

Third Nature

World Premiere

by Raina Peterson
& Govind Pillai

31 January – 2 February

Presented by Arts House and Midsumma Festival



Warning: Nudity and
sexual references

artshouse.com.au

Artist Credits

Raina Peterson

Dancer, choreographer, director,
set designer

Govind Pillai

Dancer, choreographer, director,
set designer

Artist Statement

Third Nature was born from personal recollections of shame around our bodies, genders and sexualities. We imagine what it might be like to have never experienced shame, to live in a world that reflects our beauty back at us, to experience our bodies and the world as sites of wonder, curiosity, pleasure and play.

We draw inspiration from jasmine flowers, which are used in South Asian culture to decorate women's hair and marriage beds, carrying associations of femininity and sexuality. We use the motif of jasmine to explore gender and create the landscape of a fantastical world with no binaries and no shame.

In Third Nature we use classical Indian dance and South Asian aesthetics to explore people's ability to create worlds and create themselves.



Raina Peterson and Govind Pillai

Raina Peterson and Govind Pillai (In Plain Sanskrit, Bent Bollywood) started working together purely out of a sense of delight at having found a fellow classical Indian dancer who's also queer. They began performing at festivals around Australia and overseas, performing classical duets and solos as well as experimental works which helped them to develop their craft, before producing a couple of critically-acclaimed full-length works. Raina (they/them) is trained in mohiniyattam (classical dance of Kerala) with a background in queer performance art, kathakali (classical theatre) and kalaripayattu (martial arts), and will be shortly opening a yoga school for queers and people of colour.

Govind (he/him) is trained in bharatanatyam (classical dance of Tamil Nadu), runs one of the biggest bharatanatyam schools in Melbourne and is proud of having taken classical Indian dance to the Sydney Opera House. Raina and Govind became known for their strong stage chemistry, which they kind of leaned into and are now known for being a little bit slutty. Their work explores diaspora, gender and sexuality and draws inspiration from Indian cinema, queer performance art, and Hindu text and iconography, while attempting to subvert the false dichotomies of "traditional" vs "contemporary", "old" vs "new". Their upcoming work is Red Tips, a classical Indian dance show premiering at Footscray Community Arts Centre in November, 2019.

Upcoming at Arts House

Dance Massive 12 – 24 March

Australia's biggest festival of contemporary dance

Featuring

Lucy Guerin Inc
Marrugeku
Force Majeure
Antony Hamilton Projects
Melanie Lane
Luke George and Collaborators
Paul White and Narelle Benjamin
Madeleine Krenek and Frankie Snowdon

Paea Leach and Alexandra Harrison
Joel Bray
Karul Projects
Alice Will Caroline
DubaiKungkaMiyalk
Jo Lloyd

Spectral 11 – 18 April

Exhibitions and shows exploring light and sound

Featuring

Robin Fox
Jannah Quill
Hanna Chetwin

Kusum Normoyle
Meagan Streader

Acknowledgement of Country

Arts House acknowledges the traditional land upon which we are located, of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nation; and we pay our respects to Elders both past and present, and, through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Information

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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