

DANCEHOUSE D/

PERFORMED IN ASSOCIATION WITH
MELBOURNE FRINGE 2023

Production Information & Specifications



TOUCH

By Deepa Mani and Sheena Chundee

2nd - 4th October 2023

<https://www.dancehouse.com.au/whats-on/touch-deepa-mani-sheena-chundee/>

TAGLINE

Through the mediums of Ballet and Bharathanatyam, TOUCH narrates tales of isolation, prejudice, inclusivity, and solidarity, sharing the personal stories of the performers.

ABOUT THE WORK

TOUCH delves into the personal narratives of two dancers addressing issues of bias, racism, and isolation. Interweaving Ballet and Bharathanatyam, it advocates for the beauty that emerges when society takes the time to comprehend and connect with one another.

By showcasing the contrast between art forms, TOUCH underscores the variations in cultures and beliefs. Through dance, the work illustrates how individuals can honor their roots, express their unique identities, and enlighten others. Through dance and music, TOUCH proudly celebrates individuals of all backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives, establishing an environment where everyone feels valued, respected, and empowered.

Credited Performers & Collaborators

Sheena Chundee – Producer, Choreographer, Performer

Deepa Mani – Producer, Choreographer, Performer

Jasmine Lim – Performer

Rohan Dasika – Musician

Bhairavi Raman – Musician

Nanthesh Sivarajah - Musician

Responses

Include any links to reviews, media, or prizes.

[The Age](#)

[Broadsheet](#)

[Indian Link](#)

[Glowreel](#)

<https://rebelstepzarts.com/touch/>

https://youtu.be/Lwo_bX7SUCI

Documentation

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18PDz4J75W3pMisDZ0YEn0w2gz-y0KzU7?usp=drive_link

ARTIST/ PRODUCER CONTACT

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rebelstepzarts.com

<https://www.chandralaya.com.au/>

<https://www.instagram.com/rebelstepz/>

<https://www.instagram.com/chandralayadance/>

Assets

Warren Knowler – Photographer

<https://volarephotography.com.au/>

Acknowledgements

Australian Cultural Fund

Bhumi Organics

Priya Srinivasan

Ashley Dyer

Stephanie Lake

Warnings

This performance contains racial themes and pulse lighting.

Bios

Sheena Chundee

Producer, Choreographer, Performer

Sheena's background is robust, having undergone full-time training at The Royal Ballet School, completing her education at both the Lower and Upper Schools, guided by Dame Merle Park and later, former Australian Ballet School Director Gailene Stock.

Throughout her training, Sheena had the privilege of mentorship from esteemed figures such as Leslie Collier, Fiona Chadwick, Carlos Acosta, Jay Jolley, Rosalind Eyre, Christopher Saunders, and Sir Peter Wright.

Sheena seamlessly transitioned into the company and during this time, Sheena had the fortune of performing and choreographing alongside notable peers including Darcey Bussell, Viviana Durante, and Adam Cooper, all under the direction of Sir Anthony Dowell.

Sheena proceeded to engage in seasonal performances with renowned companies including Northern Ballet Theatre, The English National

Ballet, The Australian Ballet, and Netherlands Dance Theatre. During this period, Sheena undertook a variety of roles spanning classical, neoclassical, and contemporary genres which she created both as a dancer and choreographer.

In 2009 Sheena moved to Melbourne where she founded Rebel Stepz Arts, an innovative arts organization which implements creative arts and wellbeing programs into schools, community organizations and corporate companies. Sheena has created a platform which supports and showcases diverse artists who specialize in various facets of the arts such as dance, stage craft, costume and set design, music, acting and production.

Sheena currently maintains her work as a facilitator, choreographer, dancer and director, working with organizations such as Regional Arts Victoria, Headspace, Monash, Charles Sturt and Melbourne University, BMW, ANZ, and Alfred Health.

Deepa Mani

Producer, Choreographer, Performer

Deepa P Mani, a seasoned Performing and Teaching artist with over 30 years of expertise in both Indian Classical Bharatanatyam and Contemporary styles, serves as the Artistic Director of Chandralaya School of Dance. Beyond her accomplished career in dance, Deepa is a respected figure in the arts community, advocating for the power of traditional dance to connect people with their heritage and inner creativity. Her practice spans full dance recitals, dance dramas, and collaborative creations with other art forms, driven by a passion for storytelling that conveys meaningful messages. Having lived and danced in India, the United States, and now Australia, Deepa forges communities through her belief in dance as a pathway to wellbeing.

In addition to her role as Artistic Director, Deepa is a Teaching Artist at prestigious institutions such as the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Regional Arts Victoria, and The Song Room. She has received mentorship from renowned artists globally, including luminaries like Dr. Chandrabhanu OAM, Dr. Priya Srinivasan, Stephanie Lake, Tehreema Mitha, and Dr. Janaki Rangarajan. Deepa's cross-cultural engagements include notable commissions with organisations such as Song Room, Regional Arts Victoria (RAV), Punctum Inc, and her recognition as the recipient of the Emerging Choreographers Program (ECP) 2022 at Dance House.

Beyond her contributions to the arts, Deepa has served on the Executive Board of the Not-for-Profit Creative Women's Circle, fostering connections and development for women in diverse industries. Additionally, she provides business mentoring for young women and girls. Deepa brings indefatigable energy, creative spark, and a strong work ethic to every project she undertakes."

Jasmine Lim

Performer

Jasmine has worked and trained in Perth, Singapore, and Melbourne.

Jasmine began her training in Brunel Darussalam and performed with the company 2017.

Jasmine moved to Melbourne in 2019 continuing her training at the National Theatre. She was awarded the 'Most Outstanding Individual Performance' award from the school. Jasmine works towards contributing to the thoughtful exploration of dance and art.

Rohan Dasika

Musician

Rohan was appointed a member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra double bass section, having previously served as a contract Assistant Principal. He has also worked on contract as Assistant Principal in the Frankfurter Opern-und-

Museumsorchestra, while an association with leading classical accordionist James Crabb has brought engagements at many of Australia's chamber music festivals. Passionate about the music of his time, Rohan is a regular guest with ELISION, and has performed with the orchestras of the Lucerne Festival Academy and Lucerne Festival Alumni. After being awarded the Freedman Classical Fellowship in 2019, Rohan began taking his first steps towards bringing the South Indian side of his heritage into his music. He has since performed alongside members of Melbourne's Carnatic music community in the Sangam Festival and presented a concert at Monash University as part of the 2022 Indian Performing Arts Convention.

Bhairavi Raman
Musician

Bhairavi Raman is a skilled Indian-Australian violinist. Extensively trained in both Western Classical and Carnatic music, she blends concepts and techniques from both styles when she plays. She holds an A.Mus.Ain violin awarded by the AMEB, and has pursued advanced training in Carnatic Music in India for the past 15 years. Her gurus are Sri Murali Kumar (Aus.), Sri Gopinath Iyer (Aus.) and Sri S Varadarajan (India). Bhairavi has been performing for music and dance productions for over a decade, with over 400 performances to her name, including at prestigious venues like the Madras Music Academy and the Melbourne Recital Centre. Collaboration is at the heart of Bhairavi's creative work-she has produced acclaimed projects in close partnership with local and international artists across disciplines including poetry, spoken word, movement, dance and theatre. She has also completed arts leadership programs with the Australian Art Orchestra and Footscray Community Arts Centre.

Nanthesh Sivarajah
Musician

Nanthesh Sivarajah is a multidisciplinary artist based in Melbourne, Australia. Nanthesh is passionate about combining his broad artistic skillset to produce unique works. He is a percussionist, trained in both South Indian Classical (Carnatic) and Western forms, and proficient in several instruments including the Mridangam, Kanjira, Ghatam, Morsing, Drumkit and several other percussion instruments. He has two decades of performance experience across Australia and abroad and has played with seasoned artistes at some of South India's oldest and most prestigious venues.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Include a short blurb about the work and how it works. Be sure to include things like duration, format or structure. Is the work performed outside? In sessions? Does it have audience participation? Targeted to a particular audience demographic? Anything important for presenters to know that would be important to know.

- Running Time: Approx 50 mins no interval
- Performed inside only
- 1 session per day/night
- Structure: An amalgamation of speaking and dancing acts which blend seamlessly from one act to another
- No audience participation involved
- Demographic: Attracts people of all ethnicities and is suitable for ages 7+
- No props required

Touring Party

Sheena Chundee - Melbourne
Deepa Mani - Melbourne
Jasmine Lim - Melbourne

Staging

List your minimum stage dimensions. Remember to include height if applicable.

Flooring, curtains, seating configuration, natural light/ outdoor etc.

Detail any set or staging pieces you may use including their dimensions and if you require these to be sourced by the presenter (ie flats, tables, chairs - anything you use on stage in your performance)

Lighting

Standard rig is required.
One section requires pulsing of lights
Focuses or spots are required

Audio-Visual

Music can be supplied as wav or MP3 files and is all pre-recorded. Standard set up required.

Special FX

N/A

Consumables

N/A

Presenter Provides ...

- Dance floor (black tarket)
- Dressing room
- Black curtains (back and sides)
- Lighting and operator
- Sound engineer
- Front of House Staff
- Body Mics

Artist Provides ...

- Costumes

N.B This piece does not require anything else from the artists.