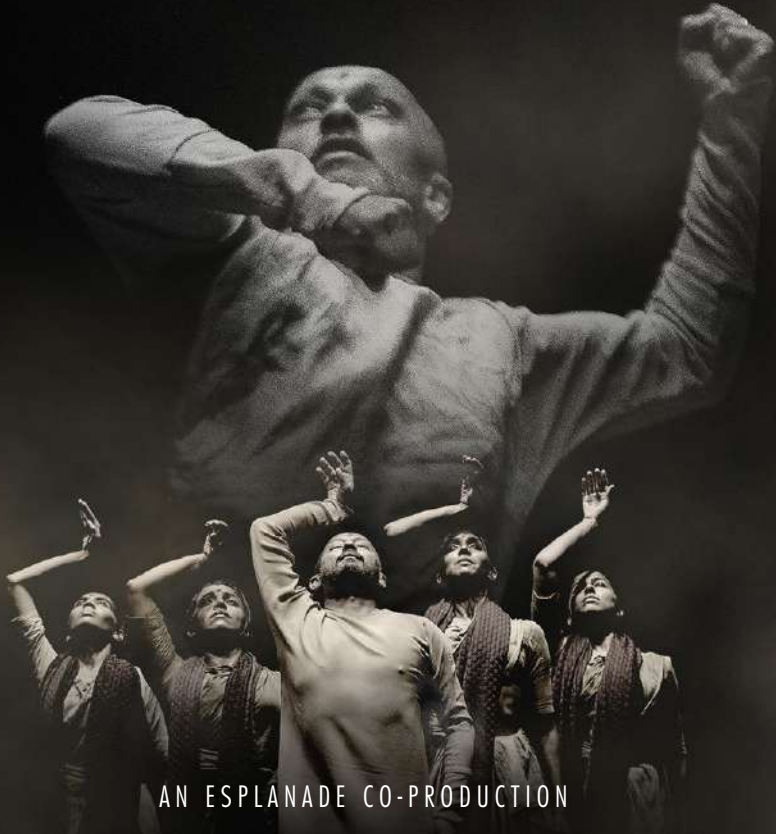




**Esplanade
Presents**

**Kalaa Utsavam
Indian Festival of Arts**



AN ESPLANADE CO-PRODUCTION

THE GENERATION OF THE EARTH

GIGENIS

AKRAM KHAN AND GUESTS
(UK, USA, INDIA)

15 & 16 NOV 2024 FRI & SAT, 8PM ESPLANADE THEATRE

GIGENIS – the generation of the Earth is produced by Productions Sarfati. Presented thanks to the support of Orsolina28 Art Foundation and Muse Art Foundation.
In co-production with Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore, Sadler's Wells, London, The Joyce Theater with the support of its Executive Director's Fund, and Stephen and Cathy Weinroth Fund for New Work.

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 – 2023. Esplanade is Singapore's first Dementia-Friendly Arts Venue and a certified Dementia Go-To Point, as well as a guide/assistance 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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FESTIVAL PRODUCER'S MESSAGE

From 15 – 24 Nov 2024, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay welcomes you to *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts*, a celebration of the rich tapestry of Indian arts and culture. Each year, we gather to honour timeless traditions that have shaped our heritage while embracing the vibrant and contemporary expressions of today. Embracing a global perspective, this year's *Kalaa Utsavam* weaves together artistic excellence and the thrill of discovery, offering performances from different countries designed to touch the heart and ignite the imagination.

An Esplanade co-production and highlight of the festival, renowned choreographer and dancer Akram Khan's *GIGENIS – the generation of the Earth* makes its exclusive Asian stop in Singapore. Performing alongside Akram, this production brings together different Indian dance forms and some of its finest performers from three continents. Following its world premiere in France in August 2024, it will also tour internationally. *GIGENIS* shines a spotlight on the enduring resonance of tradition in a rapidly changing world.

For younger audiences, Ranga Shankara's AHA! Theatre for Children's puppetry production of *Old Man and The Sea* breathes new life into Hemingway's timeless story of human endurance and dignity in the face of life's inevitable struggles.

Kalaa Utsavam also features artists and productions that reflect the rich cultural exchange between India and the world. Bollywood fans are in for an unparalleled performance from legendary playback singer Shaan, while the genre-blending sounds of *The F16s* from Chennai and the fusion of Indian classical dance with Japanese Taiko drumming in *Chi Udaka* by Taikoz and Lingalayam Dance Company from Australia showcase the ever-evolving landscape of Indian art on the world stage.

Comedy lovers can expect an evening of laughter and sharp wit, with Tamil comedians Jagan Krishnan and Vikkals Vikram who will perform for the first time as a double bill, while music fans will be captivated by Sam Vishal and friends' soulful melodies. This year, we are particularly excited to present Ramana Balachandhran, a veena prodigy whose mesmerising performances are sure to leave a lasting impression. Singapore's very own Raghajazz will celebrate their 15th anniversary with their innovative fusion of jazz and Indian classical music, making their performance of *Tidal Streams* a must-see.

Our literary offerings include *Train to Pakistan*, a gripping co-production with HuM Theatre based on Khushwant Singh's novel, and *Living Ancestor* by ArunDitha, SISTRUM & Beatroot Ensemble feat. Mohamed Noor and Munir Alsagoff, an experiential performance that promises to be as thought-provoking as it is engaging.

In addition to our ticketed events, *Kalaa Utsavam* offers a vibrant array of free programmes, including workshops and roving performances that make the festival accessible to all.

We would like to thank Principal Sponsors High Commission of India and Malabar Gold & Diamonds for their generous support of the festival.

We extend our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for being part of *Kalaa Utsavam 2024*. Your presence, passion for the arts, and support are what make this festival truly special. Let's create memories that will remain long after the curtain falls.

V M Sai Akileshwar

Producer

The Esplanade Co Ltd

CREDITS AND STATEMENTS

Director
Akram Khan

Light Designer
Zeynep Kepekli

Light Operator
Connor Sale

Music Orchestrator
Jyotsna Prakash

Sound Designer
Dave Price

Sound Engineer
Mark Webber

Rehearsal Director
Nicky Henshall

Technical Director
Michael Cunningham

Stage Manager
Marek Pomocki

Costumes
Peggy Housset

Producer
Vony Sarfati

Dancers
Akram Khan
Sirikalyani Adkoli
Renjith Babu
Mavin Khoo
Mythili Prakash
Vijna Vasudevan
Kapila Venu

Musicians
and Vocals

BC Manjunath
(*mridangam*)

**Kalamandalam
Rajeev**
(*mizhavu*)

Hariraam Lam
(violin)

Nina Harries
(doublebass)

Sohini Alam
(vocals)

**Chitra Poornima
Sathish**
(15 Nov vocals)

Sushma Soma
(16 Nov vocals)

Rohith Jayaraman
(vocals)

World Premiere | Grand Théâtre de Provence – Aix en Provence – 30th August 2024

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ABOUT THE SHOW

A choreographer and dancer rooted in the tradition of his practice, and a creative interpreter of stories that need to be 'felt', Akram Khan has revolutionised the world of dance. His deeply moving style is simultaneously poetic, innovative and experiential, underpinned by intelligently crafted narrative structures. With his bilingual mastery of *kathak* and contemporary dance, he has developed a uniquely individual voice as a protagonist of cross-cultural encounters. It is this very encounter that provokes a personal need for this new creation: a unique work featuring an ensemble of seven renowned artists of Indian classical dance (including Khan himself) and seven live Indian classical musicians. Drawing from his deep-seated connection to traditional practices and his ability to weave narratives through movement, Khan's *GIGENIS* transcends time, invoking the collective memories of our civilisation. *GIGENIS* represents not just a performance but a profound statement—a testament to the enduring resonance of tradition in a rapidly changing world.

AKRAM KHAN'S LATEST CREATION

In modern thinking, we are often taught that we must see it in order to believe it. However, in the past, my grandparents felt that we must believe in it, in order to see it. Hence, the latter approach has always been my steady compass when I am in creation of anything. Which is the reason I am now returning back to my roots, to my tradition, to my past which has always informed my present. This work is a coming together of memories of a memory for



our collective love and devotion towards classical Indian dance forms that have been with us since our childhood. And what excites me most, is that for the first time in my career I am delving into a project where I will be directing a group of extraordinary soloist artists through the lens of my contemporary sensibilities, that I have acquired over time... The theme is based on explorations of love, loss, despair and innocence, that will manifest through the language of Indian classical dance and live music forms.

Right now, there is an urgent part of me, that feels strongly and with conviction, that we have sadly, collectively lost touch with nature, with Mother Earth, and with ancient myths... and so, I feel there is a need to once again listen to the ones that are deeply rooted in nature, and who very much embody the ancient and future generations of this earth.

Akram Khan

NOTES FROM AKRAM KHAN AND VONY SARFATI

“ I feel humbled to be working with the Sarfati team in this new artistic chapter, where I will be sharing the stage alongside extraordinary Indian classical soloists from specific generations. *GIGENIS* is a profound tribute to that reflection, a reconciliation between the past and the present times, a genuine celebration of our collective love for dance—boundless, timeless, as well as deeply rooted. It is a work that comes out of an urgent personal response to the endangerment of tradition. Honouring the tradition of *kathak*, I am excited to be that storyteller once more, not through my body but through the bodies of the most prodigious current and future masters of classical Indian dance. ”

Akram Khan

Director

“ I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be involved in producing Akram Khan’s next creation *GIGENIS*. After almost twenty years of collaboration with Akram, this is not only a tremendous honour but a deeply meaningful endeavour for me personally. I believe Akram Khan’s innovative approach to dance makes him a visionary in the world of performing arts. For all our team at the Productions Sarfati, contributing to the realisation of his vision is an extraordinary privilege. I am also thankful for the opportunity to work alongside such talented artists and somehow to play a role in bringing this creative endeavour to life as a celebration of the spirituality, richness and diversity of Indian culture. I eagerly anticipate the journey ahead and the impact that this collaboration could have on audiences worldwide, bridging the gap between tradition and innovation, showcasing the beauty of Indian classical dance in a way that is both timeless and groundbreaking. ”

Vony Sarfati

CEO of Productions Sarfati

SYNOPSIS

"Fear must not decide for you, you must..."
– Akram Khan

GIGENIS – the generation of the Earth is inspired by the Mahabharata. Akram keeps returning to this epic tale of power, greed, loss, joy, and fear, all brewing within one family. His obsession with this story helps remind him that 'fear' can give birth to so much devastation and carnage.

GIGENIS is about a mother of two sons who has lost her husband to war. And towards the end of her life when one son dies in battle, she reflects on how this all came to be.



How she saw the world when she was a child, how she saw the world when she married, how she saw the world when she gave birth, and finally, how she saw the world when she experienced the death of her son. These questions haunt her till her very end... and is very much a metaphor of how Akram feels about the world today.

How did two sons both from the same womb, take entirely different pathways? One advocates harmony, and the other revels in chaos.

Are we in control of our narratives or are we just destined to believe so?

Akram has gathered an incredible ensemble of dancers, actors and musicians who are steeped deeply in the craft of storytelling. It is the first time in his career that he directs an ensemble of artists from the Indian classical traditions.

(1hr 10mins, no intermission)

GIGENIS SOUNDTRACKS

1. INTRODUCTION

Original composition and arrangement by Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

2. WAR CRY 1

An original composition rearranged by Akram Khan, Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

3. MAHARI SHANKARABHARANAM PALLAVI

Original composition by Padmashree Pankaj Charan Das
Arrangement by Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

4. BIRTH

Original composition and arrangement by Nina Harries and Hariraam Tingyuan Lam

5. JAMBUPATHE

Original composition by Muthuswami Dikshitar
Arrangement by Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

6. JWALA

Music composition by Aditya Prakash; Rhythmic section by B.C. Manjunath
Additional musical arrangement by Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

7. **EN KUNJURANGIKKOLKEN**

Lyrics by Vallathol Narayana Menon

Traditional folk tune, arrangement by Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

8. **COMING OF AGE**

Original composition by Jyotsna Nityanandan

Arrangement by Jyotsna Nityanandan, Nina Harries and Hariraam Tingyuan Lam

9. **AAJ JAANE KI ZID NA KARO**

Lyrics by Fayyaz Hashmi

Original composition by Sohail Rana

Arrangement by Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

10. **WAR CRY 2**

An original composition rearranged by Akram Khan, Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

11. **MIZHAVU SOLOS**

Rhythmic composition and accompaniment by Kalamandalam Rajeev

Additional arrangement by Akram Khan and Hariraam Tingyuan Lam

12. **O AMAR DESHER MATI**

Original Lyrics and composition by Rabindranath Tagore

Arrangement by Akram Khan, Jyotsna Nityanandan and the musicians of *GIGENIS*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Photo by Camilla Greenwell

AKRAM KHAN

Artistic Director | Choreographer |
Dancer

Akram Khan is one of the most celebrated and respected dance artists of today. In just over 23 years, he has created a body of work that has contributed significantly to the arts in the UK and abroad. His reputation has been built on the success of imaginative, highly accessible and relevant productions such as *Jungle Book reimagined*, *Outwitting the Devil*, *XENOS*, *Until the Lions*, *Kaash*, *iTMOi (in the mind of igor)*, *DESH*, *Vertical Road*, *Gnosis* and *zero degrees*.

As an instinctive and natural collaborator, Khan has been a magnet to world-class artists from other cultures and disciplines. His previous collaborators include the National Ballet of China, actress Juliette Binoche, ballerina Sylvie Guillem, choreographers/dancers Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Israel Galván, singer Kylie Minogue, indie rock band Florence and the Machine, visual artists Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley and Tim Yip, writer Hanif Kureishi and composers Steve Reich, Nitin Sawhney, Jocelyn Pook and Ben Frost.

Khan's work is recognised as being profoundly moving, in which his intelligently crafted storytelling is effortlessly intimate and epic. Described by the Financial Times as an artist "who speaks tremendously of tremendous things", a highlight of his career was the creation of a section of the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony that was received with unanimous acclaim. As a choreographer, Khan has developed a close collaboration with English National Ballet. He created the short piece *Dust*, part of the *Lest We Forget* programme, which led to an invitation to create his own critically acclaimed version of the iconic romantic ballet *Giselle*. *Creature* is Khan's latest work for English National Ballet.

Khan has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout his career including the Laurence Olivier Award, the Bessie Award (New York Dance and Performance Award), the prestigious ISPA (International Society for the Performing Arts) Distinguished Artist Award, the Fred and Adele Astaire Award, the Herald Archangel Award at the Edinburgh International Festival, the South Bank Sky Arts Award and eight Critics' Circle National Dance Awards. Khan was awarded an MBE for services to dance in 2005.

In 2022, he has recently been announced as the new Chancellor of De Montfort University, and he is also an Honorary Graduate of University of London as well as Roehampton and De Montfort Universities, and an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Laban. Khan is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells and Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London as well as Curve, Leicester.



KAPILA VENU

Dancer | Kutiyattam Artist

Kapila Venu is a practitioner of *kutiyattam*, one of the oldest living theatre traditions in the world, from Kerala, India. She is a disciple of the legendary *kutiyattam* maestro Guru Ammannur Madhava Chakyar and the renowned exponents Guru G Venu and Guru Usha Nangiar. She is also a practitioner of *mohiniyattam* dance, which she learned from her mother Guru Nirmala Paniker. For more than two decades, she has travelled the world performing, teaching, and giving workshops on *kutiyattam*. She has studied with renowned Japanese avant-garde dancer Min Tanaka and has performed in two of his choreographies, *Rite of the Forest* (2005) and *Thottangal* (2007). She has also long collaborated with internationally recognised artists and scholars such as Dr. Eberhard Fischer, Peter Oskarson, and Wally Cardona. She is a guest lecturer at the National School of Drama in New Delhi and a Master Teacher at the Intercultural Theatre Institute in Singapore. A film on her life and work, *Kapila*, directed by Sanju Surendran, won the National Award for Best Cultural Film at the 62nd National Film Awards of the Government of India in 2014. Kapila was awarded the highest honour for young artists by the Government of India: the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, the Kumar Gandharva Samman of the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Sanskriti Award of the Sanskriti Pratisthan.



MAVIN KHOO

Dancer | Bharatanatyam Artist

Mavin Khoo is an international dance artist of remarkable versatility. He is a renowned solo classical *bharatanatyam* dancer as well as a contemporary dancer with a classical ballet background. Khoo's status as one of *bharatanatyam*'s most exciting modern innovators demonstrates the global reach of the tradition as well as the allure of his personal style. He was a direct disciple of the legendary maestro

Guru Adyar K. Lakshman. Known for his distinctive artistry and virtuosity, Khoo tours the world as one of a few solo male *bharatanatyam* exponents with global recognition. He is also sought after as a choreographer and coach. Khoo has worked with many other leading figures from contemporary dance, and works as Creative Associate with the Akram Khan Company. He works closely with Akram Khan as repetiteur working on the coaching and staging of his works.



MYTHILI PRAKASH

Dancer | Bharatanatyam Artist

A second generation Indian and American artist, Mythili is trained by her mother and teacher dance exponent Viji Prakash and currently mentored by *bharatanatyam* dancer Malavika Sarukkai and dancer-choreographer Akram Khan.

Mythili has toured her own solo productions in the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe, India, Singapore, the United States and Mexico, performing at venues such as Sadler's Wells (London), Music Academy (India), Jacob's Pillow (USA), Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), to name a few. She is the recipient of the Creation to Performance Grant (Irvine Foundation), the Artistic innovation Grant (Center for Cultural Innovation), and the National Dance Project touring Grant (NEFA) for her work *She's Auspicious*, which previewed at the Reflektor Festival (Elbphilarmonie, Hamburg).

Nominated by Akram Khan as "choreographer of the future" for Dance Umbrella's (UK), Mythili premiered her solo work *HERE and NOW* at their 2019 Festival. She toured as a principal dancer in Akram Khan Company's *Outwitting the Devil*. Mythili's work *AR|DHA* was commissioned and presented by Jacob's Pillow, featured in the *America(na) - I am* festival at the Pillow in June 2022. She is a recipient of the Sky Art's Artists

Development program in collaboration with Akram Khan Company, in support of her work *One|All*, which premiered at the Festival of Motion in Doha, Qatar, commissioned by Qatar Museum and Gestures Productions, surrounding the World Cup. Mythili also worked with director Ang Lee, as a choreography assistant and played the role of Pi's wife in his award-winning film, *Life of Pi*.



VIJNA VASUDEVAN

Dancer | Bharatanatyam Artist

Gifted with fluid grace, an innate sense of rhythm and a vibrant sense of expression, she has given several solo, duet and ensemble performances at premier dance festivals and venues across the globe.

Her lucid expressions and talent have earned her acclaim from several critics. Good rhythmic command, great felicity of expression and pleasing stage presence are her forte. What began as a childhood fascination has matured into a lifelong quest for Vijna.

Vijna performs with her partner in life Renjith Babu, and the duo aims to extend the boundaries of Indian traditional dance and create a new benchmark in the aesthetics of

presentation by using innovative dance techniques. Known for their nuanced dancing, inspiring workshops and collaborations with leading dancers, choreographers and musicians all over the world, the couple work together as creative partners in moulding complete individuals through their brainchild, Sāraswatham Foundation.

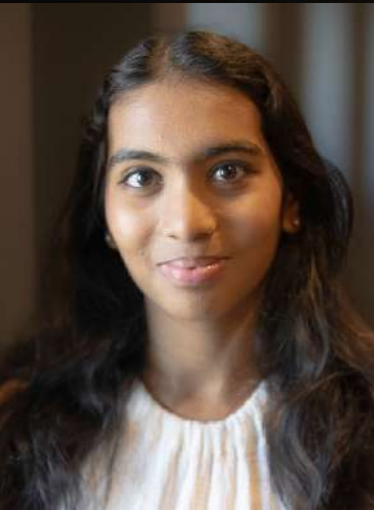


RENJITH BABU. C

Dancer | Bharatanatyam Artist

Renjith Babu is an artist from who exemplifies the best in *bharatanatyam*, yoga, and martial arts. He creatively mixes elements from each discipline to push traditional boundaries and inspire imagination. Through his diligent study of dance, yoga, and martial arts, Renjith has developed a scientific and spiritual understanding of the human body and its movements. He combines these traditions of yoga and martial arts with his modern artistic sensitivity to leave his audience inspired. The perfection and stylistic accessibility of his dance performances are extolled not just by critics and connoisseurs, but also by audiences uninitiated with the finer points of the dance form. His brand **Rtambhara Yoga** is being established to share his knowledge of yoga beyond the artistes' and creative individuals.

An imaginative and vivid choreographer, Renjith's creative works have received accolades the world over among the Indian dance diaspora. Renjith performs with his partner in life Vijna Vasudevan, and the duo aims to extend the boundaries of Indian traditional dance and create a new benchmark in the aesthetics of presentation by using innovative dance techniques. Known for their nuanced dancing, inspiring workshops and collaborations with leading dancers, choreographers and musicians all over the world, the couple work together as creative partners in moulding complete individuals through their brainchild, Sāraswatham Foundation.



SIRIKALYANI ADKOLI

Dancer | Nrityagram artist (Disciple of Nrityagram Village)

Sirikalyani started her dance training at Nrityagram when she was a little over five years old. She has grown under the tutelage of Pavithra Reddy attending weekend classes through the year and Residential summer camps and workshops since she was seven. In her own words, "I am a shy person. Dance lets me convey my thoughts and feelings without talking." Siri has

performed to great appreciation at all of Nrityagram's annual shows.

She has also been recipient of the Anne Warrior Award instituted by her school, Mallya Aditi International School, for excellence in the creative and performing arts during her Elementary (2014), Middle (2017) and High School (2023). She has performed as lead character in the school's dance drama *Chandalika* in 2018. Siri has represented the school in inter-school football tournaments as a striker right through middle and high school.



SOHINI ALAM

Vocalist

Sohini Alam is a British Bangladeshi singer whose musical repertoire includes folk, modern, and traditional Bengali songs. She also composes and has branched out into multilingual music in bands, dance, film, and theatre. Sohini is lead vocalist for the critically acclaimed bands Khiyo, Lokkhi Terra, and In Place of War's GRRRL. She is Musical Director of the arts company Komola Collective.

A third generation vocalist from a family of famed Bangladeshi singers, Sohini has provided vocals for dancer/choreographer Akram Khan's *DESH*, *Father*, and *Until the Lions*. She and her Khiyo bandmate Oliver Weeks are music directors of Leesa Gazi's multiple award-winning documentary *Rising Silence* and the upcoming film *Barir Naam Shahana*.



NINA HARRIES

Double Bass

Nina Harries is a GRAMMY award-nominated double bassist and vocalist from Northampton, England. They trained in Western classical music at the Royal College of Music with Enno Senft, before moving into the world of Indian classical music and dance, through being a principal musician in Akram Khan's *Xenos*.

They have also worked with Soumik Datta, Anoushka Shankar, Mythili Prakash, Katie Melua and Roger Waters. Aside from this diverse ensemble repertoire, Nina is also soloist and songwriter, and has released two albums that focus on the redefining the role of the double bass.



ROHITH JAYARAMAN

Vocalist

Born and raised in San Jose, California, Rohith Jayaraman is a vocalist, composer, and educator known for his soulful voice, speed, precision, and infectious energy. He was trained in Carnatic music under his mother and guru, Asha Ramesh, a disciple of D.K. Jayaraman. For the last 10 years, Rohith has been exploring the world of crossover music, working with and learning from collaborators who come from around the world, bringing expertise in areas as diverse as jazz, pop, Arabic music, metal, Gnawa, folk, electronica, and more.

Rohith has shared the stage with internationally acclaimed and award-winning artists such as A.R. Rahman, Zakir Hussain, John McLaughlin, Tigran Hamasyan, Hariharan, Shreya Ghoshal, Shankar Mahadevan, Clinton Cerejo, and Ranjit Barot. He is also a vocalist, composer, and percussionist with the Berklee Indian Ensemble, which received a GRAMMY award nomination for its 2022 debut album, *Shruvat*. Outside the performance space, Rohith has scored for film, written for dance, composed for live art installations, and directed several music videos. Rohith regularly conducts masterclasses and workshops in Indian classical concepts, and teaches a select group of private students.



RAJEEV KALAMANDALAM

Percussions | Mizhavu

Rajeev is one of the most sought-after *mizhavu* percussionists of his generation. His highly developed skills and specialisation in accompanying nuances of abhinaya are the hallmarks of his drumming. He graduated from Kerala Kalamandalam after completing a four-year diploma course and pursued higher studies in *mizhavu* for two years with a scholarship from the Human Resource Ministry of India New

Delhi, under the guidance of great Gurus Padmasree P.K.Narayanan Nambiar and Prof: Kalamandalam Eswaranunni. Since 1992, he has been working as a senior *mizhavu* staff artist at Ammannur Chachu Chakyar Smaraka Gurukulam.

He is also the principal musician of the Natanakairali & Kodchetham KuyaOam Nangiarkoothu Ensemble. He has travelled widely within India and abroad accompanying great masters. He has collaborated with several international projects and artists including the World Theatre Project called *east of the sun west of the moon* led by Peter Oskarson and The Kitchen, a drumming-oriented theatre performance directed by Roysten Abel. He has worked as a guest artist at the Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) in Singapore, and the School Of Drama & Fine Arts in Thrissur, India. He has been awarded several times, such as the Promising Artist of the Year Award by

Keli, Mumbai (2005), Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar Sangeet Natak Akademi, Govt. of India, New Delhi, (2011 and the Kerala Sangeetha Nadaka Akademy Award (2022).



HARIRAAM LAM

Violinist

Hari, born to dancer/choreographer Geetha Shankaran and creative designer/writer Lam Ghooi Ket, was exposed to music and dance at a young age, and was raised in the atmosphere of the Temple of Fine Arts in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the age of nine, Hari began his Carnatic violin classes under the tutelage of TFA's senior violin teacher, Shrimathi Kanagamani Vijayendra. In the past

20 years as a violin student, Hari has participated in many local and international productions of various music genres, ranging from Indian classical performances to fusion and modern music presentations. During the whole year of 2010, Hari was given the opportunity to learn from the South Indian violin maestro, Padmabushan Shri Lalgudi G. Jayaraman. Besides that, Hari is also a Carnatic vocal student, a dance student and a drama student.

Hari is also a First Class Degree holder in Music Performance from the National Academy of Arts, Culture

and Heritage (ASWARA), where he studied Western music and also picked up the *gambus*, also known as the oud. Being a violinist, vocalist and *gambus* player, he has performed in various known festivals such as the Rainforest World Music Festival, the Borneo Jazz Festival, the Fringe Festival (Perth), the Darbar Festival (London), and the Chennai Music and Dance Season, to name a few. Currently at the Temple of Fine Arts, KL, Hari is one of the Directors of the Music Department, a Carnatic violin and a vocal teacher, whilst spending his time composing and arranging music, basing his works on his knowledge on both Carnatic and Western music.



BC MANJUNATH

Percussions | Mridangam

Born in 1976 in Karnataka, BC Manjunath is a talented percussionist known for his skills on the mridangam. A dynamic artist with a far-ranging resume, BC is known for exploring mathematical structures in his practice, and has created tala and rhythmic sequences based on Fibonacci numbers, magic numbers, and many combination talas. As a recipient of several acclaimed awards, he has a noteworthy track record of performances on prestigious platforms in India and abroad with world-renowned artists of various genres. Wielding a unique musical sensitivity,

he is well-versed in Indian classical music, World music, modern jazz, contemporary dance and classical music, fusion styles and more. He is honoured to have worked with and been associated with Akram Khan for 20 years now as a fellow artist.



CHITRA POORNIMA SATHISH

Vocalist

Chitra Poornima started learning Carnatic vocal music at Temple of Fine Arts, Singapore from the age of 6. She received her initial training from teachers Rajalakshmi Sekar and Gowri Gokul. In 2004, with the support of the NAC scholarship, she began advanced training with renowned musician Bombay Jayashri, in India.

Poornima spent over 10 years in India, being trained in Classical music, performance and stage craft, composition, teaching and content curation. These were instrumental in moulding Poornima in the deep nuances of the music and giving her a holistic experience of the arts.



SUSHMA SOMA

Vocalist

Sushma Soma is an award-winning Karnatik vocalist. Recognized as one of the passionate “youths driving positive change through their actions” and as one of the “10 women leaders in music” in Singapore, Sushma was awarded the Young Artist Award, the highest honor for young arts practitioners in Singapore. Sushma is currently mentored by violinist and musicologist,

RK Shriramkumar. As a collaborator and soloist, Sushma has performed in some of the world-renowned stages and festivals including Esplanade – Theatres by the Bay, The Earthshot Prize Awards, The Madras Music Academy, Kabira Festival, Jaipur Lit Fest, with Mythili Prakash at the Festival in Motion curated under the Qatar Creates series of performances for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and Reflektor Festival curated by Anoushka Shankar at the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, amongst others.

Sushma is a part-time lecturer at the National Institute of Education in Singapore and is a member on the advisory panel for the Singapore International Festival of Arts. Sushma’s recent works focus on raising awareness about the environment and sustainability and finding her voice to express the same through her Karnatik training. Her album *HOME*, created with American composer and musician Aditya Prakash, received critical acclaim. Reviewed as “one of the finest albums about environment and wildlife...”, tracks from *HOME* also featured in BBC Radio, Songlines Magazine, RollingStone India and NHK Japan.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

GIGENIS is produced by Productions Sarfati Presented thanks to the support of Orsolina28 Art Foundation and Muse Art Foundation.

In co-production with Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore; Sadler’s Wells London; The Joyce Theater with the support of its Executive Director’s Fund and Stephen and Cathy Weinroth Fund for New Work.

World Premiere | Grand Théâtre de Provence- Aix en Provence
– 30th August 2024

Photos: © Maxime Dos-Productions Sarfati





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**Kalaa Utsavam
Indian Festival of Arts**

Chi Udaka

(AUSTRALIA)
BY TAIKOZ AND LINGALAYAM

"Chi Udaka is an explosively energetic blending
of colour, rhythm, dance and music."

- Sydney Arts Guide



23 NOV, SAT, 8PM | 24 NOV, SUN, 3PM

SINGTEL WATERFRONT THEATRE AT ESPLANADE

(1HR 25MINS, NO INTERMISSION)

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body

\$45[^]

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors and PWDs: \$36



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Presents**

da:ns



Corps extrêmes

**Rachid Ouramdane /
Compagnie de Chaillot
(France)**

**"It's riveting and
rather wonderful,
full of athletic glory."
- The Guardian**

**6 & 7 Dec 2024
Fri & Sat, 8pm, Esplanade Theatre
\$40*, \$60^, \$80^
*Limited concessions: \$32**

This production is presented as part of *da:ns focus - Out of Site.*

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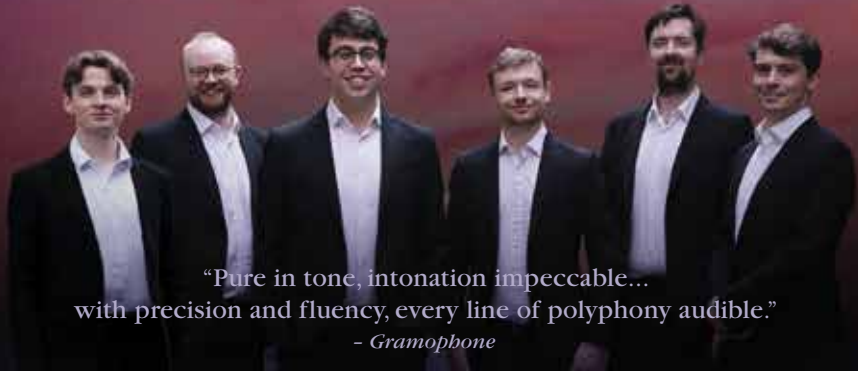


**Esplanade
Presents**

**Voices
A Festival of Song**

MORNING STAR:
**THE SPIRIT OF
CHRISTMAS**

by The Gesualdo Six (UK)



“Pure in tone, intonation impeccable...
with precision and fluency, every line of polyphony audible.”
- *Gramophone*

6 Dec 2024, Fri, 7.30pm
Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade
(1hr 35mins, including 20min intermission)

Experience timeless Christmas magic with The Gesualdo Six, blending centuries-old carols and modern gems in this stunning concert.

\$55^{*A}

Limited concessions for Students, Senior Citizens, NSFs and PWDs: \$44*

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**Esplanade
Presents**

**Voices
A Festival of Song**

Mare-Dness Daytime Delirium

The Art Song Coterie | Feat. Joyce Lee Tung

Creative direction: | Piano accompaniment:
Lin Xiangning | Nicholas Loh

7 Dec 2024, Sat, 8pm
Esplanade Recital Studio

\$35^{*A}

Limited concessions for Students, Senior Citizens, NSFs and PWDs: \$28*



^Esplanade&Me Specials (Limited tickets)
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(1hr, no intermission)

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Esplanade
Presents

Voices
A Festival of Song

“...measured and absorbing.
Like ABBA dipped in velvet.”
– Sydney Morning Herald

Live, Actually
with

THE IDEA OF NORTH

(Australia)

8 Dec 2024, Sun, 5pm
Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade

(1hr 50mins, including 20min intermission)

Join The Idea of North for an unforgettable a cappella journey featuring new live album tracks, classics, and festive surprises.

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\$55^{*A}

Limited concessions for Students, Senior Citizens, NSFs and PWDs: \$44*



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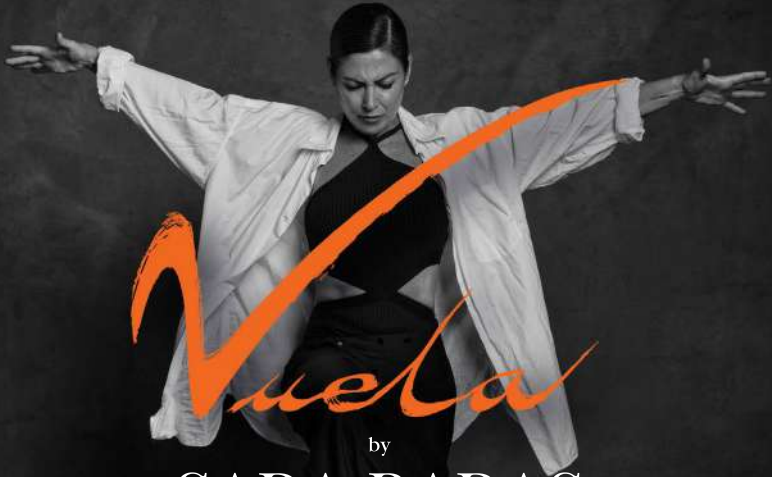
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**Esplanade
Presents**

da:ns



Vuela

by

SARA BARAS

(Spain)

“Queen of flamenco”

- The Stage

Experience lightning-fast footwork and dynamic Spanish rhythms by world-renowned flamenco artist Sara Baras. This electrifying four-act performance celebrates the music of the great Paco de Lucia and features Sara Baras along with 14 exceptional dancers and musicians.

1hr 50 mins, no intermission

10 & 11 Jan 2025, Fri & Sat, 8pm

Esplanade Theatre

\$40*, \$60*, \$80*, \$100^, \$120^

*Limited concessions for seniors, NSFs and students: \$32, \$48, \$64
Limited concessions for PWDs: \$32

This production is presented as part of *da:ns focus – Salero Flamenco*.

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**Esplanade
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da:ns

ALICE (IN WONDERLAND) HONG KONG BALLET



"It's great entertainment
for children, parents and
ballet lovers alike"

- South China Morning Post



"A feat of fevered imagination"

- The Washington Post

Full of energy and excitement,
this fantastical ballet by
Hong Kong's premier ballet
company is a whimsical
reimagination of Lewis Carroll's
beloved tale.

2hrs, including 20min intermission

21 - 23 FEB 2025, FRI - SUN
ESPLANADE THEATRE

TICKETS FROM \$28

Limited concessions available.



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This production is presented as part of *da:ns focus - Ballet by the Bay*.

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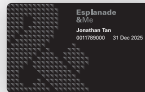
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Imagination, empathy, creativity—the arts both embody and inspire these human qualities that help us make a better future for ourselves, our families or even society. Your donation opens up opportunities for young people to experience and be inspired by the arts. It also supports the aspirations of emerging Singapore artists as they create and express their vision for the future.

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4,231

activities took place at Esplanade.



3,007

 Free

737

 Paid

3,809,486

People attended our activities at the centre.



Free

3,367,291

Paid

141,565

*Figures for Esplanade's activities from Apr 2023 to Mar 2024.



636

 Activities

17,949

 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.



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.

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We seek to entertain, engage, educate and inspire through the arts. We thank everyone who has helped us bring positive impact to Singaporeans by supporting the arts and Esplanade.

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”

Totally Anonymous Person

(who is not related to Offstage)



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Singapore



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