BARAAT***.

Stories and folklore have the power to transport us to realms beyond our imagination. They carry the collective wisdom, traditions, and legends of our ancestors and connect us to the roots of our shared humanity. Children aged four and above are invited to immerse themselves in the story of ***Four Friends and the Hunter*** (a Panchatantra tale) written by **Aishwariyah Shanmuganathan** and directed by **Rani Kanna & Kalah Rajes Kannan** from **A K Theatre**. ***Naga Mandala*** by **Punyah Dance Company** centres around the popular folklore of Rani and a shape-shifting snake told through *bharathanatyam* dance and ***Twin Murder in the Green Mansion***, inspired by the British play, *The Play That Goes Wrong* will be presented by local theatre company **Agam Theatre Lab**, transporting audiences to worlds both familiar and fantastical.

Complementing this wide array of programmes is a line-up of free performances and activities, as well as workshops and talks. We would like to thank Principal Sponsor High Commission of India, Supporting Sponsors Fort Sanctuary, Malabar Gold & Diamonds and Suvai Foods Pte Ltd, and Mr Matthew Teng for their generous support of the festival.

As you step into Esplanade for *Kalaa Utsavam*, we invite you to leave the constraints of everyday life behind and surrender yourself to the transformative power of this unique celebration. We hope you open your heart and mind, and embark on a path of personal growth, artistic exploration and profound connection.

We eagerly await your arrival, ready to create memories that will linger in your hearts forever.

See you at *Kalaa Utsavam*!

V M Sai Akileshwar

Producer

The Esplanade Co Ltd

About Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade is Singapore's national performing arts centre. It hosts a year-round line-up of about 3,500 live performances and activities presented by Esplanade, its partners and hirers. As an arts centre for everyone, Esplanade also creates opportunities for seniors, youth, children and underserved communities to experience the arts. More than 70% of the shows that take place each year at the centre are free for all to enjoy.

Esplanade also brings the arts virtually to audiences in Singapore and beyond, through its diverse range of digital programmes on [Esplanade Offstage](#), an all-access backstage pass to the performing arts and guide to Singapore and Asian arts and culture, with videos, podcasts, articles, quizzes and resources.

The centre works in close partnership with local, regional and international artists to develop artistic capabilities and content, push artistic boundaries and engage audiences. Esplanade supports the creation of artistic content by commissioning and producing new Singapore and Asian work for the international stage. It also develops technical capabilities for the industry nationally.

Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is operated by The Esplanade Co Ltd (TECL), which is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered Charity and an Institution of a Public Character. The Charity Council awarded TECL the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, and the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2019 and 2022. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a Guide-dog Friendly centre.

TECL receives funding support from Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and its Community Programmes are supported by Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

Visit [Esplanade.com](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

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Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts 2023

17 – 26 Nov 2023

www.esplanade.com/kalaautsavam

Ticketed Programmes

Taraana & Carnatic 2.0 – A Double Bill

Featuring Mahesh Raghvan & Shravan Sridhar, Nandini and Ragini Shankar (India)

17 Nov 2023, Fri

7.30pm

Esplanade Concert Hall



If you want to know what the future of Indian classical music sounds like, then this show is for you! This double bill features young classical musicians who put their unique contemporary twists on established musical traditions. Sisters Ragini and Nandini Shankar make up the duo Taraana, violinists who imbue their music with modern sensibilities while the band Carnatic 2.0, comprising Mahesh Raghvan, Shravan Sridhar, Akshay Anantapadmanabhan and Sharanya Srinivas take on an innovative approach and style in music production and performance.

Taraana

Taraana is an ensemble of two young sisters from India who play the violin and celebrate life through music. Comprising Ragini and Nandini Shankar, the duo strike an elusive balance, fusing elements of timeless Indian classical music with contemporary cutting-edge 21st century production punctuated by their virtuosic violin interplay. They introduce this vision in all of its vitality and vibrancy on their 2023 full-length debut album *Taraana* for Decca Records US. To bring this innovative vision to life, they have collaborated with the likes of GRAMMY® Award-nominated producer Nick Patrick and songwriter Amy Wadge. The two sisters travel through the world expressing their musical voyage through a blend of tradition and progression in their music.

Music has surrounded Ragini and Nandini since birth. They started their training on the violin at the age of three under their grandmother Padmabhushan Dr. N Rajam and their mother Dr. Sangeeta Shankar, both distinguished virtuoso violinists in the field of Indian classical music. They perform North Indian classical music with their mother and grandmother on stage, uniting three generations on the same instrument. They are the eighth generation of musicians in their illustrious family. The sisters are established Indian classical violinists, each with their own solo careers, and have performed in numerous prestigious music festivals all over India, Europe, North America and South-east Asia.

Taraana presents an intimate look at Indian music spiked with a modern sensibility as the duo bend and break boundaries with elite instrumentation, eloquent songcraft, and epic scope. Indian at heart, global in spirit, Taraana inspires to make the present moment timeless and joyous.

Taraana Band

Ragini Shankar
Nandini Shankar

Keyboard – Anil Dhumal
Percussion – Kahaan Shah
Tabla – Tanay Rege
Guitar – Samridha Mohanta
Bass – Nikhil Nair

Guest Artists

iPad – Mahesh Raghvan
Mridangam & Konnakkol – Akshay Anantapadmanabhan
Flute – Lalit Talluri



Carnatic 2.0 is a cutting-edge band that brings together the best of Indian classical music and modern electronic sounds. Led by the innovative Mahesh Raghvan, known for his groundbreaking work as a music producer and iPad performer, the band also features the dynamic violin playing of Shravan Sridhar, the soulful vocals of Sharanya Srinivas, and the rhythmic mastery of *mridangam* player Akshay Anantapadmanabhan.

Together, the members of Carnatic 2.0 blend their classical training with a love of innovation and experimentation, creating a unique sound that captures the spirit of the present while paying homage to the rich traditions of Carnatic music. From popular tunes to new age versions of classic compositions, the band's performances are always fresh, exciting, and unforgettable. Experience the future of Indian music with Carnatic 2.0, featuring a repertoire that mixes traditional South Indian classical music (with a twist) as well as songs popular in Indian pop culture.

About Carnatic 2.0

Core band

- Mahesh Raghvan (iPad, Vocals, Keyboards, Electronics)
- Shravan Sridhar (Electric Violin)
- Sharanya Srinivas (Vocals)
- Akshay Anantapadmanabhan (Mridangam and Percussion)

Featured Instrumentalists

- Lalit Talluri (Flute)
- Mylai Karthikeyan (Nadhaswaram)
- Sunil Kumar (Thavil)

About Mahesh Raghavan

Mahesh Raghvan is a Carnatic music fusion artist who is known for his experiments with Classical music. He has been trained in Carnatic vocal music and keys for more than 15 years. His experiments with Carnatic music on the iPad have gathered millions of views on YouTube and Facebook and have been featured by many media publishers.

Known for his contemporary take on Carnatic music pieces, Raghavan is also the Creative Director of Indian Raga, working with major music technology companies to make Indian classical music playable on their hardware and software.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/followingmahesh>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/followingmahesh/>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/followingmahesh/>

Website: <http://maheshraghvan.com>

About Shravan Sridhar

Shravan Sridhar has been trained in Indian Carnatic vocals and violin for 19 years and is equally at ease with a myriad of genres like blues, country, rock and roll, electronica, Western classical and even metal. He has been part of the famed *Airtel Super Singer* where he has performed with legends such as Rajesh Vaidhya, Stephan Devassy, Keba Jeramiah, Karthik Devaraj, Nivas Prasanna. He has played for various bands in both the Chennai and Bangalore independent music scene.

His violin and DJ act has been in high demand in leading clubs and other private events in Chennai. He has done multiple short film scores and is one of the most sought-after violinists in South India for live shows and recording sessions. Together, Mahesh and Shravan present modern fusion renditions of popular Carnatic music repertoire, as well as their own take on contemporary pop music.

Admission age 6 & up
1hr 30mins, including 20mins intermission

\$40^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep – 2 Oct

Black & White – 20% savings

Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct

Black – 15% savings

White – 10% savings

Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

*Limited concessions for students, NSF's, seniors and PWDs: \$32

Naga Mandala
Punyah Dance Company (India)
17 – 19 Nov 2023, Fri – Sun
Fri & Sat, 8pm
Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio



Adapted from the folk tale *Nagamandala* by Girish Karnad, this dance production uses the *gigi pada* where artists become narrators, actors and storytellers.

In depicting chauvinism of rural India where women still lack a voice, the story revolves around a newlywed couple. The protagonist Rani is sad and lonely because of her husband's disinterest in her. One day she is led into a mystic forest where she finds a flower to create a love potion. However, this potion is eventually thrown onto an ant hill and unbeknownst to Rani, a shape-shifting snake lives in this ant hill. The snake falls in love with Rani and treats her like a queen.

The audience are left with the questions on Rani's mind—does she make a choice or let society decide for her? Is the snake now part of her husband, like two sides of the same coin? The essence of the choreography unfolds in four sections: *Suruli* (the loop), *Hanati* (the inner desires), *Aakasmika* (there are no accidents) and *Dwanda* (the duality), revealing the emotions of Rani, her husband and the shape-shifting snake.

Gigi pada is a prominent form of folk music from North Karnataka. Here, the female singer plays the drum along with two other male artists, one of whom plays a string instrument while the other plays the cymbals. The topics they sing about vary from folklore to social issues.

The choreography of this work adopts the storytelling quality of the *gigi pada*, where narrators use the phrases *gigi/gagiya gi* to connect the points of the narrative.

About Punyah Dance Company

Punyah Dance Company is a Bangalore-based dynamic dance company headed by Parshwanath Upadhye. The company is co-headed by Adithya PV and Shruti Gopal. This team of classically trained artists present unique and impactful choreography with perfect execution, passion and grace.

Approaching India's favourite epics with a fresh and young perspective, Punyah hopes to entertain as well as spark a love for one of the world's oldest heritage. Punyah has produced and successfully presented four works in the last five years, namely *Hara*, *Sadgathi*, *Partha* and *Abha*.

Admission age 6 & up

1hr, no intermission

\$35^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep – 2 Oct

Black & White – 20% savings

Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct

Black – 15% savings

White – 10% savings

Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

*Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$28

BARAAT
Euphonic Masala (Singapore)
17 Nov 2023, Fri
8pm
Esplanade Annexe Studio



Experience the electrifying extravaganza of *BARAAT*, an exuberant concert that transports the jubilant ambiance of an Indian wedding onto the stage. Immerse yourself in a captivating showcase as the exceptionally skilled musicians and vocalists of Euphonic Masala deliver an array of beloved and lively Bollywood hits, alongside the innovative and infectious rhythms of their mash-ups. Plus, delight in select original compositions created exclusively for this concert, ensuring an unforgettable and one-of-a-kind experience.

About Euphonic Masala

Having started as a two member band, Euphonic Masala is a symphony of diverse talents brought together by singer and guitarist Rikin Khanna. With their common love for music and performing, the band adds their unique twists to songs and are excited to share their love for Hindi and Punjabi music to a wider audience in Singapore.

Rikin is a singer and guitarist when he is not working full-time as a strategy and analytics professional at a tech company. He has performed at several notable venues in Singapore, including Esplanade, Victoria Concert Hall, and Aliwal Arts Centre.

Iina is an artist determined to help people find connection through showing vulnerability in her music. While still a young musician, Iina is accomplished in her work, having written music for *Miss Marvel*, recording with Amazon Prime for their original series *Four More Shots Please*, and performing at the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix. She has also worked with renowned artists such as Vishal Shekhar, Ajay -Atul, Dick Lee, Linying, and has also opened for Grammy award-winning reggae artist Shaggy.

Kevin is a versatile drummer known for his session work on local and international artists' music. His versatility stems from deep roots in pop, rock, R&B. In addition to creating original

music with his band Building Fire, he has also explored developing unique styles of song re-arrangements such as ethnic fusion and alternative music.

Divy is a keyboardist and rhythm guitarist. He likes to play and listen to different genres of music ranging from rock, indie and pop. He attended university in Singapore, where he continued to pursue music. He finds music to be a reprieve from his career in finance.

Shalabh is a talented percussionist who works full time as a product manager at a tech company. He is passionate about rap music, which combined with fun Bollywood beats, leaves audiences dancing and grooving along.

Alim Sazali is a session bass player, music arranger, and music educator. He has collaborated with local artists and bands, including OutCry, which released their debut EP in 2015. Alim's session work includes recording for various local artists and performing in Singaporean bars. He emphasises groove and rhythm in his performances and teaching, aiming to build strong musical foundations. Alim's aspirations involve expanding Singapore's music community through an editorial website alongside his career as a session musician and teacher.

Instagram:

@euphonicmasala

@rikinkhanna

@ilinahats

@drummershades

@divy1a

@sveg214

@alimsazali

Performed in Hindi, Punjabi and English

Admission age 6 & up

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$20^

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep – 2 Oct

Black & White – 20% savings

Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Armaan Malik – Live in Concert

(India)

18 Nov 2023, Sat

7.30pm

Esplanade Concert Hall



At only 28 years old, multi-lingual singer-songwriter Armaan Malik has quickly become a recognised international pop icon, having amassed more than 10 billion streams for more than 250 songs in a dozen different languages. In his Singapore debut, Malik is set to stun with his soulful and captivating voice, performing a wide array of hit songs from films as well as original music. Expect to hear beloved tracks such as *Pehla Pyaar*, *Jab Tak*, *Control*, and many more. Don't miss one of India's most promising and dynamic performers live at Esplanade!

After cementing his position in the Indian music industry, Malik forayed into the global music circuit with his MTV EMA-winning debut English single, *Control*, followed by *next 2 me* which bagged him a spot on Billboard's acclaimed Top Triller Global Chart. Malik was the first Indian artist to perform at the Grammy's Global Spin, where he sang *How Many* and *You*.

As of 2022, Malik has his own music label Always Music Global, affiliated with Warner Music India. He released his dance single *Nakhrey Nakhrey* under the AM label and was also featured in Ed Sheeran's internationally acclaimed album *Equals*, on the track *2Step*.

Malik is also the youngest singer of Indian origin to have performed at The SSE Arena, Wembley, London, and to have won the SSE Awards Live Act.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/armaanmalikmusic/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/armaanmalik/?hl=en>

Twitter: @ArmaanMalik22

YouTube: @ArmaanMalikOfficial

Performed in Hindi

Admission age 6 & up

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$55^{^}, \$85^{**^}, \$115[^], \$145[^], \$175[^]**

**^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep – 2 Oct
(Cat 1 to 3 only)**

Black & White – 20% savings

Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

(Cat 4 & 5 only)

Black, White and Discover (min. 2 tickets) – 10% savings

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct (Cat 1 to 3 only)

Black – 15% savings

White – 10% savings

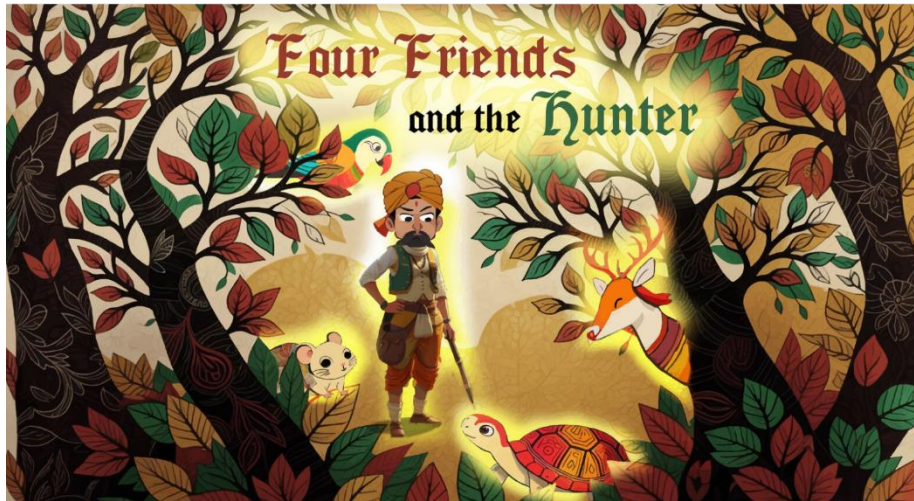
Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$44*, \$68** **(Cat 4 & 5 only)**

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$44

An Esplanade Production
Four Friends and The Hunter
(Singapore)

18 & 19 Nov 2023, Sat & Sun
11am & 2pm
Esplanade Recital Studio



A long time ago in a faraway forest in India, lived four good friends: a deer, a parrot, a turtle and a rat. One day, a hunter shows up looking for his next target. They try their best to stay out of his sight but one of them gets caught! How will they save their friend? What will they do?

Find out how these friends work together to save their friend from the hunter. Inspired by the Panchatantra, a collection of ancient Indian animal fables, this heartwarming story about strength in unity brings you on a journey filled with music, movement and merrymaking.

Director: Rani Kanna & Kalah Rajes Kannan
Scripwriter: Aishwariyah Shanmuganathan

Performed in English
Recommended for age 4 & up
Admission age 1 & up
45mins, no intermission

\$25^

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep – 2 Oct
PIP's Club – 20% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct
PIP's Club – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

An Esplanade Commission

The Great Indian Mix – Kumar Spills the Tea

24 Nov 2023, Fri

8pm

Esplanade Theatre



Step into the riotous world of Kumar, one of Singapore's most iconic comedians, as he takes centre-stage at Esplanade Singapore with his uproarious new show, *The Great Indian Mix*.

This comedic journey spans the breadth and depth of the Indian subcontinent. But this isn't just about geography—it's about people, traditions, idiosyncrasies, and the hilariously relatable nuances of being Indian, no matter where in the world you might be.

From the melodious songs of Bollywood to the spicy tales of South Indian masalas, Kumar is going to *spill the tea* about the quirks and complexities of the Indian experience.

Expect a rollercoaster of laughter as Kumar touches on everything from family dynamics, wedding extravaganzas, superstitions and festive frenzies to the age-old tussle between traditional values and modern aspirations—all served with a side of sharp social commentary and Kumar's signature wit.

Whether you're Indian or not, Kumar promises a night where you'll laugh, learn, and perhaps see the world (and its many Indians) in a refreshingly humorous light. Don't miss this side-splitting journey into the heart and humour of one of the world's most diverse and vibrant cultures!

Creative Director – Kumar

Producer – Manjula Balakrishnan

Written by – Sharul Channa

Contributors – Vadi PVSS and Jaya Radhakrishnan

Performed in English

Admission age 16 & up

Advisory 16: Some mature content and coarse language

1hr 30mins, including 20mins intermission

\$50*, \$70, \$90^, \$105^**

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep – 2 Oct

(Cat 1 & 2 only)

Black & White – 20% savings

Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

(Cat 3 & 4 only)

Black, White and Discover (min. 2 tickets) – 10% savings

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct (Cat 1 & 2 only)

Black – 15% savings

White – 10% savings

Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$40*, \$56** (Cat 3 & 4 only)

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$40

An Esplanade Co-Commission

FORBIDDEN

Aditi Mangaldas (India)

24 & 25 Nov 2023, Fri & Sat

8pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



“I was again enthralled by the perfection of Aditi’s technique, by the way she dynamised stage space... The music offered a powerful parallel track to her movement and her light designer created his own magic without overwhelming the dance...”

– Shanta Gokhale, eminent cultural writer and dance critic

Through this powerful new solo work, acclaimed dancer and choreographer Aditi Mangaldas explores the fear and taboos associated with female sexual desire that have been historically and culturally inculcated. She poses the question: why are women the world over sanctioned, judged, controlled, hounded and punished when they find the courage to embrace their own desires, in both conservative and liberal societies?

In the words of mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik, “... fantasy frightens us, especially female fantasy... One way of regulating fantasy has been by propagating stories where women who pursue their desires are viewed as dangerous, hence need to be restrained for social good.”

The work is presented in three parts—*Awakening* roots itself in the words dreams, fragrant flower and cage, *Playing the Game* explores denial, adornment, seduction and rage. The work ends with *Burning*, touching on her story and in her words, “consigning to flames all that is FORBIDDEN.”

Drawing from a gamut of cultures and expressing through her practice of contemporary dance based on *kathak*, Aditi traverses a spectrum of emotion and states of being, reclaiming and owning her desire. *FORBIDDEN* is a bold, evocative and charged quest for the liberation of women’s sexual desire.

Concept, Choreography and Performance: Aditi Mangaldas

Dramaturge: Farooq Chaudhry
Light Design: Michael Hulls
Music Composition: Nicki Wells
Costume Design: Kimie Nakano
Mentor: Morag Deyes

Commissioned by: Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company – The Drishtikon Dance Foundation
Co-Commissioned by: Sadler’s Wells, London; National Centre for The Performing Arts, Mumbai; Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore
Supported by: Dance City, Newcastle and Rajika Puri, USA

Choreographer’s note by Aditi Mangaldas

Artists are driven to explore subjects that consume them. That drive is a possession which compels artists to face and share provocative issues.

“It’s extremely important to recognise that none of us are above social conditioning; no matter how much we would like to believe that it doesn’t impact us, it does...”

– Devrupa Rakshit, *The Swaddle*

There are countless insidious ways that taboos creep into one's daily existence. Social structures, mythology, influences from popular culture, the culture of shame that women live with, all become a subconscious stream that shape our behaviour.

As an artist, I feel compelled to confront these taboos. *FORBIDDEN* has been realised after months of internalisation, debate, troughs and peaks; as each collaborator offered nuance to the work, till I found myself immersed in it. Sexuality is private but the taboos attached to female sexuality requires and demands taking a stand on the universal, public and personal front.

As I venture on this journey, I have held the words of Jalaluddin Rumi, close to my being, “Dance, when you’re broken open. Dance, if you’ve torn the bandage off. Dance in the middle of the fighting. Dance in your blood. Dance when you’re perfectly free. Dance until you shatter yourself!”

About Aditi Mangaldas

Considered a maverick in India, Aditi Mangaldas is a leading dancer and choreographer in the classical Indian dance form of *kathak*. Celebrated around the world for the startling richness and intricacy of her dance and choreography, Aditi is recognised for her artistry, technique, eloquence and energy that mark every performance. Unafraid to confront social and present-day concerns, she has broken new ground by using her knowledge and experience of *kathak* to evolve a contemporary dance vocabulary rooted in the classical.

She was nominated in the category of outstanding performance (classical) by the National Dance awards, UK. She was awarded two of India’s most prestigious arts awards, both of which she declined due to compelling reasons.

Aditi heads the Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company – The Drishtikon Dance Foundation.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aditi.mangaldas>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aditimangaldas>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@aditimangaldasdance>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AditiMangaldasDrishtikonDanceFoundation>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/drishtikondance>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@aditimangaldasdance>

Recommended for age 16 & up

Admission age 13 & up

1hr, no intermission

\$40^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep to 2 Oct

Black & White – 20% savings

Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct

Black – 15% savings

White – 10% savings

Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSF's, seniors and PWDs: \$32

Fistful of Rupees
By Stone Paper Stories (India)

24 – 26 Nov 2023, Fri – Sun

Fri & Sat, 7.30pm

Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Recital Studio



“The play is special for those who find themselves caught up in choosing a city to call it home— it lays bare the impossible challenges that Mumbai, Singapore and New York pose.”

– The Mumbai Times

Raghav moves to Mumbai without much of a plan, throwing himself headfirst into the ruckus. After living in quiet and orderly Singapore for many years, Mumbai comes as quite a shock.

Everything feels heightened, louder, brighter, impossible to ignore. He fights the absurd loneliness of the crowded city with lots of laughter, and some bravery.

Incisive and candid with dashes of absurdity, *Fistful of Rupees* considers the idea of what it means to truly arrive in this expansive and yet tiny world. Flitting between grim realism and outright absurdist humour, the play is both an ode to Mumbai's overpowering personality as well as a heartfelt journey of a young person navigating opportunity and despair with equal earnestness. At some point, Raghav must decide whether he wants to continue to spectate and observe, or finally jump in as well.

Fistful of Rupees was written by artist and theatre maker Shiv Tandan, inspired by his own real-life experiences. The play was featured at Tata LitLive! Mumbai Literature Festival 2018 and in the same year, named runner-up at the International Sultan Padamsee Playwriting Awards, one of the most sought-after awards for English language dramatists in India.

Shiv Tandan is an award-winning writer-director for film and theatre. Shiv's salient work includes Google Creative Lab Australia and Griffin Theatre Company's trans-media experiment *The Next Stage* (writer) and Checkpoint Theatre's *The Good, the Bad and the*

Sholay (writer and co-director). *Sholay* was selected as one of 50 significant works as part of the SG50 celebrations and published in *Voices Clear and True: New Singapore Plays Vol 1*. More recently, Shiv has written and directed *And Now Live*, an audio web series, and *Say Cheese Grandpa!*, a kids play produced by Saregama. Shiv is also Founder of Stone Paper Stories, and Associate Artist at Checkpoint Theatre, Singapore.

Performed in Hindi and English with English surtitles
Admission age 16 up
Advisory 16: Some mature content and coarse language
1hr 15mins, no intermission

\$35^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special

Black & White – 20% savings
Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Special:

Black – 15% savings
White – 10% savings
Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$28*

An Esplanade Co-Production

**பச்சு பங்களா ரெட்ட கொல்டா
(Twin Murder in the Green Mansion)**

By Agam Theatre Lab (Singapore)

24 – 26 Nov 2023, Fri – Sun

Fri, 8pm

Sat, 3pm & 8pm

Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



Killarious Chaos at the Green Mansion!

“Break a leg!” takes on a whole new meaning for a woefully misguided troupe of players at the Chutney Drama Society’s opening night performance of *Pachae Bungalaa, Rettae Kolaedaa*. An unconscious leading lady, a corpse who can’t play dead, a ruffled detective, and a word-mangling butler (among others) must battle against technical gaffes, forgotten lines, and sabotaging scenery in a quest to arrive all in one piece at the final curtain call. Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, all mayhem, this disastrously delightful *whodunit* will leave you in stitches! *Twin Murder in the Green Mansion* is inspired by the British play, *The Play That Goes Wrong*.

Key Creative Team

Producer – Subramanian Ganesh (Agam)
Directors – Subramanian Ganesh and Karthikeyan Somasundram
Dramaturg – Sindhura Kalidas
Script Adaptation – Karthikeyan Somasundram
Company Manager – Joanne Ng
Assistant Producer – Wan Sarah
Production Manager – Charlinda Pereira
Stage Manager – Shivani D/O Thillai Nadarajan
Assistant Stage Managers – Audrey & Reyn
Production Assistant - Emily Francesca
Sound Design – Nallu Dhinakharan
Publicity Design – JS Sasikumar
Technical Manager – Ian Tan
Set Design – Lim Keng San (ON STAGING)
Set Construction – ON STAGING Pte Ltd
Props Manager – Audrey Low
Makeup & Costume Design – Norehan Fong
Surtitles – Durga Devi
Photography – Brandon
Video Editor – Praveen Kumar

Cast

Karthikeyan Somasundram
Udaya Soundari
Prasakthi Allagoo
Nallu Dhinakharan
Shaikh Yasin
PK
Mano
Indu

About Agam Theatre Lab

Established in 2019 by theatremaker Subramanian Ganesh and a collective of theatre enthusiasts, Agam Theatre Lab is one of Singapore's newest addition to the evolving landscape of homegrown theatre. Agam's contribution to the theatre landscape includes cultivating trained theatre practitioners, showcasing high quality theatre productions and growing an audience base beyond the Tamil-speaking public. With a focus on stimulating critical thinking and inspiring constructive self-expression, Agam aspires to create a space where audiences can reflect on the world around them.

Diversity is at the heart of Agam Theatre Lab, with artists hailing from a spectrum of backgrounds— from full-time practitioners and educators to accountants, scientists, army personnel, film producers, and beyond. The company offers a haven for 'resting' professional actors to experiment and innovate in a nurturing environment.

Agam's commitment extends beyond the classics; the theatre lab actively supports new writing, aspiring to shine a spotlight on lesser-known playwrights. Moreover, Agam serves as a stage for its own members' original works, with plans to publish these creations in both hard and digital formats.

A compelling vision drives Agam Theatre Lab—to ensure the longevity of Singapore Tamil language theatre by providing a dynamic platform for both youth and adults to curate, market, and stage distinctive intercultural theatre content.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Agamtheatrelab/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/agamtheatrelab/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@agamadmin5429/featured>

Performed in Tamil with English surtitles

Admission age 6 & up

Advisory: This production contains strobe lights, haze and smoke

2hrs, including 15mins intermission

\$35^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep to 2 Oct

Black & White – 20% savings

Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct

Black – 15% savings

White – 10% savings

Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$28*

Student Special: \$22 (Limited capacity)

Tote Board Arts Grant

All Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Schools may use the Tote Board Arts Grant to subsidise up to 50% of the programme cost.

For more details, please contact Esplanade Box Office at 6828 8389 or email boxoffice@esplanade.com.

Sean Roldan Live
Featuring Sathyaprakash & Kalyani Nair (India)
25 Nov 2023, Sat
7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall



A trailblazer in the Tamil indie music scene, Sean Roldan has made his mark with his cutting-edge compositions for some of the finest films over the last decade.

With hints of blues, jazz and contemporary Indian sounds, Sean's band—Sean Roldan & Friends—presents a uniquely inspired set curated specially for *Kalaa Utsavam* featuring two incredible singing talents, Sathyaprakash and Kalyani Nair.

Come and vibe to *Kalakshetra*, *Mayakura Poo Vaasam* and many more unforgettable tunes!

About Sean Roldan

Raghavendra, better known by his stage name Sean Roldan, is an Indian singer and music composer who composes for both independent and feature films. Roldan mainly works in the Tamil film industry and made his debut with *Vaayai Moodi Pesavum* (2014), which won him wide appreciation. Some of his other popular works as a composer include *144* (2015), *Joker* (2016), *Jai Bhim* (2021) and *Power Paandi*, which marks the directorial debut of the popular Tamil actor Dhanush. Apart from composing music, Roldan has also sung for several films including *Jigarthanda* (2014), *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan* (2015) and *Chennai 600028 II: Second Innings* (2016). He is also one of the curators for Indian music series Coke Studio Tamil's first season.

His music garners tens of millions of streams across various platforms and to date, he has more than three million monthly listeners on Spotify.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RSeanRoldan/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rseanroldan/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SeanRoldanOfficial/>

Performed in Tamil
Admission age 6 & up
1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$40*, \$60^, \$80^

^Esplanade&Me Special: 19 Sep to 2 Oct (Cat 1 & 2 only)

Black & White – 15% savings

Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct (Cat 1 & 2 only)

Black – 15% savings

White – 10% savings

Discover - 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concession for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$32* (Cat 3 only)

When Chai Met Toast – Love You The Same Tour (India)

26 Nov 2023, Sun

7.30pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



When Chai Met Toast is a four-piece indie-folk alternative band from Cochin, Kerala. Formed in 2016, the quartet officially came into being with their debut EP *Joy of Little Things* (2017), drawing upon multi-lingual lyrics and infectious sing-along choruses. The band was propelled into the wider international arena with their full-length album *When We Feel Young* (2021), with the title track of the same name becoming a hit song. In 2022, the band released the EP *Love You The Same*, recorded in London with producer Richard Wilkinson, a record that explores love and heartbreak. The band has been touring extensively with this release, their compelling live performances taking them around the globe. The quartet have headlined numerous music festivals in India as well as showcases in Singapore, Dubai, and sold-out tours across the UK and the US.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/whenchaimettoast/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/whenchaimettoast/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@WhenChaiMetToastmusic>

Performed in English

Admission age 6 & up

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$40^{^*}

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep to 2 Oct

Black & White - 20% savings

Discover – 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Special: From 3 Oct

Black – 15% savings

White - 10% savings

Discover – 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$32*

Workshops and Masterclasses

Creating Music Beyond Boundaries

Mahesh Raghvan and Shravan Sridhar (India)

16 Nov 2023, Thu

8pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio



Join acclaimed music producer Mahesh Raghvan and violinist Shravan Sridhar for an exhilarating music production workshop! As members of the band Carnatic 2.0, renowned for their captivating fusion of Carnatic and electronic music, they bring a unique perspective to the art of music creation.

In this workshop, Mahesh and Shravan will guide participants through the entire process of music production, from inception to the final masterpiece. Discover the intricate layers, innovative ideas, and diverse approaches that shape a song. Gain invaluable insights into presenting music on stage and witness firsthand how music comes to life through captivating demonstrations.

Mahesh will also showcase his mastery of the Geoshred iPad app, a tool that has become synonymous with his artistic expression. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn and elevate your music production skills!

Conducted in English

Admission age 13 & up

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$20

Enjoy 10% savings on workshop ticket with purchase of *Taranaa & Carnatic 2.0 – A Double Bill* performance ticket.

Bollywood Dance Workshop

Royalusion (Singapore)

18 Nov 2023, Sat

11am

Esplanade Annexe Studio



Get your body moving and grooving in this basic Bollywood dance workshop by Royalusion. Learn the basics of Bollywood dance and be guided to add you own flair to the routine!

About Royalusion

Royalusion is a Singapore-based dance company founded in 2021. With a strong emphasis on diversity, Royalusion takes flight as a performing arts crew that conceptualises choreographies for a multitude of events. The company aims to redefine boundaries across genres and presents engaging multidisciplinary works. From corporate shows to curated programmes, media productions to large-scale events, Royalusion's innovative choreographies are tailored to suit the unique needs of each project. Royalusion prides itself on delivering high-quality performances that reflect its passion for creative expression and commitment to excellence.

Conducted in English

Admission age: 13 & up

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$15^

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep to 2 Oct

Black, White & Discover – 50% (limited tickets)

Bollywood Dance Parent-Child Workshop

Royalusion (Singapore)

19 Nov 2023, Sun

11am

Esplanade Annexe Studio



Come shake and groove to the beats of Bollywood in this basic parent-child Bollywood dance workshop by Royalusion. Bond with your little ones by learning the basics of Bollywood dance and add your own flair to your final routine with the guidance of experienced instructors.

About Royalusion

Royalusion is a Singapore-based dance company founded in 2021. With a strong emphasis on diversity, Royalusion takes flight as a performing arts crew that conceptualises choreographies for a multitude of events. The company aims to redefine boundaries across genres and presents engaging multidisciplinary works. From corporate shows to curated programmes, media productions to large-scale events, Royalusion's innovative choreographies are tailored to suit the unique needs of each project. Royalusion prides itself on delivering high-quality performances that reflect its passion for creative expression and commitment to excellence.

Conducted in English

Recommended age 6 & up

Admission age 4 & up

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$15[^] per ticket

[^]Esplanade&Me Early Bird Special: 19 Sep to 2 Oct

PIP's Club: 50% savings (min. 2 tickets. Limited tickets)

Tickets sold at \$30 per parent & child pair or \$45 (1 adult + 2 children, or 2 adults + 1child)

Accompanying adult must be at least 16 years old

Mandala Dot Painting Parent-Child Workshop Little Dots and Dashes (Singapore)

26 Nov 2023, Sun

11am

Esplanade Studio 219



The mandala—meaning “circle” in Sanskrit—is a design that originated from Hindu and Buddhist cultures, one that has endured and remained relevant centuries after it was first created. This art form uses circles and other geometric designs to represent the essence of life, and draws a focal point for concentration through its repetitiveness and vibrant play of colours.

Founded by educator and trainer Uma, Little Dots and Dashes will showcase and teach mandala dot painting through a contemporary lens. Come enjoy this meditative practice and take home your own clay lamp at the end of the workshop!

About Uma Maheswary

Uma is a Singaporean social entrepreneur, trainer and educator formerly from the RSAF. Her advocacy for mandala dot painting stemmed from her personal experiences during the pandemic. Realising its potential, this therapeutic and meditative art form has evolved into a meaningful exercise for wellness and teambuilding, which Uma achieves through Little Dots and Dashes.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Little Dots & Dashes>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/little_dots_and_dashes

Conducted in English

Admission age 6 & up

1hr 30mins, no intermission

\$15^

^Esplanade&Me Special: 19 Sep to 2 Oct

PIP's Club – 20% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Tickets sold at \$30 per parent & child pair or \$45 (1 adult + 2 children, or 2 adults + 1 child)

Accompanying adult must be at least 16 years old.

Free Programme Highlights

17 – 26 Nov 2023

Various timings

Concourse & DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

Free programmes are a cornerstone in Esplanade's programming. Available throughout the year and at our key festivals, these programmes make arts accessible to the public while serving as a platform to showcase the talent of Singapore and international artists to a broad audience. The free programmes at *Kalaa Utsavam 2023* serve this same purpose, with works of several different genres and eras, all showcasing the breadth of Indian arts through storytelling.

Royalusion

17 Nov 2023, Fri

Festival opening at 6.45pm at Esplanade Courtyard

Concourse: 7.15pm & 8.15pm

Experience a dynamic and interactive journey through India's diverse and exuberant dances! Explore the evolution of the different dance styles that have been reimaged through a modern lens.

About Royalusion

Royalusion is a Singapore-based dance company founded in 2021. With a strong emphasis on diversity, Royalusion takes flight as a performing arts crew that conceptualises choreographies for a multitude of events. The company aims to redefine boundaries across genres and presents engaging multidisciplinary works. From corporate shows to curated programmes, media productions to large-scale events, Royalusion's innovative choreographies are tailored to suit the unique needs of each project. The company prides itself on delivering high-quality performances that reflect its passion for creative expression and commitment to excellence.

30mins, no intermission

Amit Dhamelia and Ensemble

17 Nov 2023, Fri

7pm, 8.15pm & 9.30pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

Join Amit Dhamelia and his ensemble as they take the audience on a musical journey through evergreen Hindi numbers from the yesteryears to the latest popular hits.

About Amit Dhamelia

Amit Dhamelia is a seasoned musician, having over 40 years of performing experience and 3,000 performances to his name. A multi-instrumentalist proficient in 14 musical instruments, Amit has an extensive repertoire in multiple Indian music genres like Hindustani classical, Bollywood, Indian folk, Bhajan, Ghazal, Sufi, and more. Amit Dhamelia is hailed as a pioneer of Indian music in Singapore. His non-profit initiative Harmonies & Hearts aims to realise his vision to make Singapore the Indian music hub of the world.

45mins, no intermission

Indian Classical Music Open call – Solo/Duet

24 – 26 Nov 2023, Fri – Sun

Various timings

Concourse

For the third year running, *Kalaa Utsavam* presents the *Indian Classical Music Open Call*, a platform to feature up-and-coming young talents from Carnatic and Hindustani musical traditions. Open to both solo and duets of individuals ages 16 to 28 years old, selected participants will be mentored by acclaimed Carnatic violinist R K Shriramkumar and Hindustani vocalist Ashwini Bhide. At the end of the mentorship, the artists will get a chance to showcase their talents at the Esplanade Concourse during the festival.

30 mins, no intermission

Stem Dance Kampni

24 & 25 Nov 2023, Fri & Sat

7pm & 8.30pm

DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade

Stem Dance Kampni is one of India's best-recognised dance companies, known for its high quality, cutting edge and dynamic performances. They have toured over 36 countries with its diverse repertoire of both contemporary and traditional choreographies. The brainchild of award-winning choreographer and arts entrepreneur Madhu Nataraj, Stem Dance Kampni emerged in 1995 with the aim of creating its own versatile dance vocabulary, which explores the limitless possibilities of the human form. Thus far, it has toured over 36 countries with its diverse repertoire of both contemporary and traditional choreographies. Comprising highly-trained and passionate dancers with vast international experience, it is no exaggeration to say that Stem Dance Kampni's practitioners live and breathe dance.

45 mins, no intermission

**Kerala Drum Keychain making workshop
(in collaboration with the Indian Heritage Centre)**

18 & 19 Nov 2023, Sat & Sun

1.30pm – 5.30pm

Concourse

In collaboration with Singapore's Indian Heritage Centre (IHC), this craft workshop spotlights the *chandamelam*, an important percussion instrument for the Malayalee community used in auspicious ceremonies. Participants will be guided through this workshop to make their own drum key chain, which they can carry with them after the festival. This first collaboration with IHC marks the start on a longer relationship between two of Singapore's key cultural institutions, in celebrating and sharing the rich histories and heritage of Indian culture.