



INDIAN INK THEATRE COMPANY
MRS. KRISHNAN'S PARTY

by Justin Lewis and Jacob Rajan
Thursday–Saturday, January 18–20, 2024, at 7:30pm
Studio Theatre

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING THIS PERFORMANCE

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PROGRAM

INDIAN INK THEATRE COMPANY
MRS. KRISHNAN'S PARTY

by Justin Lewis and Jacob Rajan

YOU'RE INVITED!

STEP INTO THE BACK ROOM OF MRS KRISHNAN'S STORE, WHERE GARLANDS DECORATE THE CEILING AND MUSIC FLOWS AT A PARTY THAT HAS THE CRITICS RAVING AND AUDIENCES LEAPING TO THEIR FEET.

Everyone loves a good party: endless laughter, catching up with friends, dancing on tables. But what if you don't know anyone and feel self-conscious about your dancing? What if you're not feeling a box of birds? Do you stay home or fake it till you make it? How do you set yourself free? Onam is such a great celebration because it shows there is more to happiness than just a smile, that to know joy you must also feel sorrow, without death there can be no rebirth. Maybe a party can change your life; you may meet someone who gives you the courage to set yourself free or shows you the resilience required to be truly happy. Thanks for coming out tonight.

—Justin Lewis

For the uninitiated, *Krishnan's Dairy* was the name of our very first play. A love story set in a corner shop, the power of which caught everyone by surprise—including us. That shop has kept its doors open for 20 years, touring the length and breadth

of New Zealand and throughout the world, becoming as loved and cherished as a child. The story you're taking part in tonight is somewhat of a sequel, but don't worry, you don't have to have seen *Krishnan's Dairy* to enjoy the party. All you need is here, in the strangers that surround you and the imagination that abounds within and the wonder of what's going to happen next. That moment of not knowing, of being lost and confused, excited and a little scared, is really what tonight is about: change. Something has to die in order for something to be renewed. It's a tough lesson but a constant, existing at every stage of life and extremely present for us in a world that seems to be spinning ever faster. Rather than bemoan how hard it is to come to grips with all this shifting sand, we want to celebrate the new castles we will build from it. Party on!

—Jacob Rajan

This performance will be presented without an intermission.

indian
ink
theatre company

MRS. KRISHNAN'S PARTY

WRITERS

Justin Lewis
Jacob Rajan

DIRECTOR

Justin Lewis

DRAMATURG

Murray Edmond

SET AND PROPS DESIGNER

John Verryt

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jane Hakaraia

COSTUME DESIGN

Fiona Nichols

SOUND DESIGN

Liam Kelly

ACTORS

Kalyani Nagarajan
Justin Rogers

PRODUCTION & TOUR MANAGER

D. Andrew Potvin

MRS. KRISHNAN'S PEPPER DHAL

RECIPE

(Serves 10)

500g pink lentils
1 litre of boiling water
3 chopped tomatoes or half a tin
2 Tbs of rice bran oil
1 small onion chopped
2 gloves of garlic
1 dried red chilli
1 tsp cumin seeds
1 tsp turmeric
1 tsp garam masala
2 tsp salt (or to taste)
1 tsp white pepper

METHOD

Put lentils, tomatoes, and bruised whole cloves of garlic into a large pot of boiling water and simmer till lentils are soft (15–20mins). Stir occasionally to stop from burning.

Five minutes before lentils are ready, heat oil in a frying pan and add onions and sauté till translucent. Add all the spices except white pepper and salt to the onions and stir for a minute.

Tip the onion spice mixture into the pot of lentils and simmer for five minutes. Add salt and white pepper.

For added deliciousness add a dash of white vinegar and a big knob of butter right at the end and sprinkle with chopped fresh coriander. Yum!



PROFILES

Kalyani Nagarajan

Actor

This is Kalyani's second role with Indian Ink, following 2017's *The Pickle King*. Kalyani has worked extensively on stage with Auckland Theatre Company, Auckland Live, and improv troupes Snort and Heartthrobs. She has numerous television credits, is currently writing her first feature film and developing a television show. Kalyani is a graduate of Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School.

Justin Rogers

Actor

Justin also features in Indian Ink's latest production, *Dirty Work*. Other stage credits include *Emilie* and *Beauty and the Beast*. His screen work includes *Meet Me at the Baptistery* as well as voicing for Disney NZ in *The Lion King Reo Māori* and *Coco Reo Māori*. Justin is a graduate of Toi Whakaari: New Zealand Drama School.

Jacob Rajan

Writer

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: New Zealand Drama school, Otago University (B.Sc Microbiology), and Wellington Teachers' 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 and 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

Dramaturg

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

D. Andrew Potvin

Production & Tour Manager

Andrew has worked with Indian Ink in production and design roles on four touring productions, starting in 2015. A graduate of CalArts (BFA) and Auckland University of Technology (MFA), his company Andrew Potvin Designs Ltd specializes in tour management, ticketing, business development, and theatrical design services.

John Verryt

Set and Props Designer

John has worked on all of Indian Ink's productions. With over 30 years' experience, John is a leading New Zealand stage designer with an extensive portfolio of work, including New Zealand Opera, Auckland Theatre Company, The Large Group, and many others.

Jane Hakaraia

Lighting Designer

This is Jane's third production with Indian Ink, following *Welcome to the Murder House* and *The Elephant Thief*. Jane holds a degree in product design but her passion is lighting for theatre.

Fiona Nichols*Costume Design*

This is Fiona's second production for Indian Ink, after her work on *The Pickle King*. She works mainly in film and television, with credits including *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* and *Revenge of the Sith*, and *Spartacus*.

Liam Kelly*Sound Design*

This is Liam's first production with Indian Ink. He won an award for "Most Innovative Work" at the 2018 Wellington Fringe Festival and is part of Playshop, a late night improv group. Liam recently completed his Master of Fine Arts in creative practice at Victoria University.

INDIAN INK THEATRE COMPANY

The artistic partnership of Jacob Rajan and Justin Lewis is now comfortably in its second decade. Inspired by a love of mask and story they continue to pursue their idea of the "Serious Laugh"—opening mouths with laughter to slip serious ideas in. With a series of remarkable productions of intimate scale that blend western theatrical traditions with eastern flavors, they have become one of New Zealand's most successful theatre companies. They aim to leave an indelible imprint on your heart; that's why they're called Indian Ink.

Indian Ink is represented by David Lieberman Artists' Representatives.

info@dlartists.com

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them.

This acknowledgment and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.



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Where Creativity Ignites Passion

Krannert Center is committed to providing an inclusive space where students, community members, visiting artists, and friends can gather for enriching performances and cultural experiences. The support of our donors and friends enables the Center to produce creative programming that ignites a passion for the arts that is invaluable.

Together, we can ensure that students and the greater community continue to have access to transformative performing arts experiences.

Please consider making a gift to Krannert Center today. With your help, we can sustain the high level of excellence you have come to expect, while strengthening the lasting impact of the Center's work.

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Would you like to make Krannert Center part of your legacy?

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Krannert Center's dedication to the celebration, exploration, and cross-pollination of the arts is advanced through these special programs. Donors who champion such work make it possible for more people in our community to participate in life-affirming experiences.

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This passionate group of arts advocates assists Krannert Center staff in expanding the Center's leadership and financial resources.

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2023-2024 KRANNERT CENTER YOUTH SERIES

The Youth Series features daytime performances, online media created by performing artists, and educational activities designed especially for pre-K through high-school-aged students.

Children who participate learn to appreciate the performing arts, gain knowledge, build social skills, and integrate live performance experiences into classroom work. Thank you to our Youth Series sponsors. If you'd like to learn how you can become a sponsor for the Krannert Center Youth Series, please contact Krannert Center Advancement at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

Ann H. Bender Youth Series Endowment

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2023-2024 CAMPAIGN FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Through the Campaign for Young Audiences, students at the U of I enjoy \$10 tickets for nearly every event presented at Krannert Center while other college students and children receive significant discounts. If you'd like to learn how you can become a sponsor, please contact Krannert Center Advancement at 217.333.6700 or advancement@krannertcenter.illinois.edu.

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The University of Illinois, the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Krannert Center are profoundly grateful for the commitment of Krannert Society members. Through donations, pledges, and residual gifts of \$1 million or more, these open-hearted visionaries help build a thriving community and encourage cross-cultural understanding. Their support sustains the extraordinary vision of Herman and Ellnora Krannert to create a vibrant gathering place like no other.



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G. WILLIAM ARENDS (1914-1997)
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JAMES FARMER (1931-2020)
April 2014

FOELLINGER SOCIETY

Demonstrating their steadfast dedication to the arts, members of the Foellinger Society have donated or pledged \$500,000 to \$999,999. Because of their generosity, everyone in this community can unite in joyful and engaging experiences. These magnanimous arts lovers celebrate the spirit of Helene Foellinger, whose memorial gift honored her sister, Loretta Foellinger Teeple, and established the Marquee Performance Endowment.



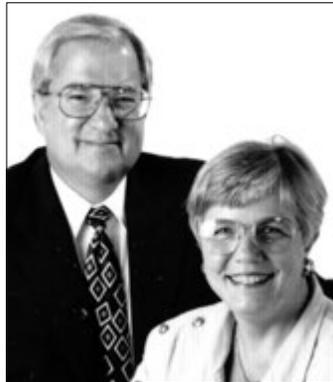
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(1946-2022)
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University of Illinois President Emeritus and First Lady Stan and Judy Ikenberry have long demonstrated their love for the arts and their deep commitment to enhancing learning experiences for all University of Illinois students. Krannert Center gratefully acknowledges their steadfast support by introducing the Ikenberry Society to recognize donated gifts or pledges of \$250,000 to \$499,999.



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Dr. John B. Colwell, Pauline Groves Colwell, and R. Forrest Colwell provided critical funding for the Marquee Performance Endowment, and the Colwell Society gratefully acknowledges their invaluable assistance. Members have donated or pledged \$100,000 to \$249,999 for celebrating, preserving, and exploring the arts right here and around the globe.



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EMILY GILLESPIE
(1909-2000)
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(1905-1999)
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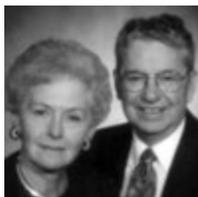
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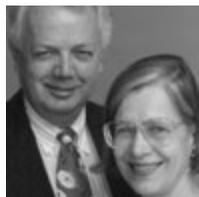
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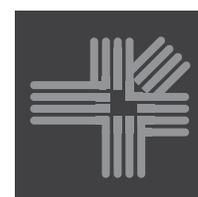


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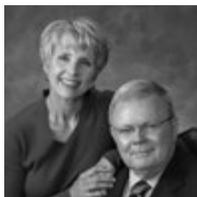


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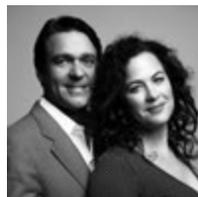
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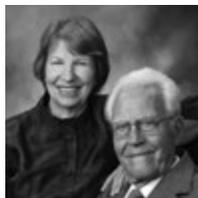
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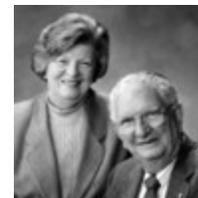
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THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Student Sustainability Committee provided funding for the Krannert Center Audiences Lighting Retrofit Project, which continues to increase energy efficiency, decrease labor requirements, and improve safety conditions.



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The George A. Miller Endowment Programs Committee supports CultureTalk and other special collaborative projects.

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Alec LaBau, Associate Audio Director/
Video Director

Costume Shop

Andrea Bouck, Costume Director
Richard Gregg, Costume Rentals Director/
Wardrobe Adviser/Associate Costume
Director

Paige Stewart-Rankins, Hair & Makeup
Supervisor
Julianna Steitz, First Hand
April McKinnis, EB McTigue,
Cutters/Drapers
Kari Little-McKinney, Theatrical Stitcher

Lighting Department

Lisa Kidd, Lighting Director
David Krupla, Associate Lighting Director
Nick Jukes, Theatrical Lighting
Coordinator

Properties Department

Adriane Binky Donley, Properties Director
Kira Lyon, Assistant Properties Director

Scene Shop

Ryan Schultz, Technical Director
Tatsuya Ito, Associate Technical Director
Bill Kephart, Scene Shop Chief Clerk
Bobby Reynolds, Theatrical Scene Shop
Coordinator
Liam Romano, Kayley Woolums, Theatrical
Scene Shop Assistants

PERFORMING ARTS BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER

Debbie Delaney, Stacey Elliott, Shelly
Thomas-Eichorn, Accounting Staff

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

PHONES AND DEVICES

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

ACCESSIBILITY

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email:

Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎! 如若您对您的造访需要帮助, 请发送电子邮件至:

स्वागत हे! अगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는 ...
에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU
217.333.9716

TH JAN 25 AT 7:30PM

 krannert center

MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER AND SHAWN COLVIN





COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE DIFFERENT.



U of I students, come on in. In whatever clothes, whatever state of mind, from whatever world of experience, you are welcome here. We don't have a dress code, we don't have an opinion code, and we want the Center to be your kind of place. Because of the vital support of Krannert Center donors and the Krannert Center U of I student fee, U of I students never pay more than \$10 for a ticket, and dozens of events each year are completely free.

Your presence helps to make Krannert Center a place like nowhere else—and what you can experience here makes your education like nobody else's. If you are inspired by what you find here, invite others to join you.

When you come to Krannert Center, we promise that you'll leave different: refreshed, reaffirmed, renewed!





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