

#DARWINFESTIVAL

TRACKS DANCE COMPANY

GLOBAL POSITIONING

DANCE Northern Territory

📍 Smith Street Mall,
Cnr Smith St & Bennett St



Sun 18 & Mon 19 Aug 7pm
Thu 22 - Sat 24 Aug 7pm



SORONG SAMARAI

MUSIC Australia/Papua New
Guinea/West Papua

📍 The Lighthouse



Sun 25 Aug 8.45pm

Photo:
Carlo One Rebel Creative



BUY TICKETS

darwinfestival.org.au

INDIAN INK THEATRE COMPANY GURU OF CHAI

📍 Studio Theatre,
Darwin Entertainment Centre
Thu 22 – Sun 25 Aug

**DARWIN
FESTIVAL**



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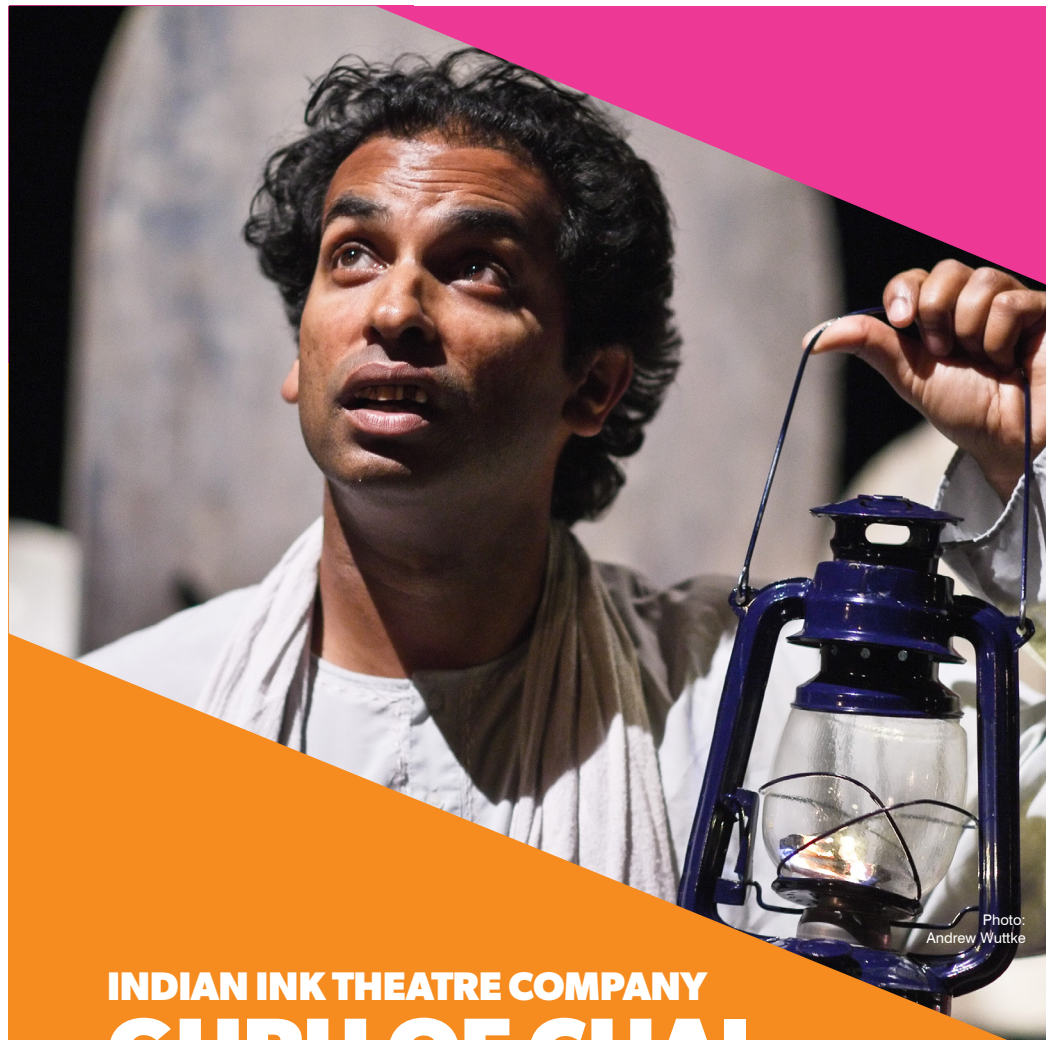


Photo:
Andrew Wuttke

GURU OF CHAI

by Justin Lewis and Jacob Rajan

For almost two decades Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis have pursued their idea of the 'Serious Laugh' - opening mouths with laughter in order to slip something serious in. Together with a team of long-term collaborators they have created an extraordinary series of plays that have won awards and delighted audiences throughout New Zealand and around the world.

The company's international successes include tours throughout Australia and the USA, as well as sell out seasons in Singapore, Germany, India and the UK. Indian Ink's excellence has been recognised with a number of awards including: Production of the Year (3x), Best Play (2x), Best Actor (4x), Best Composer (2x) and two Fringe Firsts from Edinburgh.

"We aim to make theatre that is beautiful, funny, sad and true. We go to the theatre to be transported by a great story and to enjoy characters who live large in our imaginations. We want the experience to leave an indelible imprint on your hearts. That's why we're called Indian Ink!"

CREATORS' NOTES

We met Nyoman Sukerta in Bali. He was a master mask dancer and shadow puppeteer, and inspiration for our Guru. A squat little man who moved with astonishing grace and fluidity; always smiling, always laughing, a weakness for beer and cockfighting, steeped in the traditions and nuances of shadow puppetry and mask, yet desperate to have a Facebook page. Gently worried about his growing paunch, his ambition toward wealth and status were at odds with his desire to go fishing at every opportunity. Indulged his children, exasperated his long-suffering wife – the man literally danced into our lives, and onto the pages of this play as a fully formed character. Sadly, Nyoman died in 2014 but we hope his spirit lives on in this play.

In Bali we experienced the arts as part of daily life; alive in all sorts of contexts, needing only the simplest of technologies yet displaying incredible sophistication of form. And of course the island and the people inspired us. The world of the street carts and hawkers where ancient and modern collide, informed the world of our Guru.

The challenge given to David Ward, our composer, was the one we wrestled with ourselves. How to convey multiple locations, the chaos and complexity of contemporary India and a story that spans decades? He must have got something right. David's efforts earned him Composer of the Year in the 2010 Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards. That same night, Jacob picked up Actor of the Year and the show scooped NZ Play of the Year.

Such a fairy tale reception seems fitting for a play, itself, inspired by the Indian fairy tale *Punchkin*. This story got under our skin with its rich cast of characters and complex morality but its sprawling narrative held us at bay for some time. The breakthrough came when Murray Edmond encouraged us to set the story in modern India. We focused on just a part of that original story and suddenly we found we had a romantic thriller.

CREDITS

Director, Writer Justin Lewis
Writer, Actor Jacob Rajan
Dramaturge Murray Edmond
Technical Manager, Lighting Designer Cathy Knowsley
Composer David Ward
Musician Adam Ogle
General Manager Jude Froude
Producer Rosalyn Lesurf Olnier
Office Manager Angela Hicks
Social Media Coordinator Sehej Khurana

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our Patrons. For 21 years Indian Ink has been making world-class theatre. We're driven by our love of the art and sustained by a group of Patrons who are passionate about live performance. The engagement of our Patrons enables us to create new work and perform throughout New Zealand and around the world and we love them for it!

THANKS TO

Rachel Nash, Maisie and Polly Lewis, Philippa Woods, Isaac, Nina and Dominic Rajan, Susheela Rajan.

 creative *nz*
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