

THE LEGEND OF ILA - A STORY IN SONG



"The Legend of Ila is all set to redefine theatre... an excitingly complex musical exploration of gender fluidity, it celebrates the spirit of doubt, of wonder in whimsical, quirky, and unsettling ways."

- Poet/author Angel Srivastava

The Story

What defines a man, a woman? Tradition, dogma, genitalia, predilection in careers, attire or lovers? What status, rights and freedoms should depend upon these answers? Hindu classics & myths have been wrestling with these enigmas for millennia, notably in the ancient variegated legend of Ila. Born as a girl to a mighty heir-desperate king, Ila was ritually transformed into a temporal hermaphrodite forced to physically live out every alternate lunar cycle as a woman, then a man. Their complex inner spirit however remained undivided and this play explores their manifestations' dual plight and the social absurdities surrounding it.

The Producers

The Legend of Ila is an Albella Theatre creation.

The Production

After SRO crowds & ovations at Delhi's Old World Theatre Festival and [Udaipur Tales](#), India's premier storytelling celebration, the troupe's national tour plans were Covid-postponed to April/May 2023. Their next hoped for target is the USA where the issues they address – gender flexibility, fear & inequality – are being most creatively confronted.

The Troupe

The road team consists of three players - Subhadra Kamath, Adhiraj Mustafi and writer/composer Anant Dayal plus sound, lighting & stage managers. As key figures in the Eastwind Academy for Advanced Music & Performance, the performers will also happily conduct optional classes/workshops on creative collaboration, composition & songwriting for interested musicians.

Anyone interested in Indian culture and/or globally relevant gender issues should find Ila's insights, wit & musical artistry enjoyably thought-provoking. Please contact their coordinator below for more information.

US coordination: Diksha Arts – Contact: Rita Dixit – Email: [rita\(at\)diksha-arts.in](mailto:rita(at)diksha-arts.in); Tel: +1-725-200-8464

CAST BIO BRIEFS



ADHIRAJ MUSTAFI (he/him) is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger, producer and music educator. He has performed on the drums, on guitar and on vocals with numerous bands over the last 20 years all across India, and on several international tours. Adhiraj is also a music entrepreneur, having co-founded two Academies for Music and Performance studies, one of India's largest multi-stage music festivals, as well as the music promotion company - *Prospect Advisory & Management* - which has been instrumental in bringing Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and many other internationally renowned jazz, blues & rock artists for performance tours to India.



SUBHADRA KAMATH (she/her) aka Subu is a musician, theatre practitioner, and educator. Subu is one of the most sought-after vocalists on the Delhi music circuit. She has been writing and performing with bands since 2007, and has been involved with theatre-based work since 2009. Subu performed at the Glasgow edition of the Commonwealth Games in 2014, and has since then acted in a string of indie feature films and theatre productions. When she gets time off from her busy touring schedule, Subu loves to teach music and theatre workshops for youth.



ANANT DAYAL (they/them) have over the years worked extensively in the fields of theatre, music and performance education. They have the distinction of being Show Running Director of the Broadway-style Bollywood stage musical *Zangoora*, helming the production for over 700 shows. They have subsequently gone on to create and direct productions dealing with themes of gender and sexuality, ecology and sustainability- in urban spaces as well as with rural mountain communities in North India. As an educator, they have created and taught programs on theatre and music for several years now.

SUPPORT STAFF

DHRUV YADAV [Sound director/background vocals] (he/him) is a professionally trained guitarist who has toured extensively as a session musician, recording artist, and band member across a variety of genres. Dhruv also has considerable experience in sound engineering, artist and audience management, event marketing and revenue target management. Dhruv has also been an active member of the theatre community as performer and music director on various theatrical productions & has over 8 yrs experience teaching music.

SHENA GAMAT [Stage director/road manager] (she/her) is one of the most sought-after actor/directors on the theatre circuit in India. She has made appearances in international stage productions, Bollywood movies and indie films. Hers is also the channel voice for Discovery Channel, India. Shena has a Post Graduate diploma degree in 'Theatre for Education & Social Development'. She was director of the Youth & Culture/Theatre Programme at New Delhi's Society for Labour & Development and has founded initiatives to bring theatre games & exercises to New Delhi public spaces.

