



Esplanade
Presents

Kalaa Utsavam
Indian Festival of Arts

FISTFUL OF RUPEES

BY STONE PAPER STORIES
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SHIV TANDAN

24-26 NOV 2023, FRI - SUN
ESPLANADE RECITAL STUDIO



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CREDITS



SHIV TANDAN • Writer/Director • Shiv is a writer-director and lyricist-composer. His credits include *The Next Stage* (Griffin Theatre Company, Sydney), and *The Good, the Bad and the Sholay* (Checkpoint Theatre, Singapore). Shiv is also the Founder of Castiko.



MALLIKA SHAH • Actor • Trained at the Drama School Mumbai, Mallika works as a writer-director-actor and educator. Most recently, she wrote and directed *I Killed my Mother / It Wasn't my Fault*, an original play that explores the frivolity of urban girlhood.



VAIBHAV KAPATIA • Actor • Vaibhav is a trained actor and dancer and has been a part of 12 productions and over 60+shows. He has acted in various commercials, short films, web sketches, and music videos. He also loves to write and is an avid gamer!



NIHARIKA LYRA DUTT • Actor • Lyra wishes she didn't have to write this bio - so she'll just mis-quote Susan Sontag instead. Amongst other things, "I think, eat and nap a lot. Listen to music. Am fond of flowers. And mitigate life by playing pretend, often and a lot."



VIDYUTH GARGI • Actor • Vidyuth Gargi is a theatre and film actor and writer. His credits include the *Shakuntala Devi* (2020), *Pushpavalli* (2020) and *Die Trying* (2018), apart from numerous plays around the world.

MAANAVI TANDAN - Stage Manager

SHANTANU SALVI - Lighting Design | **RAGINI TANDAN** - Production Manager

ASHIMA SHARMA, PALLAVI PATEL - Costumes | **SALONI SONI** - Visual Design

Special Thanks: Anuj Rampal, Zinnia Ranji, Cherry Mardia, Keith Antony Sequeira, Chrisann Pereira, Rashmi Mann, Lauren Robinson, Ipsita Suvarna, Vaibhav Mehdiratta, Rahul Kumar, Sukrutee Bhosale, Niiya Kumar, Neha Vyas, Vikrant Thakar, Sachin Lele, Sara Bhasin



ABOUT FISTFUL OF RUPEES

What does it mean to truly "arrive" in a big city? Raghav moves to Mumbai from Singapore without much of a plan and throws himself headlong into the ruckus.

Flitting between grim realism and outright absurdist humour, *Fistful of Rupees* 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.

The first draft of *Fistful of Rupees* was written for the Singapore Writers' Festival, 2015. The play was adjudged Runner Up, Sultan Padamsee Playwriting Awards, 2018. It is soon to be published in "Feels Like Home: New Singapore Plays Vol. 3".

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Audience,

When I first moved to Mumbai several years ago, the first few months here were the hardest of my life. Writing and making this play was how I was able to understand, process and come to love my time here.

Funnily though, when I had first moved to Singapore at the age of 16, Singapore had felt like a nightmare too. Perhaps I am someone who finds change difficult, but I have come to believe that each city is its own nightmare-scape. We are all living through our own absurdities, and we choose every day to soldier on and hope for the best. *Fistful of Rupees* may have started out as being about Mumbai, but I think now that it's about any modern city anywhere.

The original script was written with the thoughtful contributions of Vidyuth Gargi, Chrisann Pereira, Cherry Mardia and Vaibhav Kapatia. The workshop process with them gave so much to the narrative, and I'm indebted to their talent, generosity and humanity.

The team has changed over the years, and so there are too many wonderful people to thank. Still, I want to especially acknowledge the entire cast, as well as the brilliant designers who created the costumes and visual identity for the play. Also, thank you Ragini and Maanavi, who have stood by me and this play through thick and thin.

Most of all, I want to send love to Checkpoint Theatre, Singapore, and to Huzir and Claire, my mentors. This play would not have been possible without them.

It's a privilege to be a part of the Kalaa Utsavam festival. We've now come a full circle! I hope you enjoy watching and thank you for coming.

Shiv Tandan
Writer/Director



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