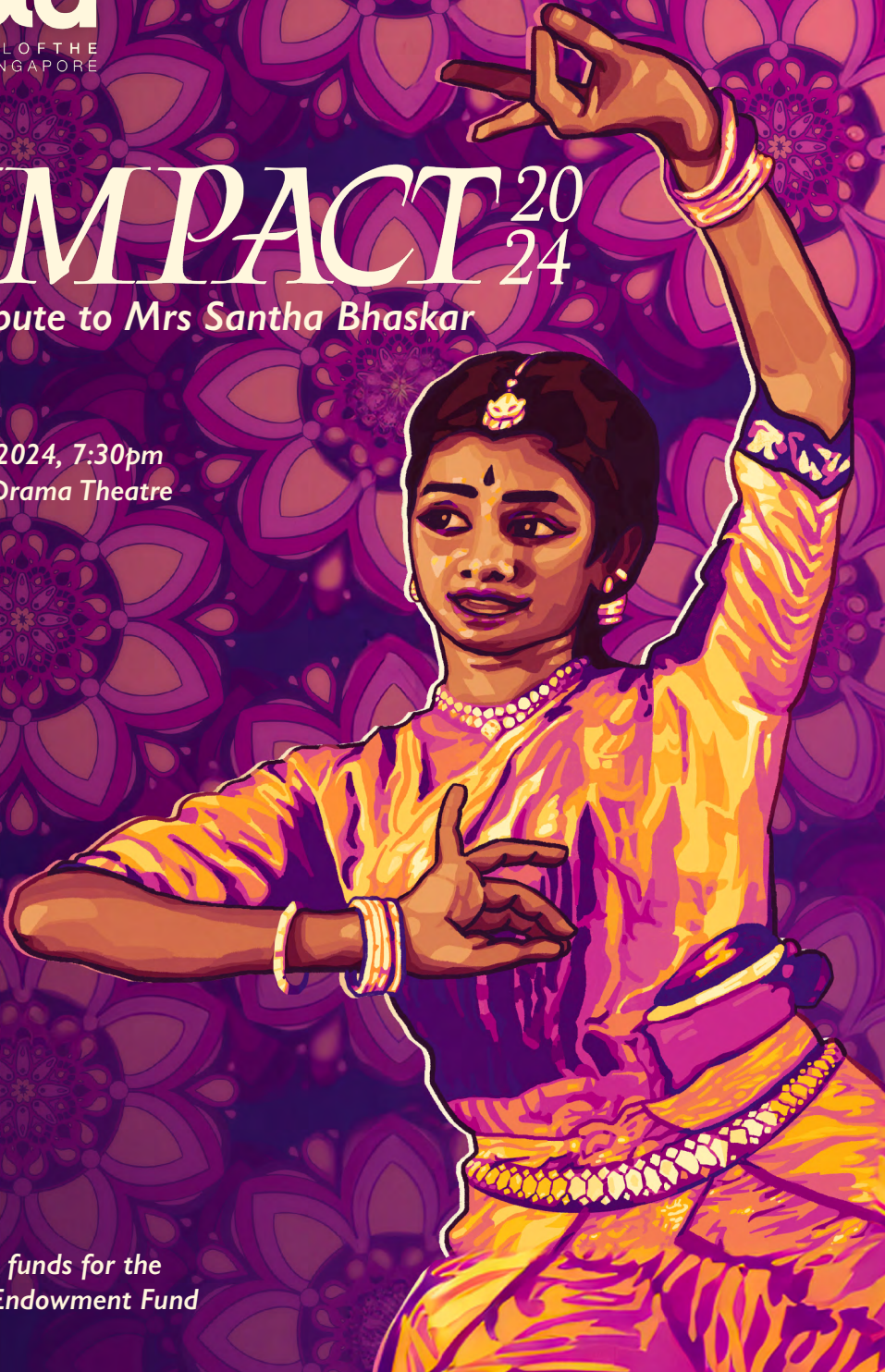


IMPACT²⁰₂₄

A Tribute to Mrs Santha Bhaskar

8 Nov 2024, 7:30pm
SOTA Drama Theatre

Raising funds for the
SOTA Endowment Fund



Impact is an annual fundraising show organised by SOTA. Each year, Impact seeks inspiration from a renowned Singaporean artist who has played a crucial role in shaping the local arts and cultural scene.

This year, the show draws inspiration from the remarkable life and works of the late Mrs Santha Bhaskar, an iconic trailblazer in the world of Dance. Mrs Bhaskar's profound influence as an educator and mentor has shaped countless generations of students and dancers. Her pioneering spirit led her to explore intercultural and multi-disciplinary work, constantly pushing the boundaries of classical Indian dance, especially Bharatanatyam. Her courageous and creative approach has left an indelible mark on Singapore's cultural landscape.

The proceeds from the sales of the tickets will go towards the SOTA Endowment Fund which provides students with bursaries, scholarships, and other forms of financial assistance.

Find out how you can donate at <https://bit.ly/3UhyT5k> or scan the QR code below.

The SOTA Endowment Fund Supporting Arts Education for All



The SOTA Endowment Fund was set up in 2019 to serve as a strong foundation towards growing a self-sustainable source of funds for the school in providing our students with bursaries, scholarships and other financial assistance.

Your contribution to the SEF will make arts education accessible to students from all backgrounds, empowering them to pursue their passion and reach their fullest potential. Join us in making a lasting impact and transforming lives through the gift of arts education.



Artistic Director's Message



Sean Tobin
Faculty of Theatre

This year's show is a collage of artistic responses to the life and work of the much loved and revered Santha Bhaskar. Each of us in this very big diverse team has had different access points to the late Aunty Bhaskar. Some of us had little prior knowledge of Aunty Bhaskar or Indian dance or music, for that matter. Others among us have spent a large part of our life consumed with Indian dance and music, some of us already having more intimate knowledge or acquaintance with Aunty Bhaskar and her legacy. Most of what you see in today's show is a completely original artistic creation. The poetry, drama, music, visual art, film and of course the dance have all been created in response to Aunty Bhaskar's life, drawing from countless interviews, articles, discussions, archived performances and so on.

As the Director of the show, my job is to pull together our many diverse ideas into one show, with sufficient cohesion, while still trying to be faithful to the many individual contributions, ensuring I don't compromise or dilute their ideas. And while there is no pretense here that our show will come close to comprehensively representing Aunty Bhaskar's life and work, we have naturally worked hard to ensure that our humble show is rendered with sufficient respect and sensitivity to her memory. This would not be possible without the many other SOTA staff who have helped shape this show, together with a great number of students and alumni.

You, our audience will also have varying access points to this show, depending on your own life experiences and perspectives. I hope that our performance will offer each of you a generous space to form thoughts and feelings about life, identity, creativity and relationships, both within and beyond the shores of Singapore. I do hope that ultimately this might spark fresh courage and freedom within each of us, to keep living and telling our own story, remembering that as we do this, we are never alone. For those in the audience that already knew and loved Aunty Bhaskar, I hope this show will strike a chord with you, and for others I hope it might nudge you to go and find out more about her after the show.

Thank you and congrats to every staff, student and alumni who has poured their time and effort into this creative work. It is my honour to have been a part of it, together with you. Every single one of you inspires me with your imagination and hard work.

Thank you once again to all our audience and generous supporters, without which this experience would not be possible.

Behind the Scenes

Since early this year, to prepare for *Impact 2024*, the participants of the showcase, including students, alumni, and teachers, took part in a series of curated events designed to deepen their understanding of Mrs Santha Bhaskar's artistry.

These events provided the groundwork for the performers and creators of *Impact 2024* to pay a fitting tribute to a legendary figure who forever transformed Singapore's cultural landscape. Through their research and the personal stories shared by those closest to her, participants gained not only technical insights but also a deep emotional connection to Mrs Santha Bhaskar's remarkable life and contributions.

TOP-BOTTOM

Screening of *"Marabu – Footprints of an Artist"*, the dance biopic of Mrs Santha Bhaskar, produced by Bhaskar's Arts Academy



Dialogue Session with Ms Meenakshy Bhaskar (Daughter of Mrs Santha Bhaskar and Artistic Director of Bhaskar's Arts Academy), Mdm Goh Lay Kuan (Co-founder of the Theatre Practice), Mdm Som Said (Founder of Sri Warisan Som Said Performing Arts), and Dr Wong Chee Meng (heritage researcher)



Lecture-Demonstration Session on *"Radin Mas"* production, a collaborative project between Bhaskar's Arts Academy and Sri Warisan Som Said Performing Arts



■ PHOTO CREDIT
Sophie Ang (Year 5, Film)

Behind the Scenes

In addition to the curated events, the *Impact 2024* team held numerous rehearsals, discussions, and collaborative sessions to craft a showcase that honors Mrs Bhaskar's enduring legacy. Each performer and creator involved in the show has drawn upon the lessons learned through these "behind the scenes" efforts, striving to produce an authentic and meaningful tribute.



We hope that you, the audience, will enjoy and appreciate the dedication and artistry that has gone into creating this special performance in honor of Mrs Santha Bhaskar, a legend who transformed Singapore's cultural landscape.

Cast & Creative Team

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mr Sean Tobin (Theatre)

ASSISTANT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ms Foo Yun Ying (Dance)

SCRIPT

Ms Aswani Aswath and Mr Sean Tobin

TEACHER MENTORS

Ms Aswani Aswath (Literary Arts)

Ms Foo Yun Ying (Dance)

Mr Gu Wei (Music)

Mr Soh Ee Shaun (Visual Arts)

Ms Serena Ho (Theatre)

PERFORMERS

Uma Devi Urmila (Year 5, Theatre)
as *Mrs Santha*

Samvritha Varma (Year 2, Theatre)
as *Young Santha / Ensemble*

Ayra Putri Adel Dzulkarnaen (Year 2, Theatre)
as *Young Som Said / Ensemble*

Mahadiq Maitreyi (Year 2, Theatre)
as *Santha's Mother*

Arya Biju Thantry (Year 5, Dance)
as *Dance Teacher / Ensemble*

Czaana Saxena (Year 3, Theatre)
as *Student / Ensemble / Voiceover*

Dharshan Mikhail Nathan (Year 6, Theatre)
as *Mr KP Bhaskar / Voiceover*

Uthara Vivek (Year 5, Theatre)
as *Mr KP Bhaskar's Mother / Ensemble*

Aashka Manesh (Year 3, Literary Arts)
as *Ensemble*

Manha Manaf (Year 1, Dance)
as *Teen Santha / Ensemble*

Ross Deepak Pary (Year 4, Theatre)
as *Mr KP Bhaskar's Father*

Shruthi Nair (Class of 2015, Dance)
as *Ensemble*

Pang Xin Yi (Class of 2014, Dance)
as *Ensemble*

BAND

Shadrach Johanan Yankaya (Year 5, Music)

San Juan Majesty Ferdinand Talines (Year 5, Music)

Yeo Kai Yue, Cadee (Year 5, Music)

Vedagnya Narasimha (Year 5, Music)

Natalie Renee Lim Zhi Xuan (Year 5, Music)

Mervyn Lee (Faculty of Music)

ANIMATION

Chua Yun Xuan (Year 6, Visual Arts)

Kang Yuan Ting (Year 6, Visual Arts)

Loong Zu'Er (Year 6, Visual Arts)

Tong Sheau Min (Year 6, Visual Arts)

Joseph Jannah Chrishel (Year 6, Visual Arts)

MUSIC COMPOSITIONS

Rishab Vijayakumar (Year 5, Music)

Natalie Renee Lim Zhi Xuan (Year 5, Music)

Josh Teoh (Year 5, Music)

Vedagnya Narasimha (Year 5, Music)

Tan Guan Ying, Alfryd (Year 3, Music)
with assistance from

Kaustubh Chandramouli Manikandan
(Year 3, Music)

POETRY

Aashka Manesh (Year 3, Literary Arts)

Master Radha Dhaval (Year 4, Literary Arts)

Mithran Srinivassane (Year 4, Literary Arts)

Misha Ghosh (Class of 2023, Literary Arts/ Film)

PORTRAITS OF MRS SANTHA BHASKAR

Michelle Yeo (Year 6, Visual Arts)

SPECIAL APPEARANCE IN VIDEO

Malini Bhaskar (Class of 2014, Dance)

Project & Production Team

PROJECT MANAGEMENT & MARKETING

SOTA Fundraising Committee

PUBLICITY DESIGN

Lim Zeherng (Class of 2017, Visual Arts)

VIDEOGRAPHY

Ashley Jane Leow (Class of 2018, Film)

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Ms Alycia Finley

STAGE MANAGER

Mr Pang Yung Qing

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Ms Melissa Ho

Mr Alvan Tan

SOUND ENGINEER / SOUND ASSISTANT

Josh Teoh (Year 5, Music)

SOUND AND MEDIA OPERATOR

Scarlett Victoria Timko (Year 4, Theatre)

STAGE HANDS

Natasha Chan Zi Yu (Year 4, Theatre)

Sharmaine Siow Shi Hui (Year 3, Dance)

Clarabelle Luai Hsin Jin (Year 3, Dance)

SET DESIGNER

Ms Melissa Ho

Natasha Chan Zi Yu (Year 4, Theatre)

LIGHTING DESIGN

Ms Emanorwatty Binte Mohd Saleh

COSTUME CO-ORDINATION

Ms Foo Yun Ying (Dance)

Programme

Show Outline

SCENE 1: BLESSING (NAMASKARAM)

Blessings – animation by Chua Yun Xuan and Kang Yuan Ting

To Remember – music by Josh Teoh

SCENE 2: STANDING OVATION

SCENE 3: LITTLE FLAME

Musings – music by Natalie Renee Lim Zhi Xuan

To Remember – music by Josh Teoh

SCENE 4: BHARATANATYAM

Bharatanatyam Fibonacci – animation by Tong Sheau Min

SCENE 5: THE STUDENT

Kathak Dance performed by Czaana Saxena

Dance of Eureka – music by Tan Guan Ying, Alfryd with assistance from
Kaustubh Chandramouli Manikandan

SCENE 6: A NEW FRIEND

Meditations – poem by Mithran Srinivassane

SCENE 7: CROSSING OCEANS

Crossing Oceans – poem by Aashka Manesh

Intertwined – music by Rishab Vijayakumar

I Remember – music by Josh Teoh

Dance choreographed and performed by Aashka Manesh and Ayra Putri Adel Dzulkarnaen

SCENE 8: CROSSING CULTURE – HAPPY ACCIDENT

Limbo – music by Zhuang Xue Fang (莊雪芳)

Dance choreographed by Arya Biju Thantry, performed by Manha Manaf

SCENE 9: CROSSING CULTURE – BUTTERFLY LOVERS

Butterfly Lovers – animation by Loong Zu'er

Butterfly Lovers – music by Vedagnya Narasimha

Dance choreographed and performed by Arya Biju Thantry with Manha Manaf

Programme

Show Outline

SCENE 10: CROSSING CULTURE – FRIENDSHIP

Land of Gold (Instrumental) – music by Anouskar Shankar

Poem by Misha Ghosh, performed by Ayra Putri Adel Dzulkarnaen

Dance choreographed and performed by Shruthi Nair and Pang Xin Yi with
Arya Putri Adel Dzulkarnaen

SCENE 11: FIRE

Fire Dance – animation by Joseph Jannah Chrishel

अग्निवृत्यम् – music by Vedagnya Narasimha

Dance choreographed and performed by Arya Biju Thantry

SCENE 12: OPENING

I Remember – music by Josh Teoh

SCENE 13: REST

Rest – animation by Chua Yun Xuan and Kang Yuan Ting

I Remember – music by Josh Teoh

Exhibition

POEMS

Returns

Crossing Culture

– Master Radha Dhaval (Year 4, Literary Arts)

On Choreography

Meditations

– Mithran Srinivassane (Year 4, Literary Arts)

Crossing Oceans

– Aashka Manesh (Year 3, Literary Arts)

PORTRAITS

Butterfly Lovers

Sambhavna 2.0 + 28

– Michelle Yeo (Year 6, Visual Arts)

Creative Reflections



Kang Yuan Ting (Year 6, Visual Arts)

I was inspired by Mrs Santha Bhaskar's passion for science, and how she fused it into her love for dance. The background of the key visual references her specialty in Indian dance but also how she incorporates scientific and mathematical elements into her productions. In depicting Mrs Baskar, I wanted to portray her poise, wisdom and gentle disposition.



Uma Devi Urmila (Year 5, Theatre)

Having the opportunity to play this role (Mrs Santha Bhaskar) broadens my capabilities as a performer. Even though I specialise in Theatre in SOTA, I perform Indian Classical dance (Bharatanatyam dance) outside of school, so having a chance to blend these two realms which I consider separate until now is very personal and impactful to me. I'm most excited for the audience to see the blend of cultural dances and various artforms. It's not only classical Indian dance that is spotlighted, there are other ethnic dances and the fusion of the dances (in the show).



Pang Xin Yi (Class of 2014, Dance)

The piece Shurthi Nair (Class of 2015, Dance) and I have put together, is a collaboration that focuses on both Indian Classical dance and Chinese Classical, how they are put together, the similarities or slight differences and how they are interweaved together. Besides the traditional part of the dances, both Shurthi and I were trained in contemporary dance in SOTA, so we also infused a little bit of contemporary part in the dance piece.

Creative Reflections



Rishab Vijayakumar (Year 5, Music)

The piece I composed aims to infuse elements of Indian music to convey Mrs Shantha Bhasker's curiosity and interest in exploring Malay dance upon arriving in Singapore, highlighting her openness to new artistic genres and willingness to engage with them. I hope to attract the audience's attention not only musically, but also visually, considering my music has dance choreographed to it.



Mithran Srinivassane (Year 4, Literary Arts)

Meditations is a poem about an exchange between a younger and older Mrs Bhaskar. Mrs Bhaskar was a wholehearted practitioner of meditation, and her younger self reflects on her life and fears before she married off to her husband as she meditates. Her older person hears her concerns and gives her advice. The inspiration behind this poem was the beauty of rumination, and how spirituality is key to an artist's growth.



Misha Ghosh (Class of 2023, Literary Arts/Film)

This opportunity for interdisciplinary work has been extremely special to me, and it has been an eye-opening and heart-touching experience to have been able to capture one facet of Mrs Bhaskar's legacy, specifically the inspirational friendships that she has forged through her years in the industry, through my work.



Established in 2023, the AM Family Capital Foundation is a donor-advised fund set-up with the Community Foundation of Singapore to streamline and structure the family's philanthropic endeavours within Singapore. This foundation reflects the deep commitment of its founders, Ms Lee Chia Yi (Mrs Wu) and Mr Wu Ching-Hsin (Mr Wu), to making a lasting impact on the community.

Mr and Mrs Wu are passionate about supporting initiatives in education, healthcare, and the arts. They believe that these areas are fundamental to the growth and development of a thriving society. Beyond these core areas, they also maintain a keen interest in backing innovative projects that demonstrate the potential for long-term, sustainable impact.

CLOCKWISE

Supporting Singapore Institute of Technology through the AM Capital Foundation Bursary for financially disadvantaged SIT undergraduates who are pursuing degrees in Infocomm Technology or the Health and Social Sciences.

Supporting Tan Tock Seng Hospital's Community Rehabilitation Programme (CRP) through the gift of a retrofitted van that allows easier transportation of more specialised and bulky rehab aids to patients' homes.

Supporting the Migrant Workers' Assistant Fund, a charity run by the Migrant Workers' Centre through sponsoring insurance coverage and a recreational event for the migrant workers.



Our Appreciation

GOLD DONOR



**AM FAMILY
CAPITAL FOUNDATION**

SUPPORTING DONORS



Dr Lee Boon Yang

Patron, SOTA Endowment Fund

Ms Meenakshy Bhaskar

*Daughter of Mrs Santha Bhaskar
Artistic Director of Bhaskar's Arts Academy*

Mdm Goh Lay Kuan

Co-Founder of the Theatre Practice

Mdm Som Said

Founder of Sri Warisan Som Said Performing Arts

Dr Wong Chee Meng

Heritage Researcher

Student Volunteers who helped in various ways behind the scenes including photography, set painting, usher duties, reception, registration and production.

And all who have contributed in one way or another to *Impact 2024*.



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ARTS SINGAPORE