

Varun Narain
Master Puppeteer/ Director

Letter of Recommendation

To Whomsoever it may concern

Being an openly gay performance artist and master puppeteer, I have been conceptualizing, fabricating and performing shows that blur boundaries of gender, sexuality, nationality, art and academics since 1995. I have been fortunate enough to travel extensively throughout the world with my own productions, most notably as the first ever Artist-in-Residence of Indian origin at the Schlaechthaus Theatre, Bern, Switzerland, supported by The Swiss Arts Council, New Delhi.

Of my extensive experience interacting with the leading performance artists across the world, particularly those creating LGBTQIA+ themed work, I count the show 'The Legend of Ila' and its wonderfully talented team of performers among the more special of those encounters. Both empowering and unusually enthralling, the piece effortlessly weaves the mythological with the contemporary: appropriating characters and storyline into a magical gender-fluid spectacle. The excellent and highly accomplished performers sing, play and narrate this fascinating tale, taking the audience on a journey where the borders of sexuality, gender and tradition melt away into a kaleidoscope story of creation, birth, emotion, reality and queer power.

I hope and pray that 'The Legend of Ila' will be widely experienced and start changing the way people think of characters, tradition and musicals. I wish each of the darling performers all the very best.

Rainbow Regards



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