

An Esplanade Co-production



**Chowk Productions**

**20 – 22 Feb 2026**

**Fri, 8pm | Sat, 3pm & 8pm | Sun, 3pm**

**Esplanade Theatre Studio**

# Casts and Dancers

## Abinaya Jothi

Abinaya is a graduate of the Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI), Singapore. Her practice integrates intercultural traditions with realism and devised theatre. Trained in disciplines ranging from Lecoq and Biomechanics to *Kutiyattam*, she focuses on emotionally grounded characters. Beyond performing, she is also engaged in directing projects and facilitates acting workshops.

## Anamika Suresh

Trained in *odissi* under Raka Maitra, Anamika's performance credits include *The Platform* at Esplanade and the Natarani Amphitheatre (Ahmedabad). Her versatile training spans *karanas*, *bharatanatyam*, *mohiniyattam*, and *carnatic* vocal music.

## Bharath Dingri

Bharath is a folk arts educator and graduate of Ninasam. He is the founder of Halgi Culture, an independent venture dedicated to the Tamate (folk percussion). His work explores Dalit aesthetics through song and performance. He was awarded Best Supporting Actor at the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) for his performance in *Daklakatha Devikavya*.

# Casts and Dancers

## Chandrashekhara K

Chandrashekhara is founding member of the Jangama Collective and holds a postgraduate degree from the Department of Performing Arts at Bangalore University. His artistic practice is defined by a deep commitment to social movements, particularly through his work with marginalised communities and sexual minorities. His cinematic career includes lead roles in Kannada films such as *Gavisiddha* and *Mahasampark*, while his directorial repertoire features innovative stage productions such as *Keri Haadu* and *Panchamapada*.

## Ching Ting

A graduate of the Purchase College Conservatory of Dance (New York), Ching Ting is a versatile practitioner whose work spans performance, education, and production. She has collaborated with renowned choreographers at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore) and in the USA, bringing an intercultural perspective to her practice. Since 2014, she has been a key collaborator with Ageless Theatre, contributing as a movement choreographer and stage manager. Dedicated to community arts, she also conducts specialised workshops for seniors, caregivers, and persons with dementia.

# Casts and Dancers

## Devika Prasad

Devika is an *odissi* dancer with a long-standing association with Chowk Productions. She began training in Indian classical dance at a young age, receiving formal grounding in *bharatanatyam*, *kathak*, and *kuchipudi* before focusing her practice in *odissi*. For over 13 years, she has trained and performed under Raka Maitra, appearing regularly in Chowk Productions' annual showcases, curated productions and public platforms, including Esplanade's *Kalaa Utsavam – Indian Festival of Arts*, and most recently in Chowk Productions Studio Series *I Am*.

## Faith Liu Yong Huay

Yong Huay is honoured to have worked on numerous theatre and dance productions in Singapore. In September 2017, she co-founded 微 Wei Collective with theatre practitioner Neo Hai Bin. Her work explores giving breath to spaces, objects and bodies with light. She trained in Lighting Design at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts in 2016, under the National Arts Council Arts Scholarship (Postgraduate).

## Gayathri Gopal

Gayathri has been a student of Raka Maitra since the formative years of Chowk Productions. She has contributed to acclaimed productions such as *You Cannot Look Away* and *The Platform*.

# Casts and Dancers

## Manish Godlin Pinto

Manish holds a Diploma in Theatre Education from the National School of Drama (TIE Wing), Tripura. His background includes a tenure with the Kalakul Theatre Repertory in Mangalore. A multi-disciplinary artist skilled in acting, lighting, and puppetry, he will continue his advanced training at the Intercultural Theatre Institute from 2025.

## Meera Gurumurthy

Meera has trained in *odissi* under Raka Maitra since 2006 and has been a key performer in Chowk Productions' repertoire, including *You Cannot Look Away*, *Pallavi Series* and *The Blind Age*. She also serves as a board member of Chowk Productions and presently is the acting Chairman.

## Mitu Das

Mitu began his dance training as a *gotipua* dancer at the age of five under his grandfather, Padmashree Guru Maguni Das. He has trained extensively in *odissi* and earned his bachelor's degree under Guru Sri Lingaraj Pradhan. He is also a trained *mardal* player. Mitu has performed across India and received several awards, including the Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Award.

# Casts and Dancers

## **Narasimharaju B K**

Narasimharaju is an accomplished theatre actor and master of the *areye (urume)*, a traditional percussion instrument he began playing at the age of six. He is the founder of the Jiguru Academy of Performing Arts and holds a Master's in Kannada Literature. His versatility spans traditional ceremonies to contemporary stages, including the dance piece *Yahi* (Singapore, 2021) and the award-winning play *Daklakatha Devikavya*, which has toured major festivals such as META (Delhi), ITFoK (Kerala), and Serendipity Arts Festival (Goa).

## **Sandhya Suresh**

Sandhya is a Singaporean dance artist with a BA in Dance Studies (LASALLE) and an MA in Contemporary Theatre Dance and Dramaturgy (Utrecht University). Over a decade with Chowk Productions under the mentorship of Raka Maitra, she has developed a distinctive voice that navigates the space between classical and contemporary forms. Now based between Athens and Singapore, she performs internationally, using movement as a tool for dialogue and empowerment.

# Casts and Dancers

## Saranjith

Saranjith, a graduate of the Intercultural Theatre Institute, Singapore, and an actor working across theatre and cinema. With an active theatre practice spanning over 19 years, he has collaborated with several theatre and dance companies in India and internationally, including Chowk Productions (Singapore), Indianostrum Theatre (India), Théâtre du Soleil (Paris), and Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (Singapore), as an actor, musician, and movement performer. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Acting.

## Sharanaya Ramanan

Sharanya trains in *odissi* under the guidance Raka Maitra at Chowk Productions and has participated in the company's annual showcases and training programmes, continuing to deepen her understanding of the dance form. She has also received training in *carnatic* vocal music.

# Scene Descriptions

## Scene 2: The Silent Burden of Love

This scene introduces us to Kali and Ponna, a couple whose 12-year marriage is marked by both deep desire and the painful shadow of childlessness. Ponna sees her "barren womb" reflected in the world around her, even in the beauty of a withering flower. While Kali is consumed by his physical longing for his wife, they are continually stifled by a lack of privacy and the mounting pressure of social expectations.

## Scene 4: The Chaos of the Festival

Set during the high-energy 18th day of the temple festival, this scene uses clowning and street theatre to explore the story's themes through humour and meta-commentary. Four clowns engage the "village folk" (the audience) with witty banter and wordplay about the deity Maadhorupaagan, the half-female, half-male form of Shiva.

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