



INDIAN INK THEATRE COMPANY

PARADISE

OR THE IMPERMANENCE OF

ICE CREAM

THEATRE



📍 Studio Theatre, Darwin Entertainment Centre

Thu 22 Aug & Fri 23 Aug	7pm
Sat 24 Aug	2pm & 7pm
Sun 25 Aug	2pm

Duration	1hr 10mins
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NOTE

Suitable for ages 12+
Contains flashing lights and strobe effects
Latecomers not admitted.

DARWIN
FESTIVAL
8-25 AUGUST 2024

indian
ink
theatre company

Darwin Festival Acknowledgement:

Darwin Festival takes place on what has always been Larrakia land. We wish to pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of this Country and to their ancestors. As the Festival welcomes contemporary artists and art from Australia and around the world, we also celebrate the continuing culture of the Larrakia people.

Scroll through to read more about this performance of Paradise or the Impermanence of Ice Cream.

Enjoy the show!

CONTENTS

<u>A Note From Jacob Rajan</u>	3
<u>A Note From Justin Lewis</u>	5
<u>Indian Ink Theatre Company</u>	7
<u>Credits</u>	9

A NOTE FROM JACOB RAJAN

Justin and I went to Mumbai around the beginning of 2019 to work on a completely different project and stumbled on the Towers of Silence. Set amongst some of the most expensive real estate in the world is a vast green area with these forbidden Towers.

We became fascinated with this idea of a sky burial where you lay the bodies out, you don't burn them, you don't bury them, you leave them out for the vultures. That then took us into the Parsi faith, and all of this caught up with us when we came home.

As a playwright I'm led by my curiosity. I'm curious about things I don't know about and then I research them and write about them as if I do. Which, of course, I don't. Not really.

If you haven't heard of the Parsi community then you're not alone but I can almost guarantee that you've been influenced by at least one. Parsis have made an enormous contribution to India and the world. In politics, industry, medicine, finance, science, music, art and theatre this ethnic group has been extraordinarily influential out of all proportion to their numbers.

The eclectic bunch of Parsis portrayed in this play are entirely fictional and I hope cause no offense to a people I hold in extremely high regard.

If you're reading this and happen to be Parsi I cling to one generalisation about your kin I dearly wish to be true: they have a great sense of humour.

Jacob Rajan, Writer & Performer

A NOTE FROM JUSTIN LEWIS

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 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, who 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 but 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," 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, Writer & Director

INDIAN INK THEATRE COMPANY

We're guided by the 'Serious Laugh,' a love of mask and of story. We aim to make theatre that is beautiful, funny, sad and true – to leave an indelible imprint on your heart.

Indian Ink began 27 years ago as a partnership between Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis. Since then we've gathered a team of long-term collaborators, made 11 shows together and had the great pleasure of performing around the world.

Our home is Aotearoa New Zealand and it's a long way from our islands to India. We've always had to use our imaginations and be led by our curiosity with the theatre we make so please forgive the artistic licenses we take. We hope to capture something of the essence of what makes us all human while celebrating the flavours that make each of us unique.



CREDITS

Director Justin Lewis

Writers Jacob Rajan & Justin Lewis

Performers Jacob Rajan & Jon Coddington

Puppet Designer & Builder Jon Coddington

Production Manager & Lighting Designer
D. Andrew Potvin

Sound Operator Adam Ogle

Dramaturge Murray Edmond

Set Designer John Verryt

Costume Designer Elizabeth Whiting

Composer David Ward

Projected Imagery Bala Murali Shingade

DARWIN FESTIVAL

Darwin Festival is the centre piece of what makes August in Darwin the best time of year. Loved by locals and adored by visitors, this tropical winter festival invites you to experience the very best in Northern Territory, Australian and international arts and culture. It is full of magical moments that we hope will stay with you for years to come.

DARWIN FESTIVAL 2024
RUNS 8 – 25 AUGUST

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