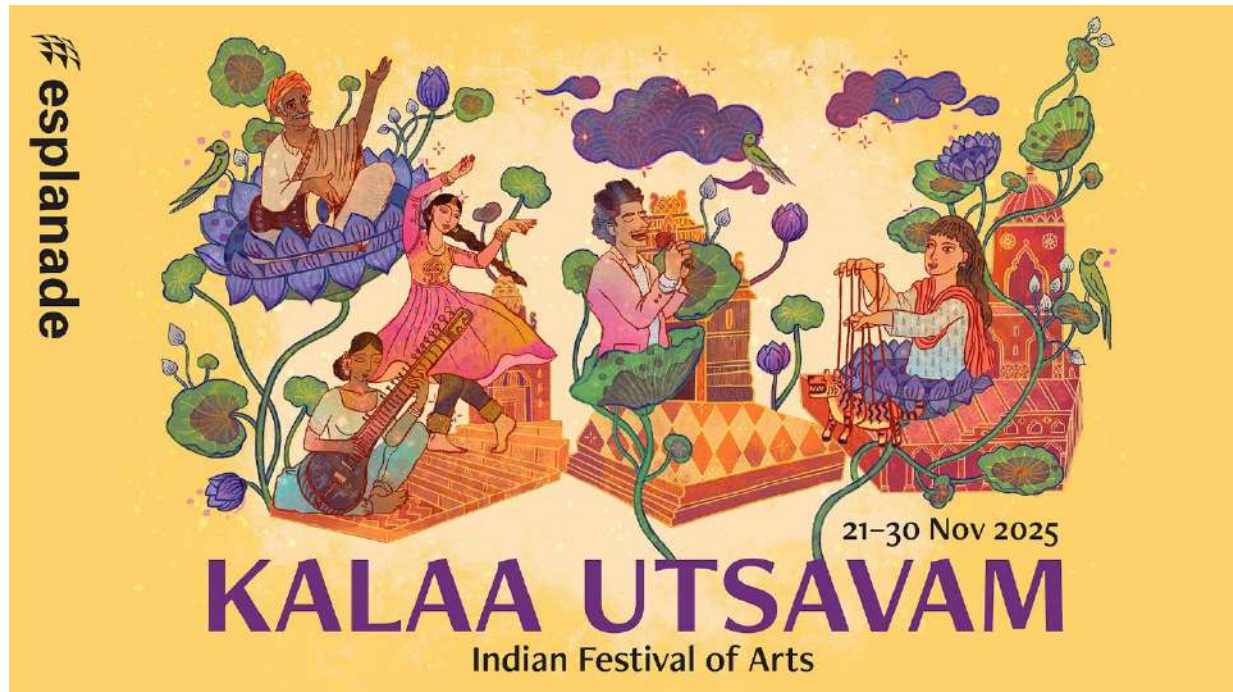


Esplanade Presents

Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts 2025

21 – 30 Nov 2025

www.esplanade.com/kalaautsavam



Dear friends from the media,

Each November, *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts* by Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay brings together artists and audiences in a spirit of celebration, discovery, and connection. As we enter the 24th edition of the festival, from 21 – 30 Nov 2025, we are reminded of its role as a home for Indian arts in Singapore. It is a space where tradition meets innovation, where stories are shared, and where communities come together.

Guided by four key objectives—to celebrate the excellence of Indian arts and culture, present a festival that balances excitement with artistic merit, foster a stronger youth presence, and develop the next generation of Singapore artists—*Kalaa Utsavam* continues to honour its roots while embracing the future. This year’s festival reflects these ideals through a vibrant mix of tradition, innovation, and cross-cultural collaboration.

The festival continues to champion new creations by Singapore artists, with six new works in the line-up this year, including four Esplanade co-productions and one Esplanade commission. *Mission Malligapoo* by inventive theatre-makers **AGAM Theatre Lab** is a playful and heartwarming production, while dynamic music group **SwaRhythm** brings *Samudra*, a captivating new production inspired by the ebb and flow of the ocean. In a bold

meeting of genres, trailblazing metal band **RUDRA** joins forces with the refined musicianship of **Resound Collective** for an unforgettable orchestral experience. Acclaimed Singapore poet **Pooja Nansi** explores love and belonging in the lyrical *We Make Spaces Divine ft. Dey*, and the powerful *Shikhandi* by **SIFAS Productions Ltd** blends the grace of *kathak* with the dynamism of *bharatanatyam*. The genre-bending local Latin jazz fusion band **Project RA** teams up with virtuoso vocalist **Varijashree Venugopal** to weave intricate Carnatic melodies with vibrant jazz improvisation in a performance bursting with rhythmic vitality and soulful depth.

From further afield, legendary poet and lyricist **Javed Akhtar** is set to enchant with *Main Koi Aisa Geet Gaoon*, an intimate evening of words and melodies, while beloved stand-up star **Zakir Khan** returns to Singapore with his trademark warmth, wit, and relatable humour.

Also not to be missed are the visually arresting *Kintsugi* by Canada's renowned **Sampradaya Dance Creations**, multi-instrumentalist **Soumik Datta's** poignant, music-driven reflection on memory and Alzheimer's disease, *Mone Rekho*, and Malaysian hip-hop powerhouse **Rabbit Mac's** high-energy showcase with his friends. Families can delight in the charming *Circle of Life* by **Ranga Shankara's AHA! Theatre for Children**, specially created for children as young as five.

Throughout the festival, we are also delighted to offer many free programmes at Esplanade's public spaces, where audiences can enjoy live music, dance and storytelling. These free programmes not only make the arts more accessible but also allow families, friends, and curious passersby to come together and experience the joy of *Kalaa Utsavam* together.

We express our heartfelt thanks to our Principal Sponsor, **Malabar Gold & Diamonds**, for their support of *Kalaa Utsavam 2025*.

For over two decades, *Kalaa Utsavam* has been a space for connection, creativity, and cultural celebration. We invite you to join us once again to discover, to be inspired, and to celebrate the evolving spirit of Indian arts in Singapore.

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 4,000 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. TECL received the Charity Governance Award – Special Commendation for Clarity of Strategy in 2016 and 2022, the Charity Transparency Award from 2016 – 2023, and the Charity Transparency Dedication Award in 2024. 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](https://www.esplanade.com) for more information.

~ End ~

Issued by *The Esplanade Co Ltd*.

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Annexe

Esplanade Presents

Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts 2025

21 – 30 Nov 2025

www.esplanade.com/kalaautsavam

About *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts*

An annual festival that celebrates the vibrant Indian arts and culture.

Ticketed Programmes

An Esplanade Co-Production

Samudra – An Ocean of Musical Traditions

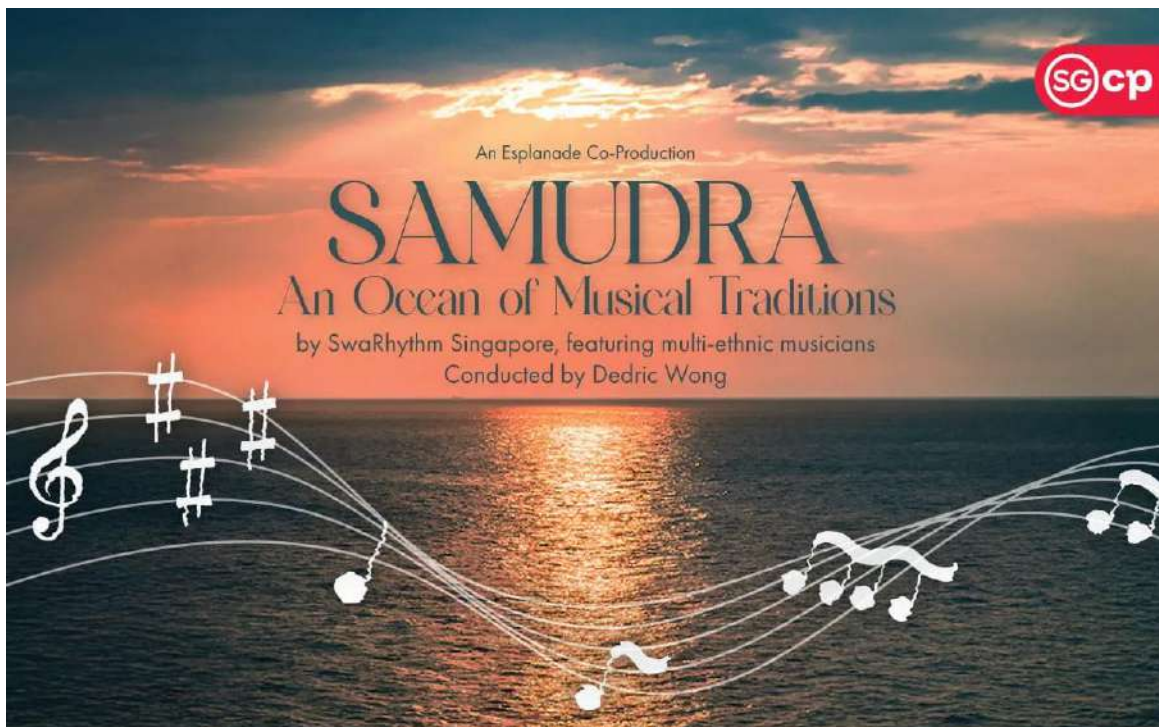
by SwaRhythm Singapore featuring multi-ethnic musicians

Conducted by Dedric Wong

21 Nov 2025, Fri

7.30pm

Esplanade Concert Hall



Samudra – An Ocean of Musical Traditions explores water as a powerful source of life that yields emotion, inspires devotion, and transcends borders. This special premiere commemorates Singapore’s 60th year of independence, reflecting the nation’s spirit of multicultural inclusivity and artistic innovation—a reminder that, like water, music flows beyond boundaries and connects communities.

Marking the ensemble’s 10th anniversary, *Samudra* features diverse original works with Indian, Chinese, Malay, and Western influences, taking audiences on an immersive journey spanning the sacred rivers of the Himalayas and the vibrant maritime routes of Southeast Asia. Each composition blends traditional instruments with contemporary textures, creating a dynamic sonic confluence that celebrates Singapore’s multicultural identity through the symbolism of water and live sand art.

Production Credits

Artistic Direction, Concept & Lead Composer: Nawaz Mirajkar

Co-Composer: Renu Suresh

Guest Composers: Gu Wei, Avik Chari, Syafiqah 'Adha Bte Md Sallehin

Guest Conductor: Dedric Wong

Performers

Indian Ensemble

Anand Viswanathan – Indian Violin

Ashwin Seetharaman – Digital Keyboard

Kumar Karthigesu – Sitar

Madhavan K – Veena

Mahesh Parameshwaran – Mridangam and other Percussions

Nawaz Mirajkar Mohammad – Tabla

Nirdesh Raja Bharadwaj – Male Vocal

Niranjan Rao – Male Vocal

Renu Suresh – Piano

Sachin Anant Bhide – Tabla, Pakhwaj

Sandhya Ramachandran – Female Vocal

Sanjay Chakrabarthi – Sarod

Sek Sheng Fu – Water Percussion

Shantanu Bharat Modak – Digital Keyboard

Sunil Avachat – Indian Flute

Sveta Kilpady – Female Vocal

Uma Gowri Ramanathan – Veena

Malay Ensemble

Azrin Bin Abdullah – Oud

Nur Fadly Bin Majinin – Flute

Syafiqah 'Adha Bte Md Sallehin – Accordion

Chinese Ensemble

Chan Hong Wei – Erhu

Soh Swee Kiat – Sheng

Tan Jie Qing – Yangqin

Wong Wai Kit – Ruan

Western Ensemble

Chee Jun Hong – Double Bass

Lee Jit Seng – Western Drums

Ng Wei Ping – Violin

Saran Charoennit – Cello

Thantakorn Lakanasirorat – Viola

Zhou Christina Xinxue – Violin

Stephanie Stacey Khoo - Sand Artist
Sek Sheng Fu - Water Percussion (Live Water)

Technical Team

Sound Engineer: Steven Cheong Hai Lang
Production Manager: Athena

About SwaRhythm

Founded by Nawaz Mirajkar in Singapore, SwaRhythm is a distinguished Indian classical music ensemble that unites accomplished local musicians to explore the intricacies of Indian classical rhythms. The ensemble is noted for innovative collaborations that seamlessly blend Indian musical elements with Malay, Chinese, and Spanish influences.

SwaRhythm has performed at numerous prestigious festivals, concert halls, and cultural events, both locally and internationally. In 2024, the ensemble received recognition from Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Singapore Chinese Orchestra's fundraising concert. Its work has also been covered by prominent media outlets across Singapore and India.

Supported by the National Arts Council and various cultural institutions, SwaRhythm remains committed to artistic innovation while preserving tradition. Over the past decade, it has presented several critically acclaimed productions, including *Dhamaru* (2009), *Taal Express* (2006, 2013), and *Bhumi Pranaam* (2021).

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Assistive listening is available for this venue

\$50^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$41.50

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 1 Oct 2025.

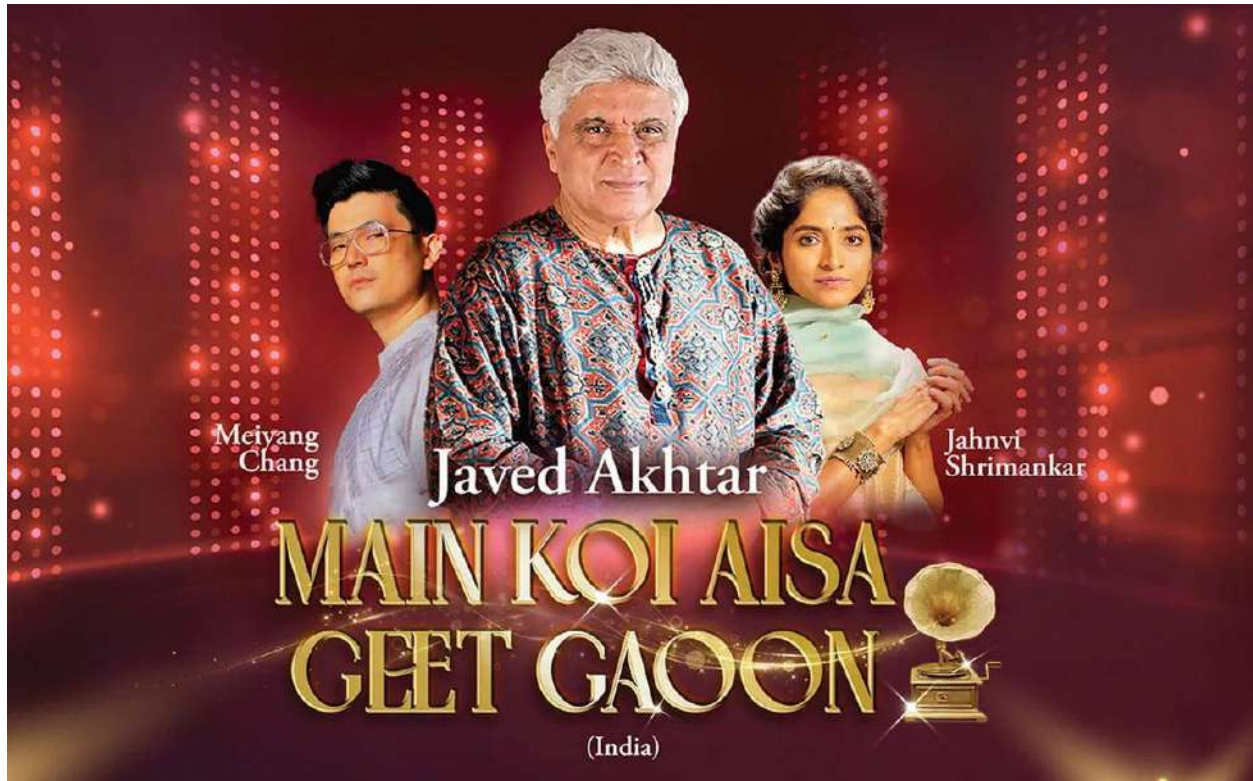
Main Koi Aisa Geet Gaoon

by Javed Akhtar (India)

22 Nov 2025, Sat

7.30pm

Esplanade Concert Hall



Step behind the curtains of Bollywood with cinematic powerhouse Javed Akhtar in a night filled with captivating melodies and unforgettable tales as he shares the secrets behind his hit songs.

Go on an emotional voyage and revisit swoon-worthy scenes through the theme songs of timeless classics like *1942: A Love Story* (1994), *Tezaab* (1988), and *Kal Ho Na Ho* (2003), featuring Meiyang Chang and Jahnvi Shrimankar on vocals.

Hear the multi-award winning poet-screenwriter-lyricist discuss the creative roots behind these iconic numbers, as he regales you with more funny and heart-warming anecdotes about his process, behind-the-scenes moments, and even AR Rahman!

Part live performance, part narration, this evening promises to be a unique celebration of an artist who has profoundly shaped Bollywood with his words. Don't miss your chance to experience this intimate one-night-only event.

About Javed Akhtar

Padma Bhushan Javed Akhtar is an Indian poet, lyricist, and screenwriter. He is widely recognised for his work in Hindi cinema, particularly during the 1970s and '80s, where he formed a successful writing partnership with Salim Khan, also known as Salim-Javed. He has received numerous accolades, including five National Film Awards, the Padma Shri, and the Padma Bhushan.

(2hr 20mins, including 20mins intermission)

Performed in Hindi

Assistive listening is available for this venue

\$65*, \$85*, \$105^, \$125^

*Limited concessions for students, NSFs and seniors: \$54, \$71

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$54

***Esplanade&Me* Members Exclusive**

\$170 VIP Meet & Greet Experience (From 19 Aug, 4pm, limited tickets)

Includes the following:

- Choice of any VIP category ticket for an up-close concert experience
- Post-show meet and greet with Javed Akhtar

Each *Esplanade&Me* member can purchase up to four \$170 VIP tickets.

^*Esplanade&Me* Early Bird Specials: 19 Aug – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^*Esplanade&Me* Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

An Esplanade Commission
Cosmic Dissolution
by RUDRA with Resound Collective

29 Nov 2025, Sat
7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall



“One of extreme metal’s most unique proposition... Singapore’s RUDRA.”
– *Terrorizer (UK)*

“Blessed with flawless production and enough brains to raise dismal metalhead IQ levels, RUDRA marks the violent evolution of music’s most uncompromising genre.”
– *Fury Rocks (The Netherlands)*

Where rhythm meets roar. Where tradition meets tremor. Where metal surges with orchestral power.

Prepare for an electrifying fusion of sound as RUDRA, the legendary Vedic metal band, teams up with Resound Collective’s 56-piece symphony orchestra for an unforgettable performance.

In this genre-defying concert, two musical worlds collide: the relentless energy and intensity of metal meet the grand sonic precision of orchestral power. Experience the legacy of RUDRA's 33-year career as iconic compositions are reimagined through sweeping strings, thunderous brass, and cinematic orchestration.

From intricate guitar riffs and double-kick drums to soaring melodies and orchestral crescendos, this show is a masterclass in contrast and collaboration. It's a celebration of musical innovation—bold, ambitious, and unlike anything you've heard or seen before.

RUDRA:

Kathir - Bass, Vocals

Shiva - Drums

Vinod - Guitars

Devan – Guitars

Creative & Technical Team:

Orchestral Arranger: Chok Kerong

Conductor: Ang Shao-wen

Production Stage Manager: Cristabel Ng

Sound Designer: Uthaiyan Kumanan

Lighting Designer: Onion Low

About RUDRA

Named after the Indian deity of destruction to symbolise the aggressive nature of their music, RUDRA is a band known for pioneering a new genre: Vedic metal.

Formed in 1992, and initially starting out as a death metal band, RUDRA has evolved to forge a unique sound that blends death and black metal with traditional Indian elements. Their music incorporates Sanskrit chants, mantras and traditional Indian music, creating a powerful bridge between Eastern and Western influences. Their innovative approach and dynamic performances have established them as a force in the global metal scene, garnering a dedicated fanbase worldwide.

About Resound Collective

Since its debut in 2016, Resound has firmly established itself as the finest conductorless chamber orchestra in Singapore, dedicated to the highest artistic standards of excellence and leadership in chamber music.

Led by Artistic Director Mervin Beng and Associate Artistic Director / Concertmaster Yang Shuxiang, Resound prides itself in bringing to life masterpieces ranging from baroque and classical to music of the future, delivering each work with purpose and passion. The orchestra comprises Singapore's exceptional classical musicians, with a core of 21 musicians who pursue parallel careers as performers and educators.

Guest soloists who have performed with Resound include pianist Stephen Hough, trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth, violinist Keila Wakao, cellist Qin Li-Wei and toy pianist Margaret Leng Tan.

The orchestra has also performed, commissioned, and premiered works by Singaporean composers such as Jonathan Shin, Eric Watson and Tan Chan Boon.

The orchestra's versatility has attracted various collaborators, making Resound and its musicians their orchestra of choice. Highlights of the 2025 season include the world premiere of a work by British composer Jonathan Dove, playing in the Singapore leg of Sigur Rós' 2025 Orchestral World Tour, as well as working with American conductor-composer Arnie Roth to present works from the *Final Fantasy* series in concert.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)
Performed in English & Sanskrit

Assistive listening is available for this venue

\$55^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$45.65

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 19 Aug – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 17 Sep 2025.

Papa Yaar by Zakir Khan (India)

30 Nov 2025, Sun
7pm
Esplanade Concert Hall



Step into a world of laughter, love and nostalgia in Zakir Khan's brand-new show, *Papa Yaar*. Through anecdotes packed with wit, emotion, and his signature poetic flair, Zakir brings to life the most relatable yet unspoken aspects of every Indian son's relationship with his father.

Papa Yaar isn't just a comedy show; it's a celebration of fatherhood and the universal experiences that tie us all together. And this time, it's more than just a performance—it's an invitation to share the laughter and love with your own father. So bring your Papa along and let Zakir's stories remind you of all the reasons why your bond is special. It's a show both of you will cherish forever.

About Zakir Khan

Zakir Khan is one of India's most beloved comedians, known for his poetic storytelling, heartfelt anecdotes, and unmatched relatability. A college dropout from Indore, he broke into a predominantly English comedy scene using Hindi as his comedic medium, making his

rise both unlikely and iconic. His catchphrases, like “*Sakht Launda*” have become part of pop culture, earning him over 830 million YouTube views and a massive global fanbase.

Zakir made history as the first Asian comedian to headline and sell out London’s Royal Albert Hall and is now set to become the first to perform in Hindi at NYC’s Madison Square Garden and Toronto’s Scotiabank Arena during his 2025 North America tour.

With five Amazon Prime specials—including *Tathastu* and *Haq Se Single*—Zakir has redefined Indian comedy and continues to represent India on the world’s biggest stages.

(2hrs 30mins, no intermission)

Admission age: 18 and above

Performed in Hindi

Advisory: Contains coarse language

\$60*, \$80^, \$110^

*Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors: \$50

Limited concessions for PWDs: \$50

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

An Esplanade Co-Production

Mission Malligapoo

by AGAM Theatre Lab

21 & 22 Nov 2025, Fri & Sat

7.30pm

Singtel Waterfront Theatre at Esplanade



Singapore, 1942. In a world where the Japanese occupation casts a long, oppressive shadow, a band of misfits unites for a clandestine undertaking: Mission Malligapoo.

What starts as a slapstick rebellion soon spirals into a hilariously dark journey of self-discovery and existential musings. As each character's quirky past collides, they devise a plan that could either ignite a spark of hope or set off a chain reaction of chaos that might just take down the entire city.

Expect unexpected betrayals, spirited bickering, and moments that are both gut-wrenching and gut-busting.

Directed by the award-winning duo Ganesh Karthik and featuring a multilingual cast packed with talent and a penchant for the outrageous, *Mission Malligapoo* is not just a play; it's a

riotous celebration of unsung heroes and their absurdly brave attempts at changing the course of history, proving that humour and hope can thrive even in the darkest of times.

A programme of *60 Connections – At Home and Afar*, a year-long season of Singapore stories and international collaborations in celebration of SG60.

Production Credits

Co-Producer: AGAM Theatre Lab

Directors: Subramanian Ganesh, Karthikeyan Somasundaram

Playwrights: Syed Ashratullah & Karthikeyan Somasundaram

Company Manager: Banupriya Ponnarasu

Partnerships & Outreach: Sankari Elavalahan

Production & Stage Manager: Charlinda Pereira

Assistant Production & Stage Manager: Gomathi Ravindran

Lighting designer: Alberta Wileo

Technical Manager: A Kumaran (AK)

Multimedia Designer: Hologrix

Sound Design: Ren Kang

Original Soundtracks: Nallu Dhinakharan

Publicity Design: Vinith Kumar

Set Design: Lim Keng San (ON STAGING))

Sets Construction: ON STAGING Pte Ltd

Production Assistant: Nithya Valliammai

Props Design: Vagabond

Makeup & Costume Design: Norehan Fong

Surtitles: Durga Devi

Photography: Brandon

Videography and Marketing Materials: Dev Studios

Cast

Awad Salim bin Ramli

Chee Yuan

Eleanor Tan Geok Kim

Jasmine Kuah

Kalah Rajesh Kannan

Karthikeyan Somasundaram

Mohan Vellayan

Ponkumaran Selvam

Raguvaran Naidu

Rohshini Thiagarajan

Thiruselvam

Sabarna Manoharan

Seshan Veerappan

Veeraraghavan

About AGAM Theatre Lab

AGAM Theatre Lab (AGAM) is a young Singaporean Tamil theatre company dedicated to creating a sustainable platform for Tamil theatre within Singapore's vibrant arts landscape. Established in January 2019, AGAM has grown exponentially, producing trailblazing works that continually invigorate and enhance the presence of Tamil theatre in the local arts scene. Accorded with charity status and an accredited Institute of Public Character (IPC), AGAM became the first Tamil theatre company recognised under the Major company scheme under the National Arts Council.

Over the past years, AGAM has not only produced traditional Tamil theatre works but has also innovated new forms of production and direction, pushing the boundaries of Tamil theatrical expression. The company has undertaken various initiatives to nurture and support young and aspiring artists, fostering the growth and development of talents within the community. Its work is characterised by its commitment to nurturing emerging talents, supporting new writing, and creating platforms for underrepresented voices.

At the core of AGAM's work is the aspiration to create professional plays of the highest quality for contemporary audiences. Despite being a relatively young theatre company, AGAM's core team possesses a wealth of experience spanning organisational management and theatre-making, driving its remarkable success over the past five years. AGAM has successfully collaborated with various arts organisations, including Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, and has received recognition for its contributions, including the ST Life! Theatre Awards.

About Subramanian Ganesh, Director

Subramanian Ganesh is a multi-disciplinary theatre-maker whose two-decade journey in the performing arts spans directing, acting, and lighting design. In 2019, he founded Agam Theatre Lab with a bold vision to reimagine Tamil theatre—anchored in heritage yet fearless in form. Under his leadership, Agam has become a trailblazer in Singapore's theatre scene, known for its bilingual productions, VR/AR integrations, and commitment to developing new artistic voices.

Ganesh's directorial work reflects both range and ambition: from classic adaptations like *Othello* and the cult comedy *Adukku Veettu Annasamy*, to the Tarantino-inspired *Kullanari* and biographical tribute *Re.Somma*, to large-scale epics such as *Murasu*, a reimagining of *Animal Farm* in *Vilangu Pannai*, and the award-winning dark comedy *Twin Murder in Green Mansion*.

In 2024, Ganesh was nominated for Best Director at the ST Life! Theatre Awards, a landmark moment in Tamil theatre that affirmed his position as a defining voice in contemporary Singapore theatre. With a practice rooted in collaboration, innovation, and cultural depth, he continues to shape a bold, inclusive, and future-facing Tamil theatre landscape.

About Karthikeyan Somasundaram, Director and Playwright

Karthikeyan Somasundaram is a theatre actor, director, and writer prominent in Tamil theatre. He has written and directed acclaimed plays like *Pachae Bungalaa Rettae Kolaedaa* (PBRK), *Vilangu Pannai*, *Re Somma*, and *Adukku Veettu Annasamy 2*. His work on PBRK, in which he also performed, earned a Best Director nomination at the 2024 STLife! Theatre Awards, a nomination for Best Set Design, and a win for Best Ensemble.

As an actor, he has starred in Tamil plays such as *Re Somma*, *Azhagiya Asuran*, *Othello*, and *Murasu*. Holding a First Class Honours BA in Acting from Lasalle College of the Arts, he has performed in English productions including Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, *Requiem for Change*, *Medusa*, and *Pinter's Trilogy*, working with renowned directors.

Over the years, he has won multiple awards at Mediacorp's Pradhana Vizha award ceremony: twice for Best Actor, thrice for Best Infotainment Host, once for Best Scriptwriter, and in 2025, Most Favourite Artist.

About Syed Ashratullah, Playwright

Syed is a writer for theatre, television and radio, as well as an actor and educator with over a decade of experience. He has collaborated with Agam Theatre Lab, Avant Theatre & Language, and Singapore Indian Theatre & Film Explorers (SITFE). His writing and acting credits including *Vizhuthugal (Roots)*, *Vithai*, *Thuyil*, *Bluetick* and *Tharuthalai Thirutham*. In 2021, he received the Kaviyarasu Kannadasan Award for his contributions to Tamil language and performing arts.

(2hrs, including 20mins intermission)
Performed in Tamil, with English surtitles

Assistive listening is available for this venue

\$45^*, \$60^

*Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$37

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 19 Aug – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 1 Sep 2025.

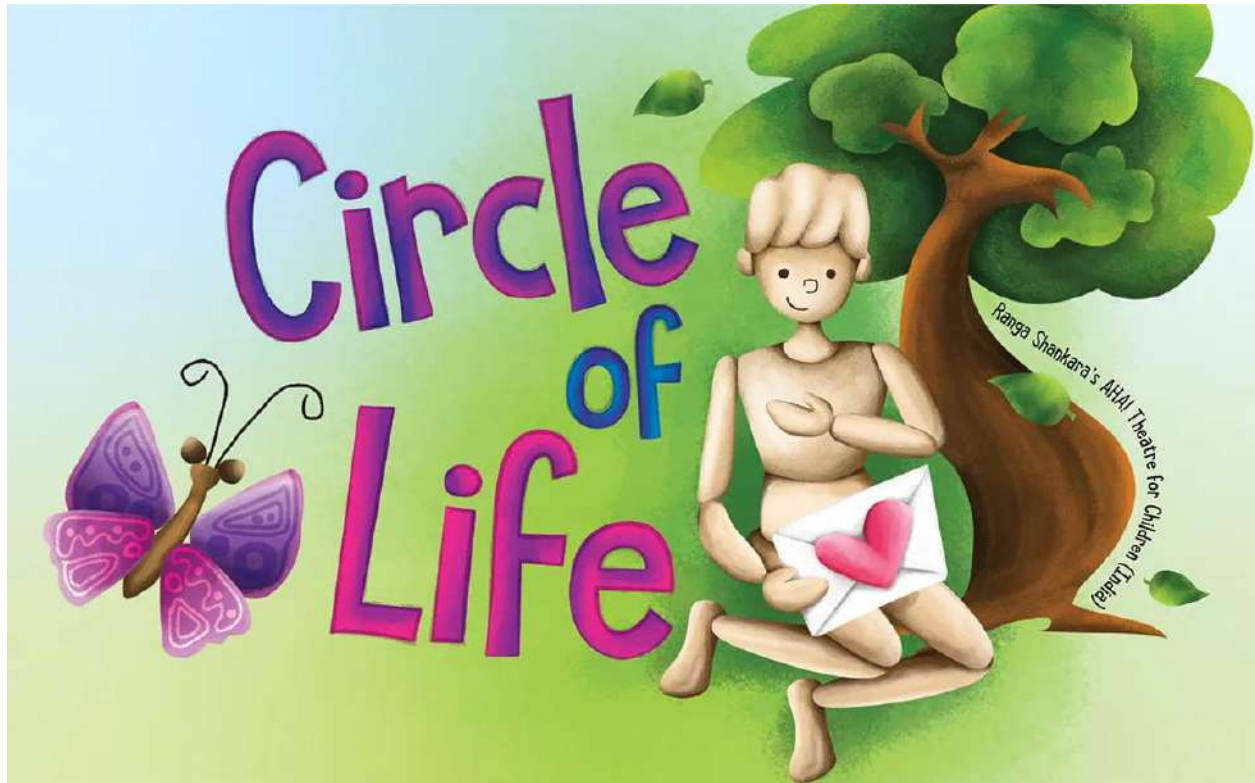
Circle of Life

by Ranga Shankara's AHA! Theatre for Children (India)

22 & 23 Nov 2025, Sat & Sun

11am & 2pm

Esplanade Recital Studio



Life unfolds in many stages, each filled with its own wonders and lessons. From childhood to old age, and back again, every stage is a gift, and every moment is a miracle carefully held by nature.

In *Circle of Life*, an enchanting puppetry performance captures the minds of curious young audiences—without words. Through graceful movements and spellbinding imagery, the puppets reveal the beauty and wonders that surround us every day.

More than a performance, it's a celebration of growth, imagination, and our delicate connection with the natural world. Gather your young ones and don't miss this magical experience that inspires gratitude, joy and love for life and this Earth that we share.

Production Credits

Puppeteers: Gagankumar, Shravan Heggodu, Arun D T, B V Shrunga

Sound: Venkatesh Prasad

Lights and Direction: S Surendranath

About Ranga Shankara's AHA! Theatre for Children

Ranga Shankara is proud to be running one of the country's most important, sustained theatre for children programmes—AHA! Theatre for Children. The programme is rooted in the conviction that early exposure to multifaceted learning opportunities helps children blossom into informed, creative and empathetic individuals. The plays produced offer visual, aural, verbal and physical stimulation, fostering creative thinking, imagination and problem-solving skills in young audiences.

Conveying complex topics to children is often challenging, but theatre makes it possible to communicate concepts like stereotypes, environmental conservation and life processes effectively. Theatre has proven to be a successful tool in instilling values such as kindness, empathy and collaboration in the youth.

In the light of growing concerns about the ever-decreasing attention span in the era of social media and other entertainment platforms, being an audience member at theatrical performances allows children to practice patience and develop appreciation for the performing arts.

(50mins, no intermission)

Admission Age: 5 and above

Recommended Age: 5 – 8 years old

Assistive listening is available for this venue

Advisory:

- This is a non-verbal performance.
- All children must be accompanied by an adult aged 16 years and above. Tickets are required for all patrons including infants in arms.

\$28^

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

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

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

PIP's Club: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Svara y Ritmo: A Carnatic-Latin Odyssey

by Project RA: The Vibes Collective ft. Varijashree Venugopal (Singapore & India)

30 Nov 2025, Sun

5pm

Esplanade Recital Studio



Project RA: The Vibes Collective is a genre-fluid ensemble devoted to bold musical storytelling and crafting soundscapes where borders vanish and rhythms ignite. Rooted in tradition yet unapologetically contemporary, their sound rises from the meeting of Latin jazz's fiery grooves and the intricate beauty of Carnatic music.

In this special performance, the Collective explores new frontiers in collaboration with celebrated Carnatic vocalist Varijashree Venugopal, whose mastery and improvisational brilliance bring a powerful voice to this cross-cultural journey.

At the heart of this fusion lies an interplay of bass, keys, drums, and percussion, with vibraphone and Carnatic voice anchoring the ensemble's kaleidoscopic sound. The result is a vibrant dialogue of rhythm, melody, and texture, where Latin syncopations and jazz harmonies are reimagined through the lens of Indian classical expression.

Step into this living mosaic of sound, and be part of this celebration of cross-cultural connection, friendship, and the universal language of music.

About Project RA: The Vibes Collective

Project RA: The Vibes Collective is a dynamic musical ensemble formed in 2013, built on a foundation of friendship, shared vision, and decades of collective experience in performance, composition, and musical leadership. The group was founded by Ramu Thiruyanam, a Singapore-based vibraphonist whose artistic journey spans classical training, jazz improvisation, and global rhythmic traditions.

Project RA's sound is a vibrant fusion of Latin jazz, Carnatic classical, and contemporary grooves that defies boundaries and invites listeners into a rich tapestry of rhythm and melody. The ensemble features a rotating lineup of accomplished musicians, each bringing their own voice to the collective's evolving sound.

About Varijashree Venugopal

Bangalore-based and Grammy®-nominated singer-songwriter Varijashree Venugopal was recognised as a child prodigy who could identify 100 Carnatic ragas at just 18 months, and performing concerts since the age of four. She trained under her musician parents Vidwan H. S. Venugopal and Vidhushi T. V. Rama, as well as Vidhushi H. Geetha, Vidhushi Vasantha Srinivasan, Vidwan D. S. Srivatsa, and later Ganakalanidhi Vidwan Salem P. Sundaresan. Grounded in the intricacy and depth of Carnatic music, Varijashree is one of the pioneering artists known for applying the techniques, fundamentals, and the sound and soul of Indian singing within a global music context.

Apart from being a singer, Varijashree is also a flautist, composer, and music educator. Her unique vocal capabilities, improvisations, and application of Indian singing techniques to various music cultures have led to collaborations with leading global artists including Bobby McFerrin, Michael League, Snarky Puppy, Victor Wooten, Herbie Hancock, Béla Fleck, Hamilton de Holanda, Eddie Gomez, Anat Cohen, Jacob Collier, Praveen D Rao, C4 trio, Trio Bobo, Anoushka Shankar, and EYM trio, among others.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Assistive listening is available for this venue

\$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$31.50

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

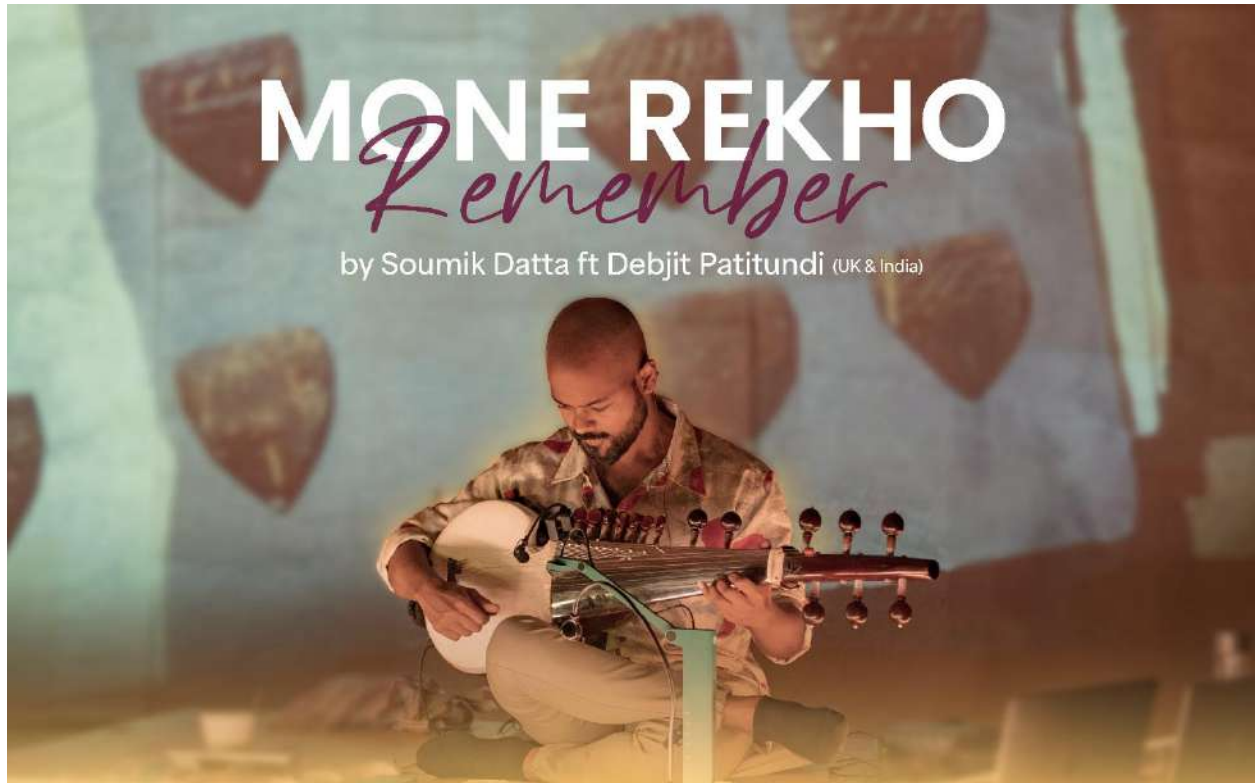
Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 1 Oct 2025.

Mone Rekho – Remember by Soumik Datta ft. Debjit Patitundi (UK & India)

28 Nov 2025, Fri
7.30pm
Esplanade Recital Studio



“One of the biggest music talents in Britain” – *Vogue*

“Hailed as one of the most exciting musicians of his generation, Soumik Datta’s musical universe is as expansive as it is fearless” – *Tapestry Festival 2025*

“Rooted in tradition and yet unafraid to challenge it” – *Desi Blitz*

Multi-talented British-Indian musician, composer and Aga Khan Music Award Winner Soumik Datta performs on the impressive 19-string fretless *sarod*. As a fervent champion for the preservation of Indian arts, Datta strives to bring this ancient Indian stringed instrument to new audiences on a global scale.

Mone Rekho (“remember” in Bengali) is an immersive concert that weaves Indian music with electronic hybrids, visual collages, cinematic scenes, personal anecdotes and bursts of comedy. This two-part production showcases Soumik transitioning between the roles of

student, storyteller and master musician in a space that shifts from concert hall to classroom, care homes, and the streets of Kolkata. The audience leaves with plenty to contemplate, whether reflecting on lost memories or discovering something new. Intimate yet expansive, *Mone Rekho* stretches the imagination.

Savour the skills of this inspired virtuoso in a ground-breaking performance that fuses Indian traditional music with contemporary composition and storytelling.

Production Credits

Performers: Sarod, Narration & Composition: Soumik Datta

Tabla: Debjit Patitundi

Spatial Audio Engineer: Camilo Tirado

Dramaturgy: Zoe Svendsen

Visuals & Video Design: Simon Daw

Produced by Soumik Datta Arts in association with Bagri Foundation, University College of London, Alzheimer's Society, Hawkwood Centre, Strike A Light Festival, Dartington Trust, Arts Council England, G5A Forum & BNP Paribas.

About Soumik Datta

Born in India and raised in London, Soumik Datta rose to prominence as a master of the *sarod*, performing alongside a diverse array of artists including Anoushka Shankar, Jay-Z, Bill Bailey and Beyoncé. A composition graduate from London's Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, he lists Radiohead, M.I.A., Gustavo Santaolalla, Ustad Zair Hussain, Shakti, Akram Khan Company, Complicité and Gecko Theatre among his influences and inspirations.

His recent works feature new collaborators in cinematic projects that draw on concepts of identity, memory, and shared human experience.

Datta has a long-standing association with the Southbank Centre, having first performed there as a teenager, accompanying his guru, Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta. Notable appearances include headlining a performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of Alchemy Festival and, in 2022, the premiere of his piece *Happy Notes* at the same venue.

In 2023, Datta began working on a trilogy addressing memory, migration and climate change, for which he spent much of his residency at Southbank Centre Studio developing. The first instalment, *Mone Rehko*, premiered in Mumbai in 2024, while the follow-up performance, *Borderlands*, premiered at the Southbank Centre later that year.

(1hr 30mins, including 20min intermission)

Assistive listening is available for this venue

\$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSF's, seniors & PWDs: \$31.50

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Kintsugi

by Sampradaya Dance Creations (Canada)

21 – 23 Nov 2025

Fri & Sat, 8pm | Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



Kintsugi is a striking new production from Sampradaya Dance Creations, inspired by the Japanese art of mending broken pottery with gold. Conceived by Founder Lata Pada and co-choreographed with Artistic Director Suma Suresh, this Indian classical-contemporary work transforms themes of fracture and repair into a moving expression of strength, beauty, and identity.

Kintsugi revisits poignant episodes from the *Mahabharata* that are both timely and timeless, speaking to collective perseverance and the enduring power of transformation.

Performed to live music, with a cast of six dancers trained in *bharatanatyam*, *kathak*, and contemporary vocabularies, *Kintsugi* features an original score that blends classical Indian music with electronic textures, evoking a layered emotional landscape of rupture and repair.

Production Credits

Choreographers: Lata Pada and Suma Suresh

Dancers: Tanveer Alam, Rachana Joshi, Harikishan S. Nair, Atri Nundy, Arun Sreekumar, Purawai Vyas

Musicians: Praveen Rao, Varijashree Venugopal, B.C. Manjunath

Lighting Designer: Bharat Vyas

Technical Director: Nitin Sawant

About Sampradaya Dance Creations

Sampradaya Dance Creations (SDC) is an award-winning Canadian dance company known for its culturally rooted, interdisciplinary work and socially resonant storytelling. Founded in 1990 by internationally acclaimed *bharatanatyam* soloist, scholar, and educator Lata Pada C.M, the company has become a pioneering force in classical South Asian dance in Canada and beyond.

Specialising in classical and contemporary *bharatanatyam*, SDC—under new leadership of Artistic Director Suma Suresh—is committed to pursuing artistic excellence through captivating solo and ensemble works that blend traditional Indian dance with innovative artistry.

Through tours and festival performances in Canada and abroad, SDC shares *bharatanatyam* with their diverse audiences while uniting cultures through this classical dance form.

(1hr, no intermission)

Assistive listening is available for this venue

\$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$31.50

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

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^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

An Esplanade Co-Production

Shikhandi – The Warrior Within

by SIFAS Productions Ltd

28 – 30 Nov 2025

Fri & Sat, 8pm | Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio



Shikhandi, a prominent character in the Indian epic, the *Mahabharata*, embodies nonconformity, resilience and determination. Born a princess and raised as a warrior, her transformation from female to male reflects the complexities of gender, destiny and selfhood.

This powerful *kathak* presentation reimagines the enigmatic icon as both a legend and a living metaphor. Combining the dynamic footwork, nuanced expressions and rich narrative textures of *kathak* with the sculptural precision, rhythmic complexity and emotive depth of *bharatanatyam*, the production charts Shikhandi's journey from pain to power and from silence to expression. Masculine and feminine, divine and human—dichotomies blur and intertwine, challenging binaries and revealing deeper truths.

This is not just a retelling; it is a reckoning. Who defines identity? What makes a warrior? Where does dharma lie when the world refuses to see your truth?

In *Shikhandi – The Warrior Within*, the mythic figure emerges as a timeless symbol of courage, fluidity, and self-assertion—a beacon for all who reclaim agency against rigid norms and social erasure.

Production Credits

Artistic Director and Lead Choreographer: Gauri Diwakar

Choreographers and Rehearsal Masters: Minhaz Khan and Jyotika Joshi

Music Composer: Samiullah Khan

Lighting Designer: Alberta Wileo

About SIFAS Productions Ltd

SIFAS is a non-profit Indian cultural organisation that has achieved a high level of artistic and technical excellence in the Indian fine arts.

With a pan-Indian curriculum of 18 disciplines, the SIFAS Academy reflects the rich cultural diversity of ancient India. Its structured curriculum, classes, and examinations, along with in-depth pedagogy and artistic guidance, have nurtured a multitude of homegrown talents who have become prominent contributors in the arts and culture landscape in Singapore and the region, highlighting SIFAS' extensive contributions to the local arts scene.

Through the promotion and production of regular programmes in Indian music, dance and visual arts, SIFAS has fostered an awareness and understanding of the Indian cultural heritage in the arts community.

SIFAS will continue to resonate with the transformation of Singapore into a global city for arts.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Performed in English, Sanskrit, Hindi & Tamil, with English surtitles

Assistive listening is available for this venue

\$38^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$31.50

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

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Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

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White: 10% savings

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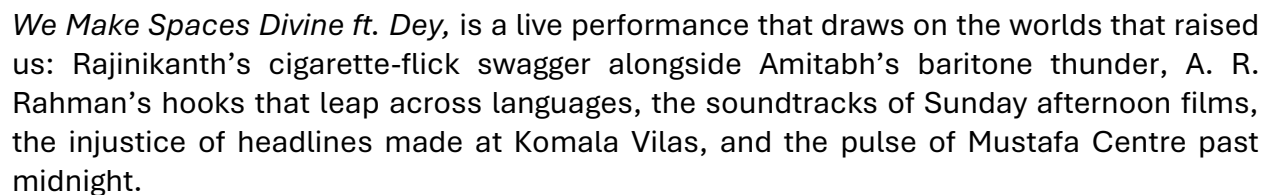
SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 1 Oct 2025.

We Make Spaces Divine ft. Dey

21 – 23 Nov 2025

Esplanade Annexe Studio



Page 32 of 48

We Make Spaces Divine ft. Dey, unfolds as spoken word meets club night—a celebration of the cinematic, complicated, messy, and glorious textures of growing up in the cities we love. It is an invitation to listen, dance, heal and reimagine belonging together.

About Pooja Nansi

Pooja Nansi is a poet and educator who believes in the power that performance can lend to the written word. She has published three poetry collections: *Stiletto Scars* (2007), *Love is An Empty Barstool* (2013) and *We Make Spaces Divine* (2021). She also co-edited *SingPoWriMo: The Anthology* (2014), and co-authored *Local Anaesthetic: a Painless Approach to Singaporean Poetry* (2014), a teacher's resource for Singaporean poetry. She has over 15 years of experience in secondary and higher tertiary education across Literature and Creative Writing.

Her key performance work includes her recurring one-woman show, *You Are Here*, which explores issues of migration through personal family histories. It opened in Singapore in 2015 and has since seen five iterations and toured to Australia. She also wrote and performed *Thick Beats for Good Girls* with Checkpoint Theatre which opened in April 2018 and explored the intersections between feminism, identity and hip hop.

From April 2013 to February 2018, she curated a monthly spoken word and poetry event called Speakeasy at Artistry, which showcased both emerging and established poets from Singapore and beyond, including Burma and Botswana. In December 2018, she co-founded the minority voices festival Other Tongues as a Youth Poet Ambassador Public Programme. From 2019-2023, she served as Festival Director of the Singapore Writers Festival, where her tenure was credited with transforming the nation's premier literary event—broadening inclusivity and accessibility while defying global trends of aging audiences.

She was also a recipient of the Young Artist Award in 2016, Singapore's highest accolade for Arts practitioners below the age of 35 as well as Singapore's inaugural Youth Poet Ambassador. In 2024, she was conferred the Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, one of France's top cultural honours. She currently teaches Creative Writing at Nanyang Technological University and serves as Chief Publisher of AFTERIMAGE, the poetry publishing arm of Sing Lit Station.

About Shivram Gopinath

Shivram Gopinath is a writer and spoken word performer from Chennai who calls Singapore and Amsterdam home. A two-time National Singapore Poetry Slam Champion, he has performed at Singapore Writers Festival, Borobudur Writers and Cultural Festival, Jaipur Literary Festival, among others. His work often contends with notions of identity, community and absurdity, as a way of exploring cross-cultural experiences. He is the author of the upcoming *Dey* (Ethos Books, 2024). Shivram Gopinath is a writer and spoken word performer from Chennai who calls Singapore and Amsterdam home. A two-time National Singapore Poetry Slam Champion, he has performed at Singapore Writers Festival, Borobudur Writers and Cultural Festival, Jaipur Literary Festival, among others. His work often contends with

notions of identity, community and absurdity, as a way of exploring cross-cultural experiences. He is the author of the upcoming *Dey* (Ethos Books, 2024).

About Isuru Wijesoma

Isuru Wijesoma is a guitarist and session musician based in Singapore. His playing is influenced by various genres of music, ranging from the blues to Indian classical music. He is also an exponent of hindustani and carnatic slide guitar and is currently being mentored by Pandit Debashish Bhattacharya and Guru Lazar Thurakkal Sebastine. Wijesoma has shared the stage with renown Singaporean and international artists across numerous live and televised performances. While he continues to relish the opportunities that come with being an in-demand session musician, Wijesoma now hopes to make a mark on the regional scene with his own approach to the guitar and music.

About RAAJ

With over 20 years of experience in DJing, RAAJ (also known as Joshua P.) has left a significant impact on the Southeast Asian music scene. Drawing from his Tamil roots, he strives to showcase his culture while maintaining a deep connection to his heritage.

RAAJ has held residencies at iconic local venues such as KU DE TA/CE LA VI, Butter Factory, and Fashion Bar. He frequently headlines local parties, consistently pushing the boundaries of music and culture. His eclectic sets blend genres such as Funk, Soul, House, Bass, Garage, Afro, and Tamil and South Indian hits, creating a unique and vibrant experience for his audience.

RAAJ's influence extends beyond the DJ booth; he has served as a music director for establishments like KU DE TA, CE LA VI, Bar Rouge, and currently Mandala Club. His booking selections at Mandala Club reflect his commitment to diversity, featuring artists like JYOTY, NASH (IND), Habibibeats, Nia Archives, and Yung Singh, Murder He Wrote, among others, contributing to the rich tapestry of Singapore's club landscape. He has also had the privilege of sharing the stage with international names including Anderson.Paak, Nightmares On Wax, LTJ BUKEM, Conducta, Henrik Schwarz, SIRENE!, Gregor Salto, and Basement Jaxx.

(2hrs, no intermission)

Admission Age: 13 and above

Advisory:

- Contains some coarse language
- This event involves sales of alcoholic beverages only to those aged 18 years and above. Verification will be conducted on-site prior to purchase.
- Standing room only (Limited seats available on a first-come, first-served basis.)

\$35^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$29

^*Esplanade&Me* Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^*Esplanade&Me* Specials: From 14 Oct

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

SG Culture Pass

This event is eligible for SG Culture Pass credits, starting from 1 Oct 2025.

RNF - Rabbit and Friendz LIVE in Singapore

Featuring Rabbit Mac, Stephen Zachariah, ADK, Havoc Brothers, Sasi The Don, Santesh, Psychomantra, Siddarth & DJ Sathiya (Malaysia, Singapore & India)

28 Nov 2025, Fri

7.30pm

Esplanade Annexe Studio



The wait is finally over—after five long years, Rabbit Mac is back, and he’s about to set Singapore on fire with the party of a lifetime.

Get ready for the first-ever RABBIT & FRIENDZ show, where Rabbit Mac reunites with some of the biggest rap and hip-hop names in the region. Joining him live on stage are superstar acts Stephen Zechariah (Singapore), ADK (India), Havoc Brothers (Malaysia), Sasi the Don (Malaysia), Santesh (Malaysia), Psychomantra (Malaysia), Siddarth (Malaysia), DJ Sathiya (Singapore) and more.

Expect explosive powerhouse performances, jaw-dropping collaborations, and two hours of pure non-stop energy with your favourite icons. And because no party is complete without it, dance and party the night away sipping on refreshing beverages available for sale at the venue.

This isn’t just a concert, it’s history in the making and a night to remember. Grab your tickets now and be part of the experience that will be on everyone’s lips.

About Rabbit Mac

Rabbit Mac is a rapper, hip-hop producer, entrepreneur, and trendsetter whose influence has shaped the Tamil hip hop scene across Malaysia, Singapore, and beyond. With nearly 100 songs produced, over 150 songs recorded, and collaborations with more than 50 artists worldwide, Rabbit Mac has built an unshakable presence in the global Tamil music industry.

As the founder of the award-winning PU4LYF Entertainment, Rabbit Mac has built a powerhouse label, mentoring nearly 50 artists and leaving an indelible mark on the Malaysian and regional music scene.

A household name in the Tamil hip hop diaspora, Rabbit Mac continues to transcend boundaries with his groundbreaking, chart-topping hits and genre-defining creativity. From his humble beginnings to performing in front of millions, he has evolved into a multifaceted artist, producer, composer, designer, actor, and host, constantly setting new trends and inspiring the next generation of talent.

With his distinctive rap, bold fashion, and relentless innovation, Rabbit Mac stands as one of the most influential voices propelling the Tamil hip hop movement onto a global stage.

(2hrs, no intermission)

Admission age: 12 and above

Recommended Age: 18 and above

Performed in Tamil & English

Advisory:

- Alcoholic beverages will be sold at this event. Sales restricted to patrons aged 18 and above, with on-site age verification required prior to purchase.
- No outside beverages are allowed in this event.
- Standing room only.

\$55^

Limited concessions for students, NSFs, seniors & PWDs: \$45.65

^Esplanade&Me Early Bird Specials: 29 Sep – 13 Oct

Black: 20% savings

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Discover: 15% savings (min. 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials: From 14 Oct

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White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Workshops

Functional Music Workshop – Translating Emotion and Movement into Sound

by Praveen Rao, Varijashree Venugopal & B.C. Manjunath (India)

22 Nov 2025, Sat

1.30pm

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



This immersive session explores the art of creating functional music—music that serves a purpose beyond performance. Participants will dive into techniques for interpreting emotion, gesture, and movement into musical expressions. From theatrical underscoring to dance accompaniment, the workshop offers practical tools for composing with intention and sensitivity. Ideal for composers, choreographers, and dancers, this workshop encourages collaboration across art forms and provides a space for developing music that responds organically to the human experience.

Led by experienced artists, the session blends theory, live demonstration, and group interaction to deepen understanding of music as a dynamic and functional medium.

About Praveen D. Rao

Praveen D. Rao is an accomplished Indian musician, music director, and lyricist specialising in Kannada music, based in Bangalore. A versatile performer on keyboard, tabla, and other instruments, he trained under Pt. R. V. Sheshadri Gawai of Aravinda Sangeetha Vidyalaya and tabla maestro Pandit Ravindra Yavagal, Rao has composed for theatre, ballets, film, television, and commercials.

He has performed at prominent national and international festivals, including the Pattadakal Festival, Navaraspur Festival, Lord Mayor's Cultural Event (Birmingham, 1994), World Veerashaiva Conference (USA, 1997), World Konkani Conference (Texas, 2002), Soorya Festival, and Nishagandhi Festival. His performances span India, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Australia, Indonesia, the Middle East, Canada and the United States.

About Varijashree Venugopal

Bangalore-based and Grammy®-nominated singer-songwriter Varijashree Venugopal was recognised as a child prodigy who could identify 100 Carnatic ragas at just 18 months, and performing concerts since the age of four. She trained under her musician parents Vidwan H. S. Venugopal and Vidhushi T. V. Rama, as well as Vidhushi H. Geetha, Vidhushi Vasantha Srinivasan, Vidwan D. S. Srivatsa, and later Ganakalanidhi Vidwan Salem P. Sundaresan. Grounded in the intricacy and depth of Carnatic music, Varijashree is one of the pioneering artists known for applying the techniques, fundamentals, and the sound and soul of Indian singing within a global music context.

Apart from being a singer, Varijashree is also a flautist, composer, and music educator. Her unique vocal capabilities, improvisations, and application of Indian singing techniques to various music cultures have led to collaborations with leading global artists including Bobby McFerrin, Michael League, Snarky Puppy, Victor Wooten, Herbie Hancock, Béla Fleck, Hamilton de Holanda, Eddie Gomez, Anat Cohen, Jacob Collier, Praveen D Rao, C4 trio, Trio Bobo, Anoushka Shankar, and EYM trio, among others.

About B.C. Manjunath

B.C. Manjunath is a dynamic, acclaimed artist with outstanding credentials and an impressive record of national and international recognition. A recipient of several prestigious awards, he has performed on leading stages across India and abroad, collaborating with renowned artists from diverse genres.

A sensitive and versatile musician, Manjunath is well-versed in Indian classical music, world music, modern jazz, contemporary dance, contemporary classical music, konnakol-taketina, Indian fusion, and more. Proficient in reading, transcribing, and performing from western notation, he has worked closely with composers across traditions. A trained educator, he conducts workshops worldwide to consistent acclaim and has released recordings as an author and collaborator.

Marking India's 76th Republic Day, Manjunath was invited by the government and the Sangeet Natak Akademi to perform at the prestigious Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, in the presence of the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

(2hrs, no intermission)

Admission Age: 20 and above

Advisory:

- Participants will be seated on the floor.

\$50

Creative Process Workshop for Mid-Career Artists & Emerging Choreographers

Led by Lata Pada & Suma Suresh (Canada)

22 Nov 2025, Sat

10am

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



This workshop offers mid-career artists and emerging choreographers a rare and immersive exploration of the making of *Kintsugi*, a groundbreaking dance-theatre work fusing *bharatanatyam*, *kathak*, contemporary movement, mythology, text and music. Participants engage in guided, interactive exercises across ideation (including the use of AI), movement generation, storytelling, dramaturgy, and collaboration with writers and composers. The workshop examines concept development, co-creation, and structuring multidisciplinary work, while encouraging reflection on personal choreographic practice.

Through peer dialogue and hands-on tasks, artists gain tools for reimagining classical forms, integrating technology, and shaping cohesive, performance-ready material under the guidance of choreographers Lata Pada, Suma Suresh, and members of the *Kinstugi* dance ensemble.

About Sampradaya Dance Creations

Sampradaya Dance Creations (SDC) is an award-winning Canadian dance company known for its culturally rooted, interdisciplinary work and socially resonant storytelling. Founded in 1990 by internationally acclaimed *bharatanatyam* soloist, scholar, and educator Lata Pada C.M, the company has become a pioneering force in classical South Asian dance in Canada and beyond.

Specialising in classical and contemporary *bharatanatyam*, SDC—under new leadership of Artistic Director Suma Suresh—is committed to pursuing artistic excellence through captivating solo and ensemble works that blend traditional Indian dance with innovative artistry.

Through tours and festival performances in Canada and abroad, SDC shares *bharatanatyam* with their diverse audiences while uniting cultures through this classical dance form.

(2hrs, no intermission)

Admission Age: 20 and above

Advisory:

- Participants will be seated on the floor.

\$50

Indian Martial Arts Parent-child Workshop by Kalari Academy

23 Nov 2025, Sun

11am

Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Get ready for a unique way to spend family time with the Kalari Academy. Experience the joy of learning together at their *kalaripayattu* and *silambam* martial arts workshop, specially designed for both parents and kids.

In this fun-filled session, families learn, move and bond together while exploring the fundamentals of two ancient Indian martial arts. Discover the foundational movements of *kalaripayattu* and the dynamic stick-fighting techniques of *silambam* in a safe, guided environment.

This workshop promises to be a memorable journey for both parents and children, fostering discipline, coordination, and teamwork. It's a fantastic opportunity to stay active, try something new, and create lasting memories together.

About Kalari Academy

The Kalari Academy is a Singapore-based organisation founded in 2015 with the vision to make the Indian martial arts of *kalaripayattu*, *silambattam* and *adimurai* accessible to all who wish to learn. Our teaching philosophy blends traditional approaches with novel and contemporary styles, creating a dynamic way for our students to explore these ancient disciplines. In the 10 years since our founding, the Kalari Academy has grown leaps and bounds—training over 500 students while becoming a recognised martial arts school in Singapore.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Advisory:

- This workshop is recommended for children aged 6 to 12 years old. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Accompanying adult must be 16 years old and above.
- Patrons who arrive 15 minutes after the start of the workshop will not be admitted into the venue.

1 Adult + 1 Child: **\$40^**

2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children: **\$60^**

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

^Esplanade&Me Specials

PIP's Club: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Introduction to Spice-Mixing Workshop

by Jeya Spices

29 Nov 2025, Sat

11am

Esplanade White Room



Did you know that turmeric can combat the common cold, and the magnificent ginger torch can enhance your cold salads?

If you're ready to transform your culinary journey, join Jeya Spices for a tantalising workshop where you'll explore various spices and their remarkable properties.

Conducted by "Spiceman" J. Jeyaseelan, discover his arsenal of spice-mixing tools and techniques as you touch, feel, and perhaps even taste the spices—all while concocting unique blends of your own. Craft your very own chicken marinade as well as recreate one of his best-selling curry recipes!

About Jeya Spices

J. Jeyaseelan, fondly known as the Spiceman, is the third-generation owner of Jeya Spices. His flagship outlet in Yishun not only sells spices but also offers vegetables, dried fish and other groceries. Jeya frequently conducts workshops and classes to share his vast

knowledge on spices with others. His end goal? To ensure that every Singaporean, young and old, appreciates, understands, and embraces the beauty and benefits of spices.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

\$20^

^Esplanade&Me Specials

Black, White & Discover: 10% savings

Handicraft Tote Bag Parent-Child Workshop by Strokearts

30 Nov 2025, Sun

11am

Esplanade White Room



Discover the elegance of traditional Indian art in a hands-on workshop where you and your little ones can design your own *pichwai* tote bag! Rooted in the rich heritage of Nathdwara, *pichwai* is a 400-year-old style of painting known for its intricate motifs, vibrant colors, and devotional themes centered around Lord Krishna.

In this creative bonding session, participants learn to paint signature *pichwai* elements—such as lotus blooms—onto canvas tote bags. Guided by expert instruction, you will explore the techniques behind the art form while creating a beautiful, functional piece to take home.

Perfect for beginners and art enthusiasts alike, this workshop offers a relaxing and culturally enriching experience even kids can enjoy. All materials are provided, and no prior experience is needed—just bring your curiosity and love for art!

Each parent-child group can take up to three participants and will design one tote bag.

About Strokearts

Shivali Mathur is the founder and director of Strokearts, a leading art centre in Singapore with over 25 years of experience in art education. She offers customised programs for children and adults, specialising in painting, drawing, and traditional Indian folk art.

Her studio is known for its personalised approach and deep commitment to preserving India's rich artistic heritage. Through hands-on workshops and cultural courses, Shivali blends timeless techniques—such as *gond*, *warli*, *pichwai* and *madhubani*—with modern styles, inspiring students to grow creatively while connecting with tradition.

(1hr 30mins, no intermission)

Advisory:

- This workshop is recommended for children aged 6 to 12 years old. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. Accompanying adult must be 16 years old and above.
- Patrons who arrive 15 minutes after the start of the workshop will not be admitted into the venue.

1 Adult + 1 Child: **\$40^**

2 Adults + 1 Child or 1 Adult + 2 Children: **\$60^**

Tickets must be purchased as an adult-child package.

^Esplanade&Me Specials

PIP's Club: 10% savings (min. 2 tickets)

Information about the free programmes for *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts 2025* will be announced later.

Visit www.esplanade.com/kalaautsavam for updates.