

A Marathi Musical
based on
Shakespeare's
'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Mi Swapn Pahile

मी स्वप्न पाहिले

1 Saw A Dream

Sunday 20th Oct 2024, 3-6pm, GIIS Punggol Auditorium For tickets, please visit mmsingapore.org



From the Writer-Director

When Mrunal Modak, the then MMS Secretary, approached me with her dream of bringing together multiple performing art forms in one production, I was drawn in by her dream. Around the same time I was studying Shakespeare's comedies. And Eureka! Serendipitously, my dream of doing a Shakespearean play someday overlapped Mrunal's!

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' is one of Shakespeare's highly entertaining comedies with tremendous creative and artistic potential. Yes, it is a laugh riot. But also, in 'Dream' Shakespeare projects the warring parts of our psyche onto the stage exemplified by its 2 settings; the city with reason and judgment, law and order, shoulds and shouldn'ts, and the forest's dream, imagination, magic, chaos and fearless expression.

With its diverse characters and multiple plot lines intersecting at different points, 'Dream' offered a potent text to weave a tapestry with, embellished by the splendid gems from our rich Indian; particularly Maharashtrian artistic and cultural heritage.

Maharashtra Mandal Singapore has a huge and thriving community of artists religiously practicing and nurturing their art with passion, while being in a different full time occupation. It is only because of this insanely talented, enthusiastic and supportive community of actors, writers, composers, singers, musicians, designers, stage-crafters, that I had the audacity to dream this Dream. Our 60+ member team has made a beautiful music album (details in later pages), is working on an elaborate kathak segment woven into the drama. The costumes department is putting together exquisite costumes for its 36 performers (50+ costumes).

As we say in Marathi, it is 'prayog' the experiment that will present itself on 20 October. Come, be a part of this prayog. Dream won't disappoint you.

- Swapna Madhukar





Synopsis

Thiruvar, the king of Anantanagari has won Hemlata, the warrior princess of Ashwaprastha in battle and is set to wed her in four days with all pomp and glory. Meanwhile, 4 young lovers find themselves in a quadilateral. Haripriya loves Lakshendra but their love is facing a block from her father, who has chosen Dilip for her. Dilip who is all keen to marry Haripriya, was her best friend Jyotika's beau till recently. Jyotika is still madly in love with Dilip.

The king and the law of the city are severely against the young love. So Haripriya and Lakshendra flee into the forest where the city order and its laws don't apply. Jyotika, who is Haripriya's confidant, puts her friendship at stake in a hope to get back her childhood love. She reveals to Dilip the lovers plan to flee. Dilip goes looking for them to bring back Haripriya and Jyotika follows him to the forest.

Meanwhile, many arthouses of Anantanagari are preparing to present at the Royal Wedding. One of the hopefuls to get the opportunity (and a monetary reward) is an amateur theatre group of humble, migrant mechanicals. These innocent, sincere, hardworking men and women, who labor all day, and make time to do theatre, are led by a moderately educated, but highly ambitious tea stall owner Aawadi Rane and her star actor, the ever zealous Bandu Koshti. This 'Natak Mandal' steals out of the city to the forest to secretly rehearse their 'imported' play; 'The Most Lamentable Comedy of Pyramus & Thisbe's Love'

The forest that the lovers and the mechanicals escape to, is inhabited by spirits/fairies. The royal couple of this fairy world - Oberon and Tilottama - are at loggerheads with each other, over a human boy from Ubin, resulting in a discord in the physical and spiritual world. Oberon and his sidekick - prankster Puck use and misuse their magical power to make things happen as per the king's liking.

What happens in the forest and after, forms the most part of Mi Swapn Pahile. The production has elements from multiple genres in Marathi theatre. The Royals' track has elements from classical Natyasangeet (Marathi equivalent of Opera) and musicals, the Fairies' track is enhanced with elements from Kathak. There is a cameo by elements from Children's Theatre. The 'Natak Mandal' or Theatre Company track, which follows the process of theatre making itself, culminates into a parody of a classic with elements from folk theatre.





Adaptation & Direction Swapna Madhukar

Adaptation Niranjan Nagarkar

Head of Costumes Aparna Temurnikar

Director of Kathak Bhupali Deshpande Kulkarni

Children's Choreography Priyanka Chetan

Stage Management Soham Pujari Assistant Director
Kaustubh Dalvi

Stage & Set Design
Priti Telang
Kimaya Telang
Nalini Thite

Lights Shubhen Phanse Varun Ambike

Sound Prasanna Pethe Shantanu Modak

Maharashtra Mandal Singapore Coordinators Mrunal Modak, Manasi Marathe, Varsha Koli





Cast

The Royals of Anantanagari Gautam Marathe Aarya Patil Kaustubh Dalvi Yogesh Gondhalekar

(Guest appearance)

Young Lovers

Arohee Temurnikar Kaustubh Kaslikar Parimal Asanare Akshata Modak

The Mechanicals

Amit Joshi
Priya Mhaisalkar
Atharva Patwardhan
Satyajit Mone
Sarang Mawande
Sonal Dalvi
Dholki: Kishor Wagle

The Fairies

Tvisha Mirashi Anushka Vartak Gautam Marathe Aarya Patil With Child Actors & Kathak Dancers





Kathak Dancers

Bhupali Deshpande Kulkarni Mrunal Modak Aneesha Mhaisalkar Biraj Uppal Priyanka Chetan Sayali Kalamkar Swarda Narkhede Anagha Subhash Mujumdar

Child Artists

Tanaya Vartak
Asmi Dalvi
Saachi Date
Asmi Patil
Vedashri Chaure
Rushikesh Chaure
Alisha Joshi
Sharvari Narlavar
Ishaan Patwardhan
Aadit Chetan
Shravan Lakhe
Swadha Joshi
Mukta kaustubh Kulkarni





Music

Traditional and modern, experience and youth underline the music of Mi Swapn Pahile. Compositions in words by our seniormost team member, 75-year-young Arun Manhoar and compositions in music by our youngest member, 15-year-old Atharva, sit side by side in this eclectic bouquet of music. The album credits boast of some of the most talented and loved musical artists in Singapore.

Music of 'Mi Swapn Pahile' includes a classical Natyageet, a modern unplugged Natyageet, a youthful song, a song for a road trip, a soothing lullaby, a cheeky Hindi song, a thrilling jugalbandi padhant, some exquisite musical pieces, all in one dream of a musical album.

Lyrics

Arun Manohar Anita Kale Vivek Nerurkar

Music Arrangement Jasraj Shintre Aneesha Mhaisalkar

Tabla: Bharat Modak Harmonium: Sachin Vartak Guitar: Jasraj Shintre

> Background Music Shantanu Modak Atharva Patwardhan

Music Composition

Seema Ovalekar Akshay Awadhani Rutvik Pethe Shantanu Modak Atharva Patwardhan

Singers

Yogesh Gondhalekar Seema Ovalekar Raksha Shetty Shintre Amol Paranjape Anita Kale Anuja Vartak Varsha Chittawar Prajakta Nene





Music

Natyageet

Lyrics: Arun Manohar

Music: Seema Ovalekar

Tabla: Bharat Modak

Harmonium: Sachin Vartak

Singer: Yogesh Gondhalekar

Sarbarai Song

Lyrics: Arun Manohar

Music: Seema Ovalekar

Guitar: Jasraj Shintre

Singers:

Anita Kale.

Anuja Vartak,

Varsha Chittawar.

Prajakta Nene

Waari Jawa

Lyrics: Arun Manohar

Music: Akshay Awadhani

Singer: Raksha Shetty Shintre

Natyageet Unplugged

Lyrics: Dr. Anita Kale

Music: Rutvik Pethe

Arrangement: Jasraj Shintre

Singer: Prajakta Nene

Puck Song

Lyrics:

Vivek Nerurkar

Arun Manohar

Music: Akshay Awadhani

Singer: Amol Paranjape

Lullaby

Lyrics: Arun Manohar

Music: Seema Ovalekar

Arrangement: Aneesha Mhaisalkar

Singer: Seema Ovalekar

Jugalbandi - Kathak Padhant

Composition: Bhupali Deshpande

Music: Shantanu Modak

Vocals:

Mrunal Modak

Bharat Modak

Duet Song

Lyrics- Arun Manohar

Music- Athary Patwardhan

Singers-

Aarohi Temurnikar

Parimal Asanare

