

Co-presented by



PARADISE

OR THE IMPERMANENCE OF ICE CREAM

16 - 26 May 2024

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**Bloomberg
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PARADISE

OR THE IMPERMANENCE OF ICE CREAM

CREATIVE TEAM

Writers

Jacob Rajan
Justin Lewis

Dramaturge

Murray Edmond

Set Designer

John Verryt

Costume Designer

Elizabeth Whiting

Puppet Designer / Builder

Jon Coddington

Composer & Sound Designer

David Ward

Lighting Designer and Production Stage Manager

D. Andrew Potvin

Sound Operator

Adam Ogle

Projected Imagery Photographer / Editor

Bala Murali Shingade



From stories to possibilities

How can we fuel the dreams of artists?
We support STC to create greater
awareness and appreciation for the arts
amongst young minds and our community.

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the final show in our triple bill of one-person performances. We are delighted to present *Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream* starring the incomparable Jacob Rajan.

Our journey with Jacob and Justin Lewis, the creative minds behind New Zealand's Indian Ink Theatre Company, spans almost two decades. From our inaugural collaboration in 2006 with their production of *Krishnan's Dairy*, our partnership has flourished. *Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream* marks our fourth collaboration.

When we first conceived the idea of staging a first triple bill of one-person shows, Jacob was the first person we called. What you are about to witness will make it clear why.

As we immerse ourselves in his storytelling, we are reminded of the interconnectedness of human experiences - a theme that reverberates through each of the shows in our triple bill. Three phenomenal actors, each a master storyteller in their own right, have graced our stage, inviting us to ponder the questions that define our humanity and unite us in our shared journey.

Looking ahead in August, we will re-stage Ayad Akhtar's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Disgraced*. Originally presented eight years ago in the week Trump was elected, we are bringing it back because those issues remain as pertinent today.

Grounded, *TAHA*, *Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream*, and *Disgraced* are all powerful stories that provide a platform for dialogue and introspection, fostering connections and understanding in a world often divided by difference. If you cherish meaningful theatre that challenges and inspires, we invite you to consider joining us as a Friend of STC. Your support enables us to continue staging vital works that provoke thought and ignite conversation.

Enjoy!

GAURAV KRIPALANI

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

When I met my wife, she was an actor, but in recent years she has also become a director – a funeral director. Consequently, death has become a part of my daily life although often I really, really, really don't want to think about it. Then I discovered Ernest Becker's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Denial of Death*, where he argues that that the fear of death drives our culture, and the idea for this show was born.

The play really found its form when Jacob and I were in Mumbai. There we discovered a cosmopolitan city buzzing with life, whose skies were once filled with thousands of vultures but were now empty. I viewed vultures as brutishly ugly harbingers of death. What I discovered was a creature whose most repulsive features are entirely functional, that does humanity an incredible service by cleansing the environment and in flight is one of the most magnificent birds on earth.

We hung our story loosely on the Persian epic *Gilgamesh*. It's a tale of friendship. A hero who journeys to the underworld seeking eternal life and finds happiness only by accepting their mortality. Perhaps the things we fear most can set us free – like the vulture.

Nobody noticed the disappearance of India's vultures until it was too late. It's the fastest extinction of all time. In *Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream*, we aim to celebrate the passion of youth and the wisdom that comes with age, to imagine peace found through acceptance and to speak of the need for action.

JUSTIN LEWIS

SYNOPSIS

Kutisar is dead, and lost between paradise and hell. A cantankerous vulture keeps harassing him, and a lover from his past holds the key to his salvation. On an existential post-mortem journey to correct mistakes of his past, Kutisar joins the feisty Meera on a madcap quest to save the critically endangered vultures that play a vital role in Parsi sky burials.

This glorious production is inspired by Ernest Becker's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Denial of Death*, and the vibrant, life-filled chaos of India's most cosmopolitan city, Mumbai.



CAST

Jacob Rajan



CREATIVE

Jacob Rajan *Writer / Actor*

Jacob is a founding partner of Indian Ink and co-wrote all of Indian Ink's plays as well as performing in many of them. He is a graduate of Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama school, Otago University (B.Sc Microbiology) and Wellington Teacher's College. Jacob is an Arts Foundation Laureate and a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to theatre.

Justin Lewis *Writer / Director*

Justin is a founding partner of Indian Ink. He has co-written and directed all of Indian Ink's plays. He was one of the founders of Auckland's Q Theatre and received a Kaupapa Oranga Award for his services to theatre. Justin is a graduate of the John Bolton Theatre School and the University of Auckland.

Murray Edmond *Dramaturge*

Murray has been dramaturge on all of Indian Ink's productions. A poet and founder of Town and Country Players (NZ), Murray has recently retired from his role as Professor of Drama at The University of Auckland where he headed the drama programme.

John Verryt *Set Designer*

John has worked on all of Indian Ink's productions bar one. With over 40 years' experience, John is a leading New Zealand stage designer with an extensive portfolio of work including productions from NZ Opera, Auckland Theatre Company, The Large Group and many others.

Elizabeth Whiting *Costume Designer*

Elizabeth, a Chapman Tripp Costume Design Award winner, has represented New Zealand twice at the Prague Design Quadrennial. Her opera designs have seen global success in the US and Australia. She has designed for almost every performing arts company in New Zealand, including World of Wearable Arts since 2012.

CREATIVE

Jon Coddington Puppet Designer / Builder / Puppeteer

Jon is a theatre designer and collaborator, illustrator, animator and sculptor, but has been primarily working as a puppeteer and puppet-maker for the past ten years. Highlights include hit show *Puppet Fiction* (2012-18), selling out everywhere it has performed.

David Ward Composer & Sound Designer

David is a musician and composer who has enjoyed a long creative collaboration with Indian Ink. In 2010 and 2014 he was awarded "Most Outstanding Composer" at the Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards for *The Guru of Chai* and *Kiss the Fish*.

D. Andrew Potvin Lighting Designer and Production Stage Manager

Andrew has been working with Indian Ink since 2015, touring domestically and internationally. He is the Director of Andrew Potvin Designs Ltd which specialises in tour management, business development and lighting design.

Adam Ogle Sound Operator

Adam Ogle is a guitarist, multi-instrumentalist and composer. He received the Frank Winter Memorial Award for his outstanding contribution as a young instrumentalist. For Indian Ink, Adam has toured around New Zealand with *The Elephant Thief*, and internationally with *The Elephant Wrestler* and *Krishnan's Dairy*.

Bala Murali Shingade Projected Imagery Photographer / Editor

Bala Murali is a writer, filmmaker and videographer based in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. He is also an inaugural Arts Foundation Springboard recipient.

THE TEAM

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Noor Hidayat Norzizan

STAGE TECHNICIAN

Derrick Wong

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PRODUCTION

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Nadya Adriana

THE TEAM

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PRODUCTION MANAGER

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STAGE MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE

Keidyn Lee

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

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THE **STC** GROUP



Founded in 1993, **Singapore Theatre Company (STC)**, formerly Singapore Repertory Theatre, is one of the leading English-language theatres in Asia. STC's mission is to enrich, engage and entertain audiences by staging theatrical productions of the highest calibre, collaborating with the best talent in the world.



The Little Company is a professional theatre company producing quality plays for children. The plays are staged for children aged 3 and up.



The Young Company is a two-year actor training programme for 16 to 25 year-olds. Up to twenty young people are selected from open auditions to form the core of the company and receive practical theatre training. In addition, the **Inclusive Young Company** was formed for 16 to 35 year-olds who identify as persons with disabilities.



STC's **Centre for Creative Learning** programme is committed to bringing meaningful and relevant programmes to students, teachers and emerging theatre talents.



Home of



Located along the Singapore River at Robertson Quay, this state-of-the-art 380-seat theatre is a hub for the performing arts.

For more information on any STC production, please contact us at:

KC ARTS CENTRE – HOME OF STC

20 Merbau Road, Robertson Quay, Singapore 239035

office@singaporetheatrecompany.sg | singaporetheatrecompany.sg



SingaporeTheatreCompany

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT **STC**

STC has made Singapore
laugh, cry, cheer and sing for

30
YEARS
WITH OVER
200
PRODUCTIONS

LEA SALONGA

MING-NA WEN

ETHAN
HAWKE

SIR IAN
MCKELLEN

NANCY KWAN
SHABANA AZMI

KIT CHAN

...are just a few of the international stars
who have performed for STC

TO DATE, STC HAS SOLD OVER

1,510,000
TICKETS

**SHAKESPEARE
IN THE PARK**

11 PRODUCTIONS
300,000
AUDIENCE MEMBERS

OFFERS DIRECT EMPLOYMENT TO ALMOST

300 PEOPLE
A YEAR

663,458
CHILDREN
TEACHERS & PARENTS
**HAVE ATTENDED
TLC SHOWS**

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Anonymous
Anonymous
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Tiffany Li Fen Lim
Todd & Sazlina Kimpton
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Antonio Castellano
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Lee Xueling
Lena Ng
Lim Chee Wen, Terence
Luke Bradshaw
Lum Wen Yan, Emlyn
Martin Bahr
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Neo Chin Wee, David
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Patodia Yashvardhan
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Prashanth
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“

The company's contribution to arts and culture in Singapore cannot be underestimated - it has helped to make Singapore a cultural hub in SE Asia

”

- Nithia Devan (Friend of STC)

“ Our nation would be soul-less
without an appreciation of arts and culture. ”

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

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*Apologies to our new Friends whose names may have been
inadvertently left out of our Friends list during print time.*



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Singapore Theatre Company (STC), formerly Singapore Repertory Theatre, just celebrated its 30th anniversary. STC is one of the leading English language theatre producers and presenters in Asia, known for its diverse repertoire that includes musicals, critically acclaimed plays, and innovative educational programmes.



**SCAN TO BECOME
A FRIEND NOW.**

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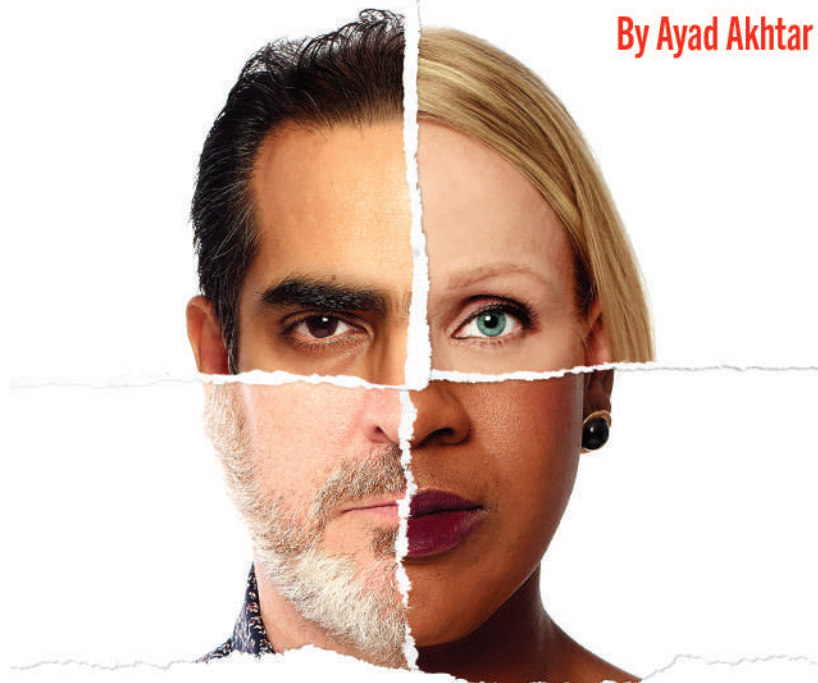
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DISGRACED

By Ayad Akhtar



FROM 13 AUG 2024

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