

Song and Composition Credits:

सोया हे इन्सान MD Pallavi	आया हे आया हे MD Pallavi
सदियों से कंकाल सा MD Pallavi	हमारा मन Yalgaar
जिसके हाथ में पावर है Yalgaar & MD Pallavi	हुकुम को मैं MD Pallavi
नहीं नहीं Yalgaar	सपने के MD Pallavi
सगुना सगुना ओ मेरी सगुना Yalgaar	नीज़ नीज़ Traditional Lori
भूल हो गई MD Pallavi	ना में कुछ हूँ और ना तुम कुछ हूँ MD Pallavi
इंसान इंसान का नहीं रे MD Pallavi	गुरुजी मुझे क्षमा करो Yalgaar
ना कोई मकसद बचा है MD Pallavi	आज नहीं तो कभी नहीं MD Pallavi
महीने का अंत न होता MD Pallavi	जैसे तुम्हारे कल परसों बीते Yalgaar & MD Pallavi



ABOUT YALGAAR SANSKRUTIK MANCH

Yalgaar Sanskrutik Manch was formed in 2015, inspired by Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision of cultural reform preceding political change. Rooted in progressive movements across Maharashtra, the group uses Ambedkari Shahiri Jalsa to address caste based social oppression in marginalized communities. Yalgaar unites artists and activists on a common platform to strengthen cultural activism, and promotes a culture of non-violence, democracy, and humanism. Their plays blend storytelling, poetry, song, satire, and improvisation, Babasaheb's speeches, and collective lived experiences of the members. Active across Maharashtra and beyond, they aim to empower marginalized voices, promote inclusivity, and inspire change through art and collaboration. Kavan is their first foray into proscenium theatre.



ABOUT NALANDA ARTS STUDIO

Nalanda Arts Studio is a Bangalore-based arts organization working on research, scholarship, training, and practice of performing and fine arts with a focus on collaborations between Asian, African, and Middle Eastern artists and communities.



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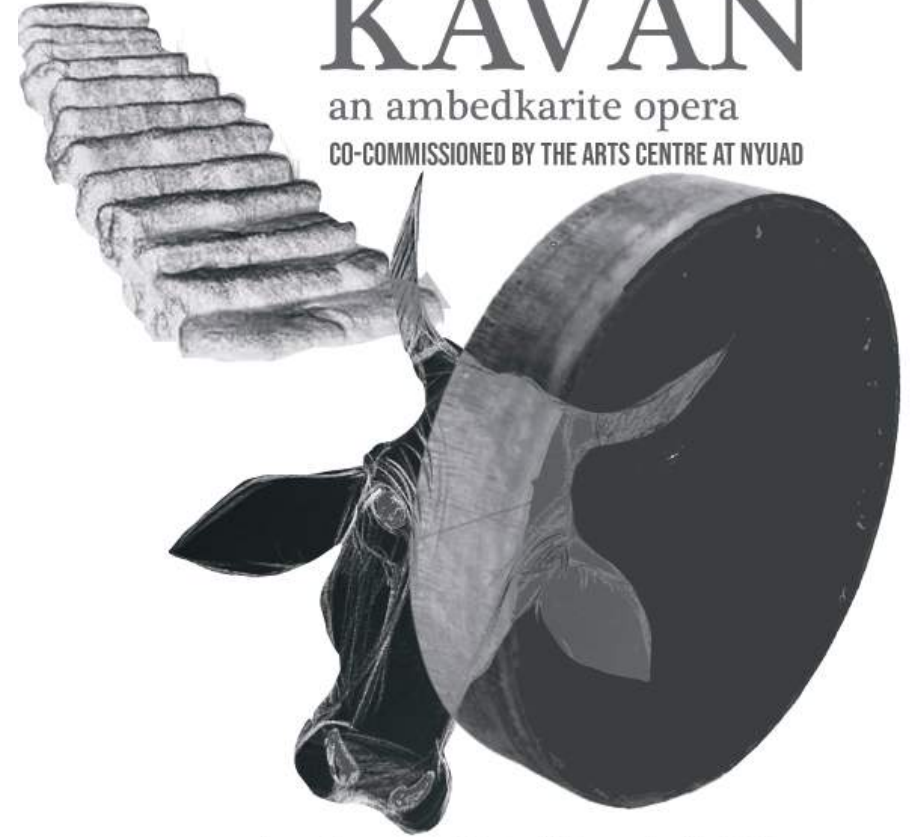
To stay updated on upcoming performances, workshops and other events.

Supported by NYUAD Arts and Humanities and co-commissioned by The Arts Center at NYUAD



NALANDA ARTS STUDIO &
YALGAAR SANSKRITIK MANCH
present

KAVAN
an ambedkarite opera
CO-COMMISSIONED BY THE ARTS CENTRE AT NYUAD

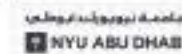


Story by
Sudesh Jadhav

Created &
Performed by
The Ensemble

Directed by
Abhishek Majumdar

SUPPORTED BY



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In a rapidly changing India, young Bejul and those around him navigate their dreams, desires, dilemmas while also negotiating caste and class. An operatic satire, written and performed fully in poetry and songs about young Ambedkarite experiences, Kavan attempts to encapsulate the rapidly changing India we see around ourselves - a country with mounting ambition, full of contradictions. Where do we go when the boundaries between right and wrong, sacred and profane, personal and universal are blurred?

Director's Note

One of the greatest contradictions of the Indian Constitution is that " Untouchability" is banned or criminalised in India whereas the practice of " Caste" is not. Caste based discrimination is considered an impediment to progress and ideas of Equality, Liberty and Fraternity, words that the great B.R. Ambedkar himself qualified especially for our constitution, stating how one could not exist without the other. And at the same time, curiously, when the motion for untouchability was being passed, there was no motion to criminalise the practices of caste supremacy in day to day lives.

This contradiction can be understood by the particular situations in which the great Babasaheb was elected for the constituent assembly and the limitations he had to face in order to carve out a meaningful constitution for the people of India. However, more importantly, the contradiction is telling of how deeply ' caste' is embedded in our country. The resistance to making caste based marriages, privileges and practices illegal is profoundly present not only in remote parts of India but also rampant in cities, high profile jobs, tech companies , going all the way to the recent anti caste movements, calling out caste based discrimination even in the bay area in the US where large number of Indians work in technology giants of the world.

Yalgaar Sanskrutik Manch, has created art and social interventions, for years to address issues of discrimination in our society. Based in Mumbai, the Ambedkarite group, encompasses the voices of the margins, be it religious, gender or other minorities whose narratives are drowned or worse still erased from consciousness by the enormous hegemony of the central canonical narratives of the fiction of what makes India.

This Ambedkarite Opera, is an invitation to examine ourselves as citizens, observers and participants who are operating on a background of a large hegemonic order, in the world's largest democracy , through the artistic practices of music, humour, satire and collective storytelling.

Cast and Crew

Performed by: Siddharth Pratibhawant, Pravin Mukta, Priyapal Dashantee, Dhammarakshit Randhive, Amruta Todarmal, Apurva Kadam
Songs and Playtext: Siddharth Pratibhawant, Sudhesh Jadhav, Pravin Mukta, Priyapal Dashantee, Irawati Karnik, Dhammarakshit Randhive, Amruta Pushkar, Apurva Kadam, Abhishek Majumdar
Story: Sudesh Jadhav
Directed by: Abhishek Majumdar
Music composer, music supervisor, music arranger and sound design: MD Pallavi
Music arrangement: Dhammarakshit Randhive, Siddharth Pratibhawant
Dramaturgy: Irawati Karnik and Jocelyn Clarke
Music production, background score and sound design: BamBoy
Producer and Production Manager: Veena Appiah
International producing: Veena Appiah and Karishma Bhagani
Choreography: Diya Naidu
Associate Director: Neel Sengupta
Assistant Directors: Rituparna Sanyal and Nikhita Singh
Light Designer: Niranjan Gokhale
Set Designer: Busshan Patil
Video Designer: Gaurav Singh Nijjer
Costume Designer: Amruta Todarmal
Assistant costume designer: Bhakti Dange
Set Execution: Vivek Jadhav
Cow Puppet Maker: Kapil Dev
Poster Design: MD Pallavi
Production Associates: Pratik Patil, Kailas Jadhav, Vijay Kamble
Research: The Ensemble and Tanvi Shah
Archive and Publicity Design: Shubham Roy Choudhury
Making of Kavan film: Shubham Roy Choudhury and Rahul Bachate
Documentary Film Workshop: Surabhi Sharma
Music Collaborations: Abdul Asif, Dushyant Deorukhkar

Thanks to New York University, Global Asia Program, Brahma Prakash, Komita Dhanda, Toral Jatin Gajrawala, Bill Bragin, Awam Amkpa, Mark Swislocki, Avneesh Mishra, Rangshila Theater Group, Mumbai, Nirmik Cultural Center