

Kin

**By Isha Sharvani
& Collaborators**



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About the work

Kin is a true story about one family's connection through music and dance, and explores the passing on of tradition and its transformation across generations.

Performed by a family of artists, mother Daksha Sheth, father Dev Issaro, daughter Isha Sharvani, son Tao Issaro and grandson Luca Issaro, the cast of **Kin** create a completely unique experience that weaves the fabric of family seamlessly together with commanding artistry and fiery musicality. Be prepared to be transported from Indian temples and villages to abstract realms with kaleidoscopic visuals as you journey through time, to the heart of what it means to be **Kin**.

Rooted in the ancient Indian dance tradition of Kathak and the yogic rope tradition of Mallakhamb, **Kin** integrates these art forms with contemporary western dance-theatre in a story that explores themes of family, multiculturalism, belonging and kinship. This collaborative work forms a link between the traditional and the contemporary, pushing both forms forward and intertwining the history and culture of the cast's Indian and Australian heritage.

Audiences were wowed by their experience of **Kin**, frequently describing it as mesmerising, powerful, beautiful and moving. The responses were glowing, the audience rated the works impact, appreciation and captivation on an average of 9.2/10.

Kin is a family friendly experience for all cultures, ages and walks of life. The combination of dance, theatre, stunning aerial acts and live music ranging from traditional Indian instruments to rock and roll percussion, **Kin** has something for everyone and will leave you feeling transported.

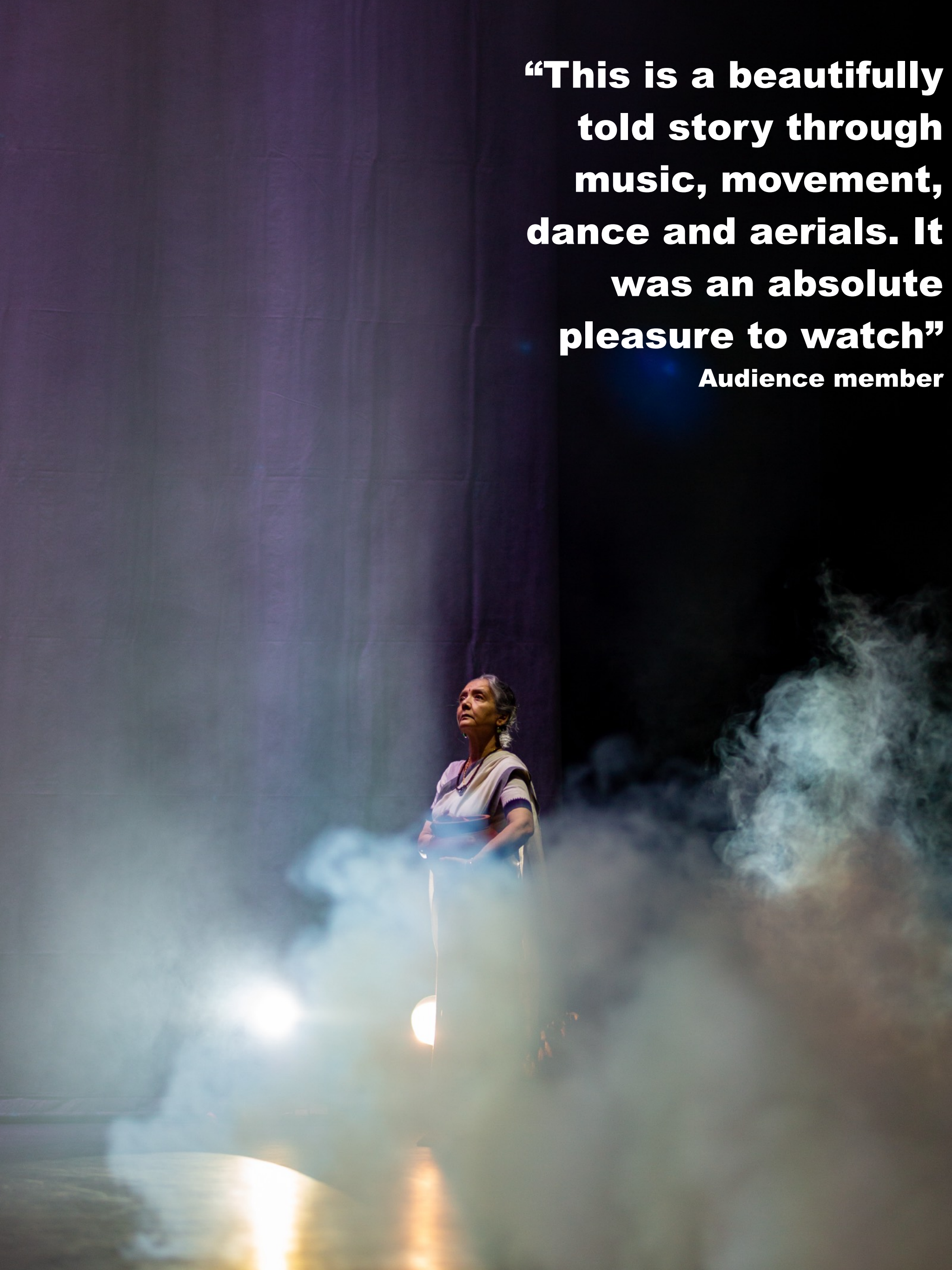
The premier season was staged at the Queens Park Theatre in Geraldton on the main stage to an almost sold out house and gained media attention from both ABC Geraldton and featured a 2 page article in the Geraldton Post. The performance also boasted a community dance performance mentored by the **Kin** artists as a curtain raiser. Community and cultural exchange are at the core of this work and we strive to make meaningful impact in this way in each engagement and performance.

All images in this document are courtesy of Jessica Russell



**“This is a beautifully
told story through
music, movement,
dance and aerals. It
was an absolute
pleasure to watch”**

Audience member



Marketing information

Billing

Kin
by Isha Sharvani & Collaborators

Tagline

A true story of one family’s connection to culture, lineage, music and dance.

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Kin is a true story about one families connection to culture, music and dance. Performed by a family of artists, mother Daksha Sheth, father Dev Issaro, daughter Isha Sharvani, son Tao Issaro and grandson Luca Issaro, create a completely unique experience that weaves the fabric of family seamlessly together with commanding artistry and fiery musicality. Be prepared to be transported from Indian temples and villages to abstract realms with kaleidoscopic images as you journey through time, to the heart of what it means to be Kin.

Images

[Production images](#)

Video

[Full length](#)

[Promo reel \(90 secs\)](#)

Creative Team

Concept, Choreography, Performer
Isha Sharvani

Choreographer, Performer
Russell Thorpe

Composer, Performer
Tao Issaro

Choreographer, Performer, Cultural Advisor
Daksha Sheth

Stage and Lighting Design
Dev Issaro

Costume Design
Rhiana Katz and Mitchell Green

Dramaturg
Jay Emmanuel

Creative Contributors
Claudia Alessi, Sally Richardson, Ramesh Ram, Emma J Mayer

Duration
55 minutes, no interval



**“It was truly
mesmerising and
inspiring, with
powerful meaning
and gorgeous
execution”**

Audience member



Audience experience

Target audience

In addition to holding a strong appeal for dance lovers, **Kin** represents people of CaLD communities and appeals to audiences who might not have attended dance/circus before. This multi generational work is made for audiences of all ages.

Daksha Sheth highlights the beauty, and venerability of a performer in her senior years, going beyond barriers of age and letting her maturity and wisdom shine through. Isha and Russell who are in their prime, dance and fly with the vigour of youth while Luca who is 8 brings a playful authenticity to the work, that creates a real presence of the cycle of life.

The show is a treat for music lovers, with live music played by composer Tao Issaro, amalgamating sacred chanting and instruments like Santoor, singing bowls, and percussion with contemporary soundscapes.

“What I feel is very powerful is at this time to make a piece that is about connection, community, family and how this work reflects the cycle of life”
Sally Richardson (Mentor)

Engagement opportunities

Public programming including artist talks pre/post performance can be arranged to give insight into the creation of **Kin**.

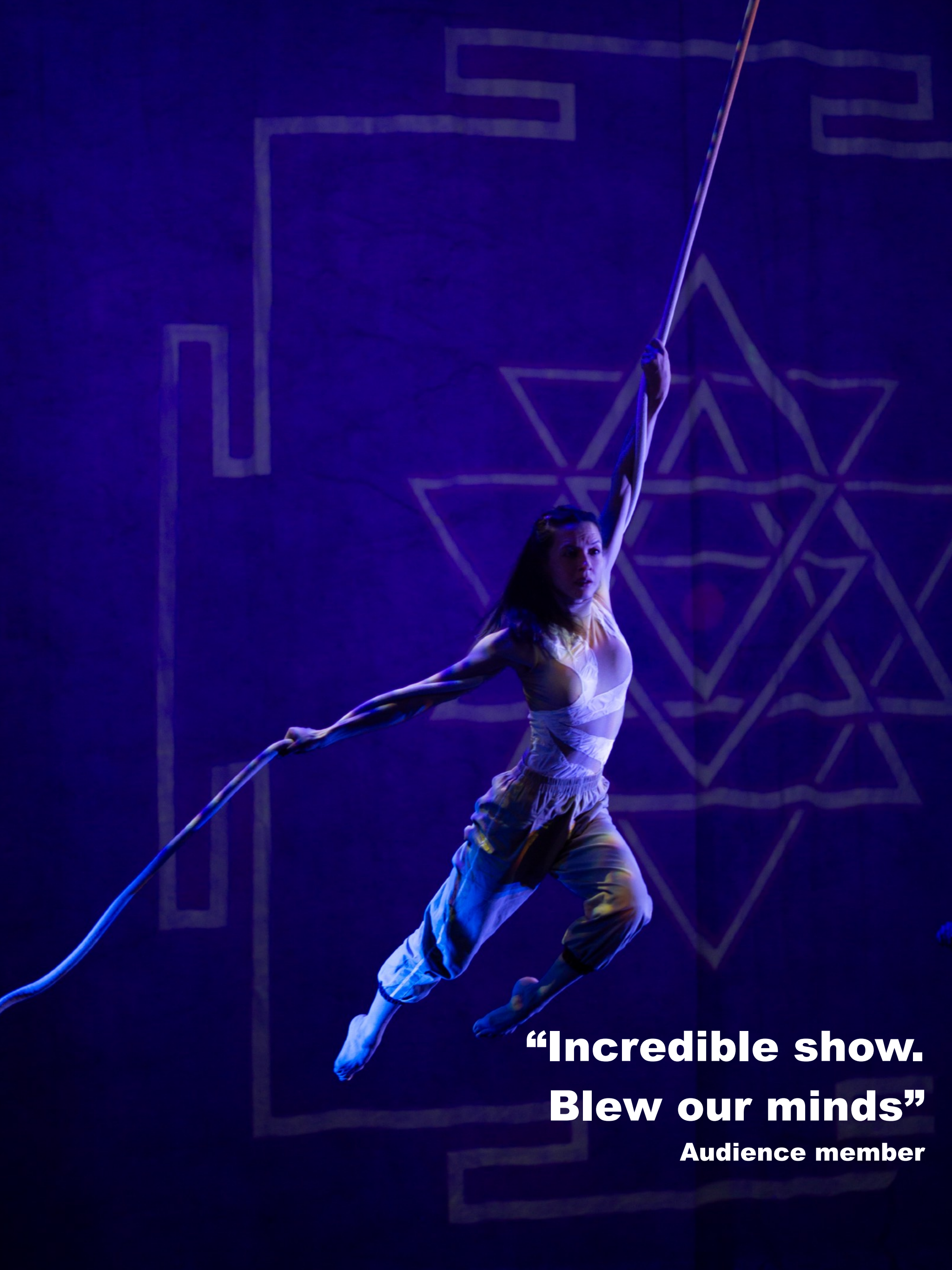
We are excited to come to your community and in consultation with Elders and partners to deliver a range of community engagements tailored to various experience levels and interests within each community.

The artists of **Kin** have a rich history of regional and international community engagement practices that range from First Nations cultural consultation, First Nation cultural protocols, Indian-Australian cultural exchange, community workshops and skills development, aerial workshops, contemporary dance workshops, youth education and schools workshops, introduction into Indian rhythmic patterns and instruments. All designed for various skill levels and abilities.

Accessibility

We are eager to work with presenters to help provide tailored access services to their audiences needs.





**“Incredible show.
Blew our minds”**

Audience member

Creative team biographies

Isha Sharvani

Isha Sharvani is an Indian-born Australian contemporary dancer, who has been performing professionally since the age of 13. Isha's work is strongly rooted in Indian traditional dance & spiritual disciplines, which she has adapted into contemporary dance, circus & visceral ways of storytelling, bringing to light a unique and completely original cross-cultural art form.

As the principal dancer of The Daksha Sheth Dance Company for over two decades, Isha has performed in thirty countries engaging in over 3000 live shows to date for over 2 million live audience members. Isha is a leading lady in Bollywood and south Indian films, acting in 13 feature films, including Bollywood hit movies like "Luck by Chance" alongside actors like the late Irfan Khan, Kajol, Farhan Akhtar and Hritik Roshan. Her movies have reached an estimated 20 million viewers.

Russell Thorpe

An alumni of the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Russell joined the Perth based contemporary dance company Co3 as a founding dancer in 2015. During his time with Co3, Russell performed works by Raewyn Hill, Larissa McGowan, Gavin Webber, Garry Stewart and Antony Hamilton. In 2021 Russell performed in a re-staging of Hofesh Shechter's "Uprising & the bAD" for the Perth International Arts Festival. He has also performed in Mitch Harvey's "Circa:Us:Now", "Archives of Humanity" by Raewyn Hill and Annette Carmichael's "The Beauty Index" and "The Stars Descend".

Tao Issaro

Tao Issaro is an Indian/Australian multi-instrumentalist, composer, sound designer and performance maker based in Western Australia. Born in India and raised in the artistic tribe of the Daksha Sheth Dance Company, Tao has developed over the years a unique and dynamic live performance language combining percussion, movement, physical theatre and story telling. A percussion graduate of WAAPA, Tao has composed, produced and performed music for notable groups such as Tura New Music (Australia), Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company (Australia), Casa Dela India and Residui Teatro (Spain). He has performed at venues like Royal Albert hall (UK), John F Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts (USA), Woodford Folk Festival (Australia) and the Perth International Arts Festival.

Daksha Sheth

Daksha Sheth is the Director of The Daksha Sheth Dance Company. The company, considered one of the most dynamic and visionary contemporary dance companies in India, was started in 1986 by Daksha Sheth and her Australian husband, composer and director Dev Issaro.

The Daksha Sheth Dance Company has performed over 3,000 shows across 25 countries and has been featured in numerous International Festivals in Europe, Asia, America and Australia. These include the Holland Dance Festival, Perth International Arts Festival, Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts (Washington DC), Place Theatre (London), Hamburg Summer Theatre Festival, Alchemy Festival at Southbank Centre (London), Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Images of Asia Festival (Copenhagen), Asia in Helsinki Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, House of World Cultures (Berlin), to name a few. In 2010 Daksha was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for her contribution to contemporary dance in India.

Dev Issaro

Born in Australia but residing in India for over 30 years, Devissaro has collaborated as co-Artistic Director as well as Visual and Musical Director in all of Daksha Sheth's experimental dance productions since 1986. As Visual Director, Devissaro has overseen the areas of conceptualisation, stage design, photography and lighting design for all the productions of the Daksha Sheth Dance Company.

Devissaro has also composed, produced and performed music for the DSDC's landmark productions, as well as composing and directing music for the male vocal Asima Ensemble, and for theatre productions including the world premier of Girish Karnad's "The Fire and The Rain" directed by Arjun Sajnani (Bangalore, India 1998), and the Tim Supple directed production of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream", presented at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-Upon-Avon (2006), that subsequently toured the UK, USA, Canada and Australia, notching up more than 300 international performances.



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**

