



Esplanade
Presents

Raga

ABHIPSAA – A Seeking

by Bijayini Satpathy

“A performer of exquisite grace and technique.”
– *The New Yorker*



Photo credit: Shalini Jan

12 & 13 May 2023, Fri & Sat, 8pm
14 May 2023, Sun, 3pm
Esplanade Theatre Studio

(1hr 15mins, with 15mins intermission)

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 for more information.

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ABHIPSAA – A Seeking charts a journey of discovery in physical, emotional, and spiritual realms. In four choreographic works, Satpathy expands the parameters of the formal and representational norms of the *odissi* tradition through both narrative and non-narrative dances—reimagining classical *odissi* forms through a personalised interpretation.

Commissioned by Duke University and the Baryshnikov Arts Center, *ABHIPSAA – A Seeking*, takes the audience on a profoundly personal journey. In collaboration with musicians, composers, lighting and theatrical designers, Satpathy's performance is an otherworldly and transformative experience. A selection of the piece was presented virtually by the Baryshnikov Arts Center with introduction by Mikhail Baryshnikov and Mark Morris in February 2021 and the full piece had its world premiere performances at Duke University in December 2021. This work was made possible with additional funding from the New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Vigraha – oned

A young woman enters the temple sanctum of the cosmic Shiva, symbolised by the conjoined Yoni and Lingam, the female and male reproductive organs. Her worship is in anticipation of a suitable life partner. The line of separation blurs between the human and divine into an embodied heightened experience of the powerful and sensual masculine and feminine, in their divided and united appearances. This dance is inspired by the Ardhanariswara Stotram, an ode to the Non-Dual Divine attributed to Sri Adi Shankaracharya.

Based on Ardhanariswara Stotram (chants) by the 8th century saint-philosopher Adi Shankaracharya

Concept & Choreography:	Bijayini Satpathy
Music Composition and Singer:	Bindhumalini Narayanaswamy
Melodic Arrangement and Flute:	Srinibas Satapathy
Rhythm Composition and Mardala:	Shivshankar Satapathy
Violin:	Agnimitra Behera
Sitar:	Swapneswar Chakraborty
Manjira:	Budhanath Swain

Vibhanga – broken & rebuilt

Odissi's response to a Carnatic *thillana*. Embedded with an inherent call to dance, a *thillana* has an underlying sense of infectious joy, celebration and freedom. *Vibhanga* is inspired by the *Desh Thillana* composed by Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman.

Based on Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman's *Desh Thillana*

Concept & Choreography:	Bijayini Satpathy
Original Composition of Prelude & Melodic Arrangement and Flute:	Srinibas Satapathy
Rhythm Composition:	Dhaneswar Swain & Bijayini Satpathy
Singer:	Bindhumalini Narayanaswamy
Mardala:	Shivashankar Satapathy and Budhanath
Violin:	Agnimitra Behera
Manjira:	Shivashankar Satapathy
Rhythm Recitation:	Bijayini Satpathy

INTERMISSION

Virahi – in longing

Krishna aches in his longing. He sends a painful plea through the Sakhi to Radha. Beholden to both with her allegiance, the Sakhi carries his grief with her own secret longings to Radha, who rises from anguish into a state of heightened sensual excitement.

Based on Pt Raghunath Panigrahi's original song composition of Ashtapadi from 12th Century poet Jayadeva's *Geet Govind*

Concept & Choreography:	Bijayini Satpathy
Original Composition of Prelude & Melodic Arrangement and Flute:	Srinibas Satapathy
Singer:	Bindhumalini Narayanaswamy
Rhythm Composition, Mardala and Manjiri:	Shivshankar Satapathy
Violin:	Agnimitra Behera

Vimukthi – *the final dance*

The mystic poet Kabir sings of Nirgun, the formless God. He celebrates death as the final dance when the soul breaks free from the confines of life.

Based on poems of Nirgun by Saint Kabir

Concept & Choreography:

Bijayini Satpathy

Original Composition and Singer:

Bindhumalini Narayanaswamy

Rhythm Composition:

Pramath Kiran, Dhaneswar Swain

Percussions (djembe, tabla, khol, kanjira, talking drum, morsing and rhythm pad):

Pramath Kiran

Rhythm Recitation:

Bijayini Satpathy & Pramath Kiran

CREDITS

Artistic Director, Choreographer, Performer:

Bijayini Satpathy

Composer of melodic developments and arrangements of Vibhanga, Virahi:

Srinibas Satapathy

Composer of Vighraha, Vimukthi:

Bindhumalini Narayanaswamy

Lighting Design:

Sujay Saple

Manager and Producer of ABHIPSAA:

Claudia Norman

Management:

Masoon Parmar, Alif Arts Consultancy

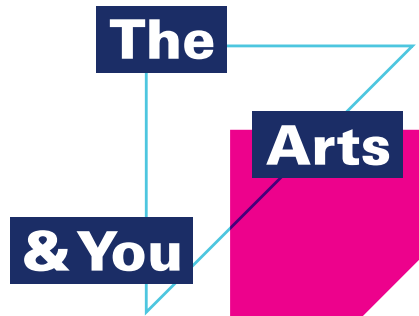
Master Tailor:

Gulam Rasool





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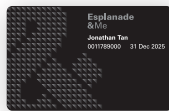
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- Keep over 70% of our programmes free for everyone to enjoy, including with daily free performances.
- Bring the arts to people of different backgrounds and abilities, at the centre, beyond the centre and online.
- Make Esplanade a welcoming space for differently-abled individuals to experience the joy of the arts.

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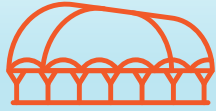

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Esplanade gives our heartfelt thanks

*to our Esplanade partner, arts benefactor, donors and sponsors for believing in our vision to be a performing arts centre for everyone. They made all these possible!**



2,976

activities took place at Esplanade.



1,891

Non-Ticketed



821

Ticketed

2,062,549

People attended our activities at the centre.



Non-Ticketed

379,989

Ticketed

72,756



465

Activities

7,522

Participants

We believe that everyone should be able to experience the joy of the arts, including children, youth, seniors, migrant workers and individuals with special needs. Our community engagement activities bring the arts to those in need.

*Figures for Esplanade's activities from Apr 2021 to Mar 2022.



Your contribution* will make a difference.

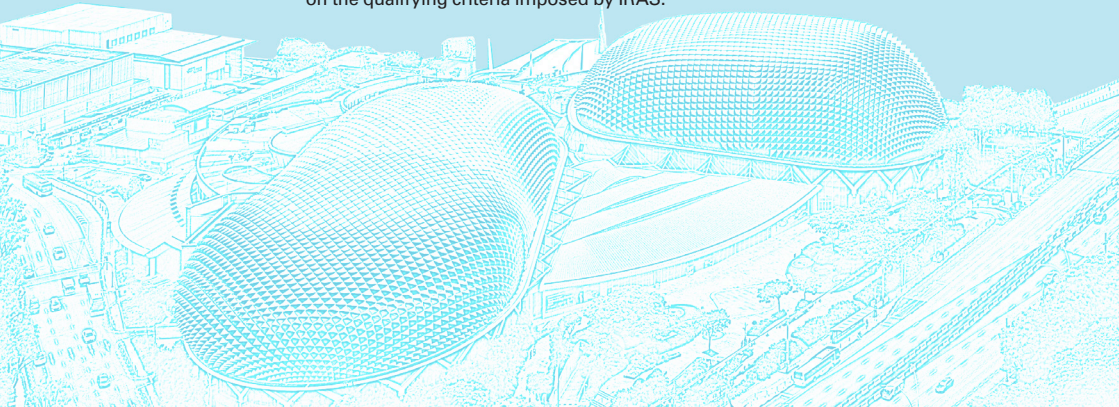
On behalf of the communities we serve, thank you!

Find out how you too can make a difference through the arts at Esplanade.

Donate at www.esplanade.com/donate

To find out more, email us at donations@esplanade.com or speak with us at 6828 8321.

Esplanade is a charity and an Institution of a Public Character. Your donation to us is matched dollar-for-dollar by the Cultural Matching Fund. Please note that the prevailing tax exemption scheme for donors and sponsors of Arts-Related Businesses will depend on the qualifying criteria imposed by IRAS.



With Gratitude

Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay is a charity, a not-for-profit organisation and Singapore's national performing arts centre.

We seek to entertain, engage, educate and inspire through the arts. We thank everyone who has helped us bring joy, inspiration and positive impact to Singaporeans from all walks of life by supporting the arts and Esplanade.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes especially to our Donors and Sponsors, for their steadfast belief in our mission and for their generous contributions.

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Join us in sharing the joy of the arts and help us reach more communities in need.

We believe that an experience with the arts is special and that with your generous support, more people will get a chance to enjoy the arts. Join us in sharing the joy of the arts and help us reach more communities in need.



Esplanade also receives grants from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and support for its Community Programmes from the Tote Board Family, comprising Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.



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