

EXORCISM

**DIRECTED BY
MARLON ARIYASINGHE**



Exorcism is a theatrical performance that incorporates elements of Sri Lankan folklore, colonial history, and migrant condition to explore decolonization and repatriation. Set in a contemporary U.S. museum exhibit, the narrative follows Amaya, a Sri Lankan-American woman, and Riri Yaka Jr., a mythical Yaksha (Demon) figure from Sri Lankan folklore, as they seek to reclaim stolen cultural artifacts from the museum. The production integrates traditional Sri Lankan performance forms – Yaktovil (Exorcism rituals), Kolam (Masked Dance Drama) and Rukada (puppetry) and Angampora (Sri Lankan Martial Arts).

CONTENT WARNING

This performance uses a strobing effect that may affect those with photo sensitivities.

This production contains emotionally challenging material, including depictions of violence, hateful language, police violence, discrimination, and gunshot sounds and gun violence. Viewer discretion is strongly advised.

FEB. 13-15

THE NITERY THEATRE

CAST

AMAYA : Sheruni Pilapitiya
RIRI YAKA JR. : Leeth Singhage
POLICE KOLAMA : Giovanna Jiang

DESIGN TEAM

Set Design : Veronica Chen
Lighting Design : Trini Rogando
Costume Design : Norri (Noire) Dupree
Sound/Projection Design : Sebastian Hochman
Ast. Sound Design : Jude St. John
Hair and Makeup : Giovanna Jiang
Stage Manager : Cate Celio

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Marlon Ariyasinghe (he/him) is a theatre practitioner and researcher from Sri Lanka. He has over 15 years of experience as a theatre practitioner in Sri Lanka and Switzerland. Through his work and collaborations, Marlon often engages with Sri Lanka's socio-political, historical and economic concerns, focusing on notions such as postcolonial identity formation, decolonization, and migrancy. Selected directing credits include: *Twelfth Night* (2019), *The Clean House* (2015), *Antigonick* (2014), and *Rizana* (2013).



THANK YOU

Department of Theater and Performance Studies (TAPS)
Production team led by Tyler Osgood along with Daniel Cardigan (Technical Director), Brett Cavanaugh (Scenic Lead), Kenny McMullen (Lighting), Becky Bodurtha, Heather Miller, and Emma Vossbrink (Cotume Shop), Nina Ball (Scenic), Brendon Martin and the marketing team, and Lori Fowler (Facilities Manager).

Thank you to the TAPS faculty and graduate students for all their support. Special thank you goes to my colleagues eli melgar and Pauline Mornet.

Thank you to Chithrananda Olaboduwa and family (Kolam Practitioners), and Indika Gamari and family (Rukada Practioners) for their advice and training.

Thank you, Prof. Matt Smith (Advisor) and Prof. Michael Rau and Erika Chong Schuch.

