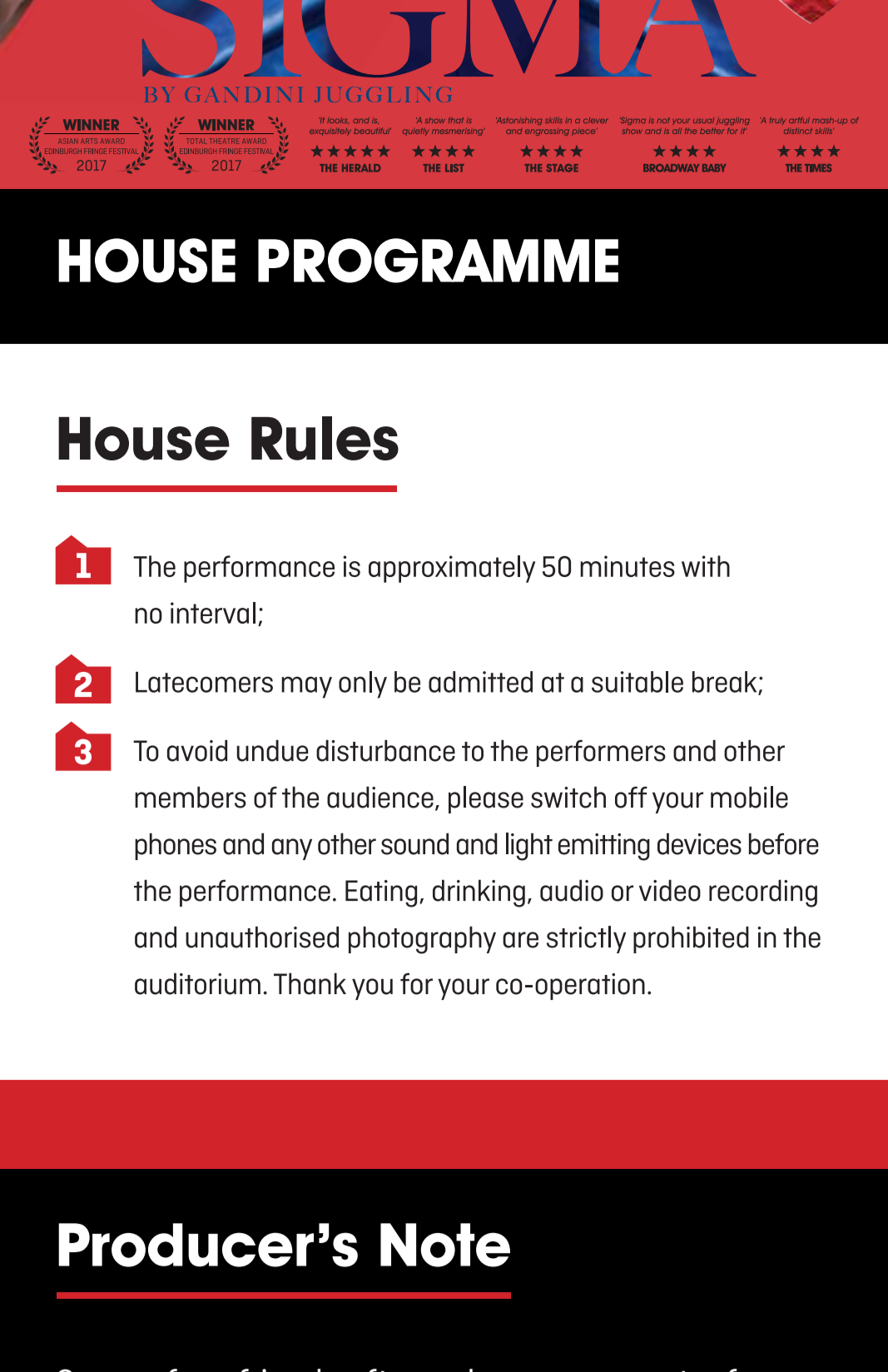


22-24.12.2018 | 8pm
25-26.12.2018 | 3pm

JC Cube



奇幻鏡花遊 SIGMA BY GANDINI JUGGLING

WINNER
ASIAN ARTS AWARDS
2017

WINNER
TOTAL THEATRE AWARD
2017

★★★★★
THE HERALD

★★★★★
THE LIST

★★★★★
THE STAGE

★★★★★
BROADWAY BABY

★★★★★
THE TIMES

HOUSE PROGRAMME

House Rules

- 1 The performance is approximately 50 minutes with no interval;
- 2 Latecomers may only be admitted at a suitable break;
- 3 To avoid undue disturbance to the performers and other members of the audience, please switch off your mobile phones and any other sound and light emitting devices before the performance. Eating, drinking, audio or video recording and unauthorised photography are strictly prohibited in the auditorium. Thank you for your co-operation.

Producer's Note

Some of my friends often ask me: as a centre for heritage and arts, how does Tai Kwun connect its programmes to the monuments?

My answer is, as always: as a century-old monument group polished by time, Tai Kwun does have its historical and cultural significance. After repairment and revitalisation, it has been given new life and new meaning to keep abreast of the times and serve our city again. It is exactly the same as the contemporary circus shows that you will be watching – *Sigma* creatively combines acrobatics, geometry and traditional Indian dance, it gives a contemporary note to the traditional circus art, which coincides with Tai Kwun's mission and belief. With a profound root of tradition, they absorb various possibilities and go straight ahead to the future.

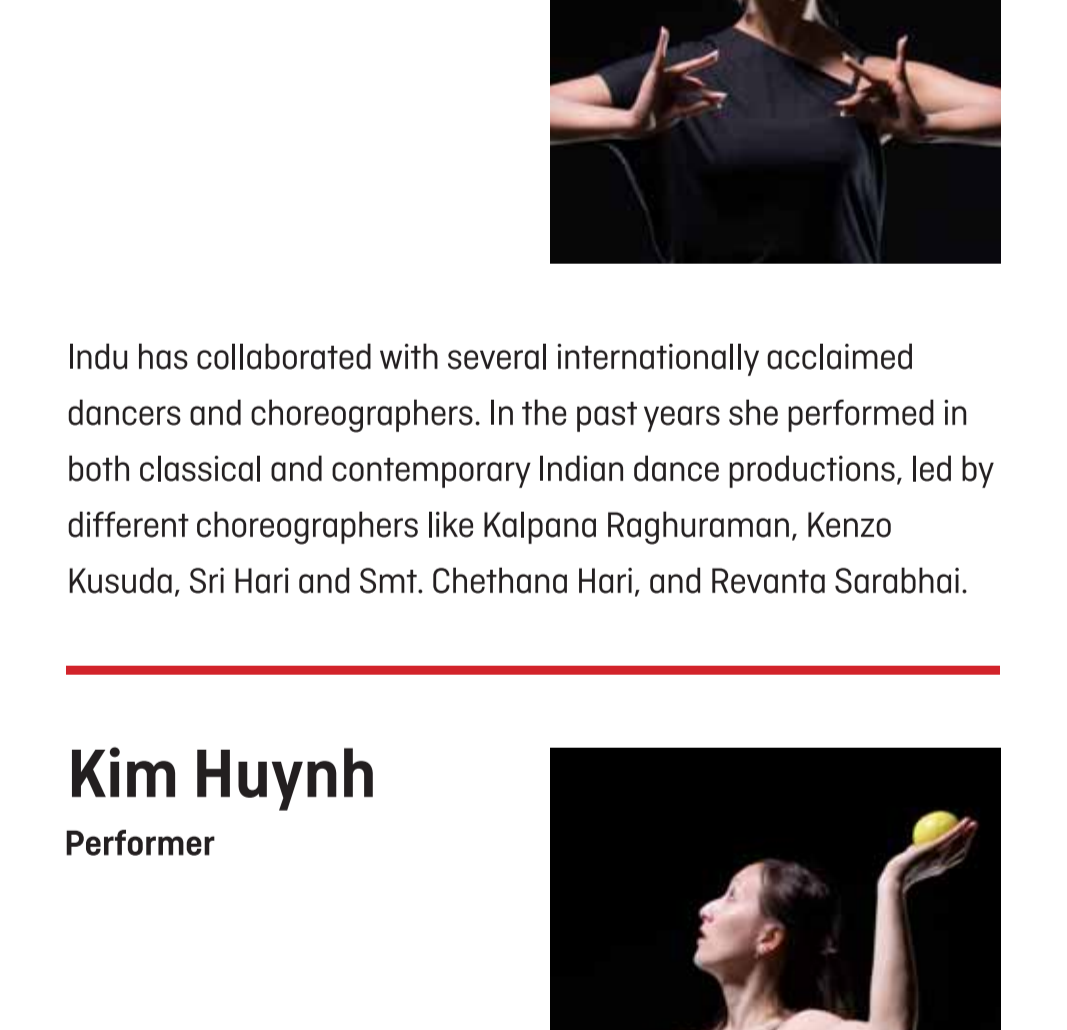
Eddy Zee
Head of Performing Arts, Tai Kwun

Director's Note

Part of a series of in-depth dialogues between art forms *Sigma* is a flirtation between South Indian dance, Bharatanatyam and juggling. In its simplest form both these disciplines sculpt ephemerally in time and space. Often in concise mathematically defined units. We were interested in how these geometries can be similar and different. Whereas dance can sometimes be thought of as the movement between places, juggling in its basic form is a flux. There are interesting things to be done with reversing this process. Where and how each sequence starts and stops. The parabolic accelerating velocity of objects in the air versus the more subtly changing speeds of the dancer.

There is however a human side to the collaboration which hopefully transcends the pure structure. We are interested in invented ethnologies. Imaginary rituals. Both art forms come with a myriad of associated archetypes. We thought that it might be interesting to play with these, distort them, intermingle them. To inhabit the hybrid landscapes that are created when one art form is projected onto another. One set of rules filtering the other, projecting on to it.

Sean Gandini



About Sigma

Gandini Juggling's beautiful new show explores the creative interface between juggling, geometry and classical Indian dance.

Performed by a virtuosic cast including the award-winning choreographer Seeta Patel, *Sigma* showcases exuberant rhythms, patterns and colours, at the heart of which is a unique interpretation of the South Indian dance form, Bharatanatyam.

With its dazzling quartet of female artists, seductive percussion score and sumptuous backdrop of multimedia projections, *Sigma* is a finely crafted work designed to engage in a dialogue with the viewer, transcending cultural barriers and stimulating imaginations.

Gandini Juggling continues to excite and entertain in this latest cross-art form collaboration, winner of an Asian Arts Award, Total Theatre Award and The Herald Angel Award at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Creative Team

- Director | Sean Gandini
- Choreographer | Seeta Patel
- Lighting Designer | Guy Hoare
- Video Projection Designer | Zsolt Balogh (New Visual Paradigm)
- Costume Designer | Lydia Cawson
- Sound Composition | Andy Cowton
- Rehearsals Directors | Emma Mannisto-Lister \ Jose Triguero
- Performers | Seeta Patel \ Indu Panday \ Kim Huynh \ Kati Ylä-Hökkala
- Technician | Zoe Hunn
- Rhythm consultant | Prathap Ramachandra
- Originally devised with juggler | Owen Reynolds

Sean Gandini

Director

Sean Gandini, Artistic Director of Gandini Juggling, is a pioneer of contemporary juggling. Working as a performer, choreographer and director, he has, for over 25 years, pushed the boundaries of juggling as a discipline and an art form. A prolific creator, throughout his career he has collaborated with many acclaimed artists, including pioneering American musician Tom Johnson and the influential choreographer Gill Clarke. More recently Gandini has collaborated with choreographer Ludovic Ondiviela and composer Nimrod Borenstein in the ground-breaking juggling ballet *4 x 4: Ephemeral Architectures*. In 2016 Gandini choreographed the Skills Ensemble for the 2016 National Opera's acclaimed production of Philip Glass's opera *Akhmaten*. In 2018 the company premiered *Spring* in collaboration with choreographer Alexander Whitley and composer Gabriel Prokofiev. Gandini regularly teaches in many of the world's leading circus schools, inspiring the next generation of jugglers.

Seeta Patel

Choreographer and performer

A specialist in Bharatanatyam technique Seeta has toured with DV8 Physical Theatre, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, David Hughes Dance Company and Mavin Khoo Dance amongst others. Seeta has been under the mentorship of Alistair Spalding, CBE, Chief Executive and Artistic Director of Sadler's Wells (Dance UK 2014/5 programme). Awarded with the Washington S&R Award (2017) and Best Dance and the Peace Foundation Award at the Adelaide Fringe Festival (*Not Today's Yesterday*, 2018), she is currently embarked on creating larger ensemble works, including the iconic *The Rite of Spring*, and championing young talent and Bharatanatyam in the diaspora.

Indu Panday

Performer

Indu has collaborated with several internationally acclaimed dancers and choreographers. In the past years she performed in both classical and contemporary Indian dance productions, led by different choreographers like Kalpana Raghuraman, Kenzo Kusuda, Sri Hari and Smt. Chethana Hari, and Revanta Sarabhai.

Kim Huynh

Performer

Kim originally trained as a ballet dancer and gymnast and graduated from the academy of music and dance in France before applying her skills to juggling. Kim is a long standing performer with Gandini Juggling and with her own company, Sens Dessus Dessous, performing in shows such as *Smashed*, *4 x 4: Ephemeral Architectures*, *Dis-cordes* and *Linea*. Kim also has a photography project called *365 Homes*.

Kati Ylä-Hökkala

Performer

Kati is one of her generation's iconic jugglers. Renowned as one of the leading innovators in dance/juggling, her ability to combine movement and extremely complex coordination is second to none. A former rhythmic gymnast, Kati's juggling has a unique calm precision which comes from 25 years of throwing whilst standing on one leg. In recent years she has co-directed many of the company's pieces.



About Gandini Juggling

Formed in 1992 by world-renowned jugglers Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hökkala, Gandini Juggling was initially set up to explore the wondrous choreographic potential of juggling, to filter juggling through a dance aesthetic.

Over the last 27 years their artistic journey has been promiscuous and rich, producing 30 full length pieces and performing in 50 countries.

The Gandini have recently completed a trilogy of pieces, which are dialogues between juggling and sophisticated dance forms: *4 x 4 Ephemeral Architectures*, *Sigma* and *Spring*. The company is a central part of the Metropolitan Opera House's upcoming production of *Akhmaten*, which features 10 jugglers meticulously choreographed to Philip Glass's enigmatic score.

The Gandinis' journeys have always been counter current, an individual voice in the global circus scene, with quotidian risk-taking and fearless upturns.

They continue to be at the vanguard of contemporary circus, reinventing and reinvigorating juggling for the 21st century.

Acknowledgement

Coproduced by Supported by Supported using public funding by

We value your feedback. Please fill in this survey and share your thoughts about this performance with us.

