



divya kasturi company

To Varnam...with love

Thursday 24 November, 7.30pm

artsdepot

Divya Kasturi unpacks the **Varnam**, a centrepiece of a Bharatanatyam repertoire using 'Mo hamaana' - The *Bhairavi Varnam* - as the touchstone of the work. It is a story of love and devotion – to a god, a myth, and a way of moving and being. Interweaving personal, artistic lineage with nostalgia and reverence for tradition and classicism, Divya attempts a creative offering that is bold, fresh and critical. The 'Dance of the breath' and the 'processional dance' are of special significance in *To Varnam..with love*. She presents a new reality to incarnate the spirit of the text that exists when Word, Sound & Image occur simultaneously. Using humour, dolls, singing, spoken words, music and dance from both South Asian and Western traditions, Divya leads us into multiple worlds of shared memories through time and space with her engaging and intimate style of performance.

Acknowledgements: inspired by Saskia Kersenboom's book *Word, Sound, Image* and Chitra Sundaram's full length work *Moham* (2003).

English Transliteration and meaning of the Tamil Text composed by Ponniah Pillai (1804) Source: *Word, Sound, Image* by Saskia Kersenboom.

Performance Duration: 55 mins

Pallavi

Mohamaana en meethil ni intha velaiyil

Infatuated me-in You this moment-in

Modi seiyyalaamo en saami metta

Indifference making-possible-not- my Lord much!!

-isn't it?

Anupallavi

Nakarikamanatiru nakaril vaasare

Elegant holy town-in living one!!

Bhoga Tyagesa anubhogam seiyya vaa kitta

Delight Tyagesha !! Experience-of-

-delight making come close

Charanam

Maaran Kanaigal thoovuraan saramariyaai

Lord of Love Arrows sprinkling incessantly



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Production Credits

Choreographer & Performer: Divya Kasturi
Music Composer and Video Design: John-Marc Gowans
Mentor, Physical movement Director, Dramaturge: Chitra Sundaram
Theatrical Consultant: Emily Gray
Creative & Dramaturgical Support: Chris Fogg
Chitravina and Indian Carnatic musician and composer: Chitravina P. Ganesh Indian
Percussion: N Ramakrishnan & team
Additional Video design content through collaboration with *Collusion* as part of Studio Wayne McGregor's QuestLab project with support from DanceEast

Lighting Designer: Ric Mountjoy
Relighting : Claire Childs
Costume Designer: Aarika (by Ashwini Viswanathan)
Dolls Design and creation: Premalatha Aravindan,
Producer: Kyla Booth-Lucking, Clearcut
Tour Booking and Producer support : Madeleine Wilson

Thank you to Saskia Kersenboom, Mark Down (Blind Summit), Smt.Nandini Ramani, Prof. Raghuraman, Mavin Khoo, Devie Neithiyar, Anita Srivastava, Nithiya

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Divya would like to dedicate this performance to her late Grandparents - Sri. T R Rajagopalan & Smt. Padmavalli Rajagopalan.

About Divya Kasturi

Divya Kasturi is a multifaceted dance practitioner with more than three decades of performing experience. She is trained in two South Asian dance styles of Bharatanatyam and Kathak. She is also trained in Western contemporary dance and has studied choreography modules at Masters level. Divya Kasturi is also a classical vocalist. She has worked with Sir Paul McCartney and Nitin Sawhney in the UK. She has also lent vocals for various albums and films in India. Divya Kasturi's work has been seen all over the world including in New York, Sydney, Paris, and Mumbai. She has performed in Theatre de Complicite's acclaimed production *A Disappearing Number* which was broadcast through NT live series worldwide in cinemas. She has also worked in Indian television media spanning a portfolio of tasks including program anchoring, conceptualising, directing and presenting a dance learning series for kids. She has also performed for the BBC. She is currently a QuestLab artist with Studio Wayne McGregor and has recently been commissioned for choreography and teaching work at Trinity Laban and London Contemporary Dance School respectively. She holds an MA in South Asian Dance Practice as Research (PaR) from Roehampton University and set the record for creating the first virtual masters dissertation in South Asian Dance PaR.

www.divyakasturi.com

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