

KIN

BY ISHA SHARVANI & COLLABORATORS



About **KiN**

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. In this immersive 60-minute performance, audiences are transported from Indian temples and villages to abstract realms, journeying through time to the heart of what it means to be kin: connected by blood, tradition, and love. The work asks profound questions accessible to all ages: What do we inherit from our families? What do we choose to carry forward? How do ancient traditions stay alive in a changing world?

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. Performed by a family of artists, mother Daksha Sheth, father Dev Issaro, daughter Isha Sharvani, son Tao Issaro, and grandson Luca Issaro, and partner of Isha,

Russell Thorpe, the cast of **KiN** create a completely unique experience that weaves the fabric of family seamlessly together with commanding artistry and fiery musicality. 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.

KiN recently headlined a performance at 64th Natya Ballet Festival (New Delhi) and the Pravaha Dance Festival (Mumbai). 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. In May/June 2026, **KiN** embarks on a West Australian regional tour to Nala Bardip Mia (Margaret River), Albany Entertainment Centre (Albany) and for a return season at Queens Park Theatre (Geraldton).

This work is suitable for children & families, young adults, general adults, and CALD communities.

Images in this document are courtesy of Jessica Russell, Adarsh Prathap and Rakib Erick



KiN Creative Collective

Biographies

Isha Sharvani

Isha Sharvani (APAM pitch presenter / Co-director/ choreographer / performer) is an Indian born Australian multi-disciplinary stage artist with over 25 years of experience based in Perth. Isha's work is strongly rooted in Indian traditional dances & 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 principal dancer for the Daksha Sheth Dance Company Isha has performed over 3000 performances in 30 countries, in over 25 international arts festivals. These include: Holland Dance Festival, Perth International Arts Festival (2013/2019/2020), Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts, Alchemy festival at the Southbank Centre (London 2013) and Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

In 2005 she was launched by famous Bollywood Director Subhash Ghai as the lead actress in "Kisna" which was premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. This opened the doors to a new medium of performance that has led to seven Bollywood films and three South Indian movies in the capacity of lead actress. These include Bollywood hit movies like "Luck by Chance" available to view on Netflix.

Since permanently moving to Perth, Western Australia in 2015, Isha has collaborated with "Legs on the Wall" and performed in Perth festival premieres "Wistleblower" and "Kwangakan" with The Last Great Hunt and Ochre Dance Company respectively. Isha has worked with Annette Carmichael, STRUT Dance and was performer/creator in contemporary circus show "She is Strong" that toured regionally across WA in 2023. Her latest work, an Indo-Australian collaboration called **KiN**, was premiered at Queens Park Theatre Geraldton (2024) and is now touring with upcoming seasons in India and Western Australia (2025/26). <https://www.ishasharvani.co/>

Russell Thorpe

Russell Thorpe (Co-director / choreographer / performer) is an independent artist, choreographer, educator, and performer based in Boorloo/Perth. A 2013 graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, he was a founding dancer with The Western Australian Contemporary Dance Company Co3 (2015–2023), touring Australia and collaborating with renowned choreographers including Raewyn Hill, Gavin Webber, Chrissie Parrot AO, Larissa McGowan, Antony Hamilton, Garry Stewart, and Douglas Wright. Russell has also worked with Barking Gecko Theatre Company, STRUT Dance WA, Lewis Major Projects, Mitch Harvey Company, Daksha Sheth Dance Company (India), Hofesh Shechter ("Uprising" & "tHE bAD"), and most recently Annette Carmichael Projects' *The Stars Descend*—a five-location performance along 1000 km of South Western Australia, created with artists, Elders, scientists, and communities to celebrate the region's extraordinary biodiversity.

Daksha Sheth

Daksha Sheth (Director of Dance Company / cultural advisor / choreographer/ performer) is a trailblazing contemporary choreographer and founder of the Daksha Sheth Dance Company (1986), one of India's most acclaimed dance ensembles. Trained in Kathak and Chhau, she has created a bold, contemporary

Indian dance language that fuses tradition with innovation, drawing on martial arts like Kalaripayattu, Silambam, and Mallakhamb to shape both choreography and dancer training. Her company has performed over 3,000 shows across 25 countries, appearing at major international festivals including Perth International Arts Festival, Edinburgh Fringe, Kennedy Center, Holland Dance Festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, and the Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival. Celebrated for athletic precision, theatrical imagination, and cross-cultural fusion, Daksha's work pushes boundaries while mentoring the next generation of dancers. In 2010, she was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, India's highest recognition for performing arts.

Tao Issaro

Tao Issaro Mott (composer / sound design / percussion / performer) is an Indian/Australian multi-instrumentalist, composer, sound designer and performance maker based in Boorloo, WA. As a performer Tao has worked with artists and groups like Daksha Sheth Dance Company, Isha Sharvani, Lucky Oceans, Praashekh Borkar, Tab Family, Tchegea and Kutle Khan, and at international venues like Royal Albert Hall (UK), John F Kennedy Centre for Performing Arts (USA), and the Perth International Arts Festival. As a composer/sound designer in Australia Tao has worked for Encounter Theatre, Monkey Brain Theatre, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, Tura New Music and Ochre Contemporary Dance Company to name a few. Tao was nominated for 2 PAWA 2024 awards for outstanding composition and sound design for his work on Encounter Theatre's *Beneath The Music*. Tao currently is working with Sensorium Theatre providing bespoke sensory theatrical experiences for neuro-diverse children in schools across Perth. Tao also works as Captain Starlight at the Perth Children's Hospital, providing a playful and creative environment, supporting sick kids cope with the uncertainty and worry of hospitals and treatments. <https://www.facebook.com/tao.issaro>

Dev Issaro

Born in Australia but residing in India for over 30 years, Dev Issaro 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.

Incursion activities

As part of the **KiN** touring program, Russell Thorpe and Tao Issaro are available to deliver hands-on workshops in regional schools and community venues or coordinate with the performance venue to deliver workshops targeted to students in Year 3-6 at no additional cost to your school.

Through a blend of music, movement and discussion activities, workshops deepen students' engagement with the arts, helping to connect students to their bodies and each other through music, movement and self-reflection on themes of family and intergenerational learning. Tailored to your school, each workshop will run for 1 period, approximately 45-50 minutes, and in a day, we could potentially run up to four sessions.

Workshop structure

- Music segment led by Tao, this includes percussion and vocal exercises. Tao leads the group through call-and-response clapping patterns, body percussion, and simple vocal exercises drawn from the rhythmic traditions heard in **KiN**. No prior musical experience is required.
- Dance and movement segment led by Russell, this includes a safe warm-up which includes stretching and conditioning catered to the age of the students engaging, as well as movement games that spark the imagination, develop a mind-body connection in a fun, improvised setting
- Discussion or reflection segment: workshop closes with a facilitated group conversation connecting the workshop experience back to the themes of **KiN**. Sample discussion and reflection questions

Sample discussion and reflection questions

Family, identity and belonging

- How big is your family? Who do you consider family — is it only the people you live with, or does it include others?
- What have you learnt from your grandparents? Is there something a grandparent, parent, or older relative has taught you — a skill, a story, a recipe, a song? How did they pass it on to you?
- If your family came from another country or culture, what traditions have been kept alive? What has changed or been left behind?
- **KiN** is performed by a real family. Do you think that changes how it feels to watch? Why or why not?

Music, movement and art

- How do you like to express yourself? Is this your first experience of dance & music? Would you like more exposure to Art?
- In the workshop we used our bodies and voices to communicate without words. Was there a moment where you felt understood, or understood someone else, without speaking?
- Had you experienced Indian classical dance or percussion before today? What surprised you about it?
- The performers in **KiN** have trained for many years. Is there something you practise that takes a long time to get good at? What keeps you going?

Curriculum Links

Our **KiN** incursion workshops align with multiple Australian Curriculum learning areas:

Learning Area	Curriculum Connection	Year Levels
The Arts — Dance	<i>Exploring dance as cultural expression; choreographic intent; use of space, time and dynamics in movement</i>	3–6
The Arts — Music	<i>Live traditional percussion; composition and improvisation; cross-cultural musical traditions</i>	3–6
The Arts — Drama / Theatre	<i>Physical theatre and storytelling; devised performance; cultural narratives on stage</i>	3–6
Humanities — History & Geography	<i>Indian cultural heritage; migration and diaspora; Indo-Australian connections</i>	3–6
English / Literacy	<i>Narrative structure; oral storytelling; exploring themes of identity and belonging</i>	3–6
Intercultural Understanding	<i>Cross-cultural appreciation; diversity and inclusion; CALD perspectives</i>	3–6
Personal & Social Capability	<i>Empathy, identity, family, and intergenerational relationships</i>	3–6

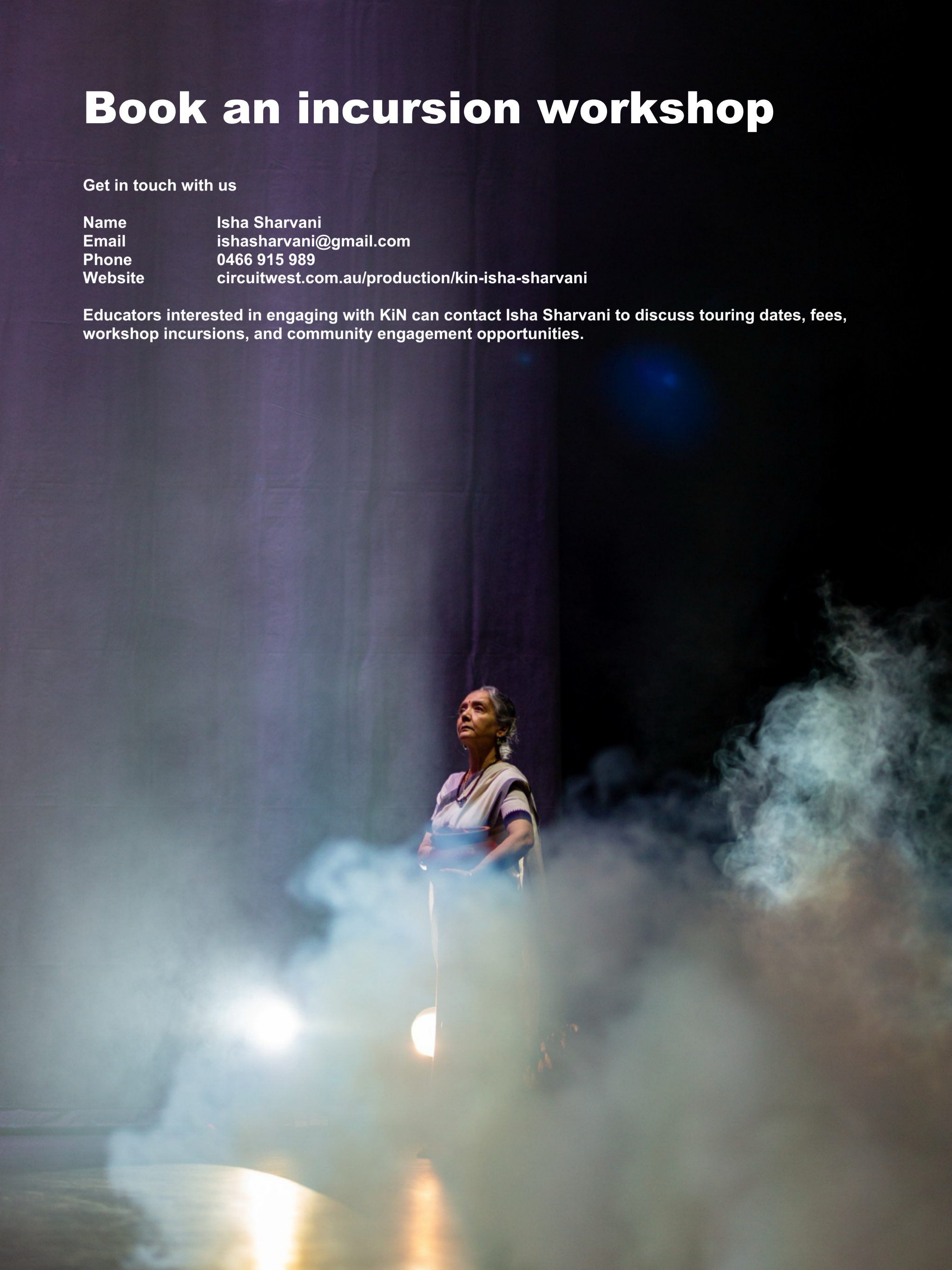


Book an incursion workshop

Get in touch with us

Name	Isha Sharvani
Email	ishasharvani@gmail.com
Phone	0466 915 989
Website	circuitwest.com.au/production/kin-isha-sharvani

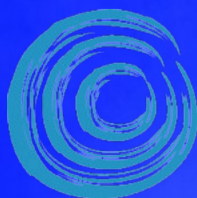
Educators interested in engaging with KiN can contact Isha Sharvani to discuss touring dates, fees, workshop incursions, and community engagement opportunities.



KiN



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