



QUEER ARTS FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

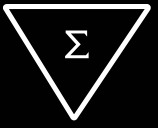
Jun 17 – Jun 28 2023

Queers
in
Space

Prepare For Docking



Credit: Josh Romine



SUM GALLERY

queerartsfestival.com

sumgallery.ca

Queer Arts Festival 2023 presents Sujit Vaidya: *Breathe in the Fragrance*, a sensuous queerotic take on traditional Indian dance

For Immediate Release

Vancouver BC, Jun 16, 2023 | *Queer Arts Festival (QAF): Queers in Space* welcomes independent dance artist Sujit Vaidya to the Roundhouse Performance Hall (181 Roundhouse Mews) for their erotic reimaging of a traditional Bharatanatyam varnam dance in *Breathe in the Fragrance*, Friday, June 23 at 7pm.

Vancouver-based Vaidya defines himself as an artist who explores and embraces the complexities and lived experience he holds as a queer artist of colour who practices an art form deeply rooted in tradition. In *Breathe in the Fragrance*, Vaidya celebrates the erotic ritual of this in-betweenness — carving out his own space where traditional Indian dance, contemporary choreography and Queer eroticism can coexist for one special performance.

Breathe In The Fragrance features support from dancers Kiruthika Rathanaswami and Malavika Santhosh and live music by musicians Curtis Andrews and Arno Kamolika, with vocalist Ramya Kapadia.

QAF 2023: Queers in Space runs June 17 - 28 at Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre. Visit www.queerartsfestival.com for QAF's full festival lineup.

About the Queer Arts Festival queerartsfestival.com

The Queer Arts Festival is an annual, artist-run transdisciplinary arts festival. Recognized among the top festivals of its kind worldwide, QAF produces, presents and exhibits challenging, thought-provoking work that pushes boundaries and initiates dialogue. Each year, the festival theme ties together a curated visual art exhibition, performing art series, media art screenings, literary arts, and party events. QAF has garnered wide acclaim as “concise, brilliant and moving” (Georgia Straight), “easily one of the best exhibitions of the year in Vancouver” (Vancouver Sun), and “on the forefront of aesthetic and cultural dialogue today” (Xtra). The QAF team also operates year-round through programming & exhibitions at Chinatown's [SUM gallery](http://SUMgallery).

About Sujit Vaidya sujitvaidya.ca

Sujit Vaidya (Choreographer/Dancer) is an independent dance artist based in Vancouver BC. Trained in Bharatanatyam, he predominantly works as soloist and continues his training in Bharatanatyam with Guru A.Lakshman. His artistic choices reflect the curiosities and experiences he holds as a queer artist of colour, while deeply engaging with an art form rooted in tradition. His choreographies question the narrative and relevance of non inclusive traditional texts. He aims to create space for queer expression within the context of Bharatanatyam and seeks collaborations with other queer artists of colour.

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