



• dance • venue • practice • discourse • movement •



• **PICKLE FACTORY**

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 19



CONTENTS

1. Introducing the Pickle Factory

- a. Who
- b. Why
- c. What
- d. Where

2. Pickle Factory 2018-19

- a. Overview
- b. Facts and Figures
- c. Programmes
- d. Partners and Collaborators
- e. Acknowledgements

3. Pickle Factory 2019-20

- a. Overview
- b. Planned Programmes

4. Pickle Pal Programme

1.

INTRODUCING THE PICKLE FACTORY DANCE FOUNDATION

Who

The Pickle Factory is a hub for the practice, discourse and presentation of dance and movement-based performance in Calcutta, housed in spaces re-purposed for the arts. We are nomadic at the moment, but looking to find a permanent home in the architecturally textured fabric of Calcutta.

We are inspired by and constantly revisit the question of what it means to create, share and reflect on such work in a shifting and uniquely Indian context, while being closely connected to an international network of similar endeavours.

We actively work with, for and through artists, audiences and support systems towards a vibrant, invested, and critical culture and community.

Why

The Pickle Factory responds to the absence of spaces for discourse and development for dance in India, spaces where practitioners can explore their practice, share and exchange ideas and values, and interact with current and potential audiences, embracing and cutting across the many frictions of form, style, aesthetics and politics that now divide rather than strengthen us.

What

We Curate Catalyse Cultivate

- Provide regular performance opportunities for practitioners to experiment with and expand their body of work
- Offer residencies, workshops and training involving local, national and international practitioners evolving a diversity of perspectives
- Create and implement stimulating arts engagement programmes to develop interested and sensitive audiences

Where

The choice to locate such a venue in Calcutta is a conscious one, taking into account the strong cultural and socio-political history of the city. The city is a true confluence of cultures, a unique pastiche of meeting and morphing histories, times and traditions. This is reflected in its diverse architecture, religious and cultural communities and community expressions, cuisine, languages, academic thought, and artistic practice. Historically a centre for arts experimentation, Calcutta enjoys a reputation for dealing in the currency of ideas and imagination and is home to a large population of artists and audiences hungry for art.

The Pickle Factory Dance Foundation is a non-profit company registered under Section 8 of The Companies Act, 2013

COMPANY DIRECTORS

Vikram Iyengar
Ruchira Das

CORE TEAM

Vikram Iyengar
Ruchira Das
Dana Roy
Anubha Fatehpuria

ADMINISTRATOR

Tamali Bhattacharya

REGISTERED OFFICE

Flat 105, 8 Sultan Alam Road
Calcutta 700 033

picklefactorycalcutta@gmail.com
www.picklefactory.in

PICKLE FACTORY
weekends



जनस
JANUS
CENTRE FOR VISUAL
& PERFORMING ARTS



2.

PICKLE FACTORY 2018-19



Caitlin by Light Ladd and Emberton, photograph: Jennifer Kishan

Overview

Pickle Factory Season 1 spanned five weeks in February-March 2018 across 12 different venues presenting performances, talks, workshops, lecture-demonstrations, dance in public spaces, exhibitions and more by artists from India and abroad. The Season involved 33 partners and 12 venues, reaching more than 4,500 people locally as well as thousands more online.

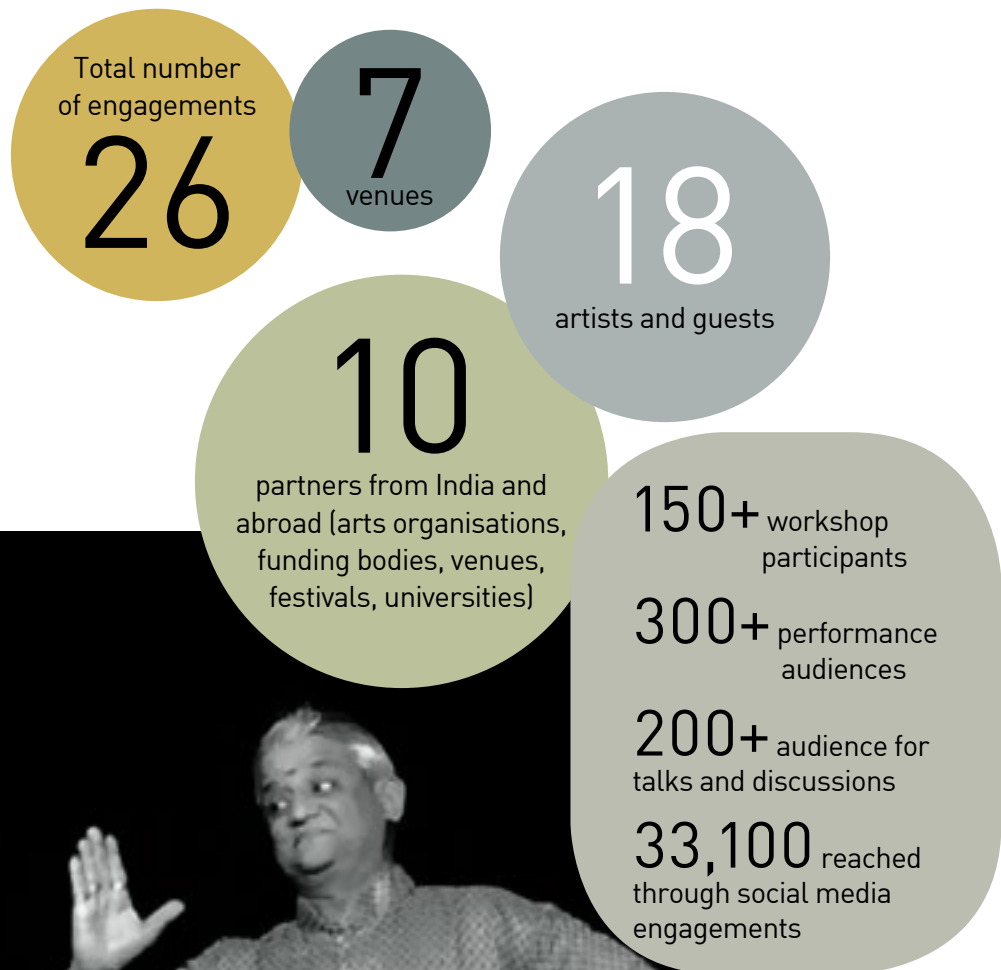
After this inaugural splash, we focussed on smaller, regular programmes, presenting local, national and international work, towards our mandate of creating a critically informed and invested community around dance and movement performance in east-India and north-east India. Between August 2018 and March 2019 we featured artists from India, the USA, The Philippines, Lithuania, Switzerland, China and Wales.

In one short year, company director Vikram Iyengar has represented us at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, International Society for Performing Arts (New York), Tokyo Performing Arts Meet (Japan), and Dance Massive (Melbourne, Australia). Pickle Factory has become known as an international presenter and initiator of high quality performance work.

Facts and Figures

When, Where, Who with

August 2018 to January 2019



Guru Kalamandalam Venkit in *The Free Male: negotiating the female in dance*, photograph: Vikram Iyengar

Programmes

2 Preludes, 1 Weekend, 3 Workshops, 1 Special

- PF Preludes introduces and discusses ideas around dance practice and development through playful, provocative and participatory processes.
- PF Weekends presents tightly programmed engagements around a particular theme presented with and in unusual Calcutta spaces.
- PF Workshop experiences featured artists from the USA, Switzerland and China.
- PF Special with Welsh company Light Ladd and Emberton from Cardiff presented a series of engagements in Calcutta and Bolpur.

PRELUDES AND WEEKENDS

Preludes, August 2018:

Tagore, Dance and Modernism

Facilitated by Aveek Sen and Vikram Iyengar

Weekends, September 2018:

The Free Male: negotiating the female in dance

Curated by Vandana Alase Hazra, with Amrit Khatua and Pritam Das

Preludes, November 2018:

Embodying Assembly: the body as democracy

Facilitated by Abhijan Gupta, with Egle Budvytyte (Lithuania), JK Anicoche (The Philippines) and Anjum Katyal (India)

Our venue partners for Preludes and Weekends were Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata and Janus.

WORKSHOPS

September 2018:

Mapping Memories with Preeti Vasudevan (USA)

Workshops with members of Women of Entrepreneurs Organisation, and performers from Calcutta

November 2018:

Inclusive Practices with Alessandro Schiattarella (Switzerland)

Workshops with performers, and students of Akshar School

December 2018:

From Nothing to Everything with Xiao Ke and Zi Han (China)

Workshop with performers

Our venue partners for workshops were Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata and Padatik Theatre.

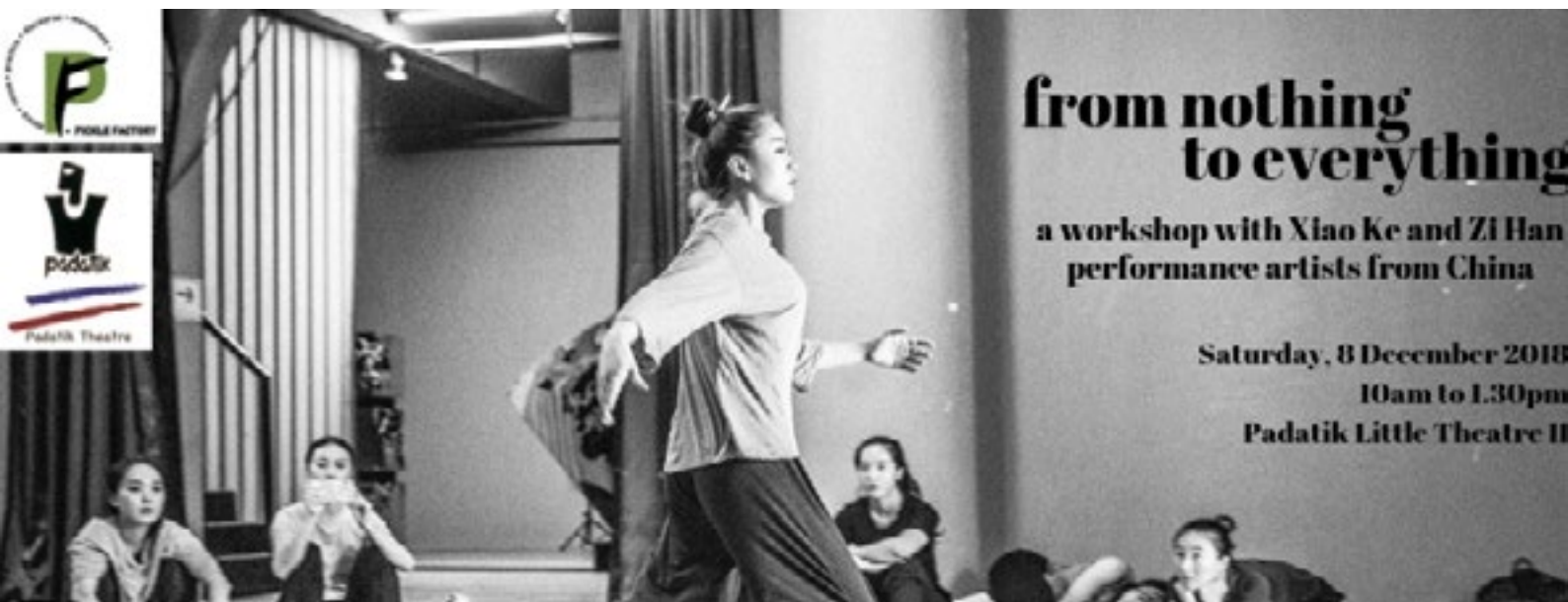
a workshop by **Alessandro Schiattarella**

Inclusive Practices

Monday, 19 November 2018
1pm to 8pm
Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhawan, Kolkata



swiss arts co-
prshelve



from nothing to everything

a workshop with Xiao Ke and Zi Han
performance artists from China

Saturday, 8 December 2018
10am to 1.30pm
Padatik Little Theatre II

Mapping Memories

a movement workshop by Preeti Vasudevan

Saturday, 15 September 2018
1pm to 3pm
Padatik Little Theatre II, Calcutta

For dancers and actors of any background
Call 8910768391 to register



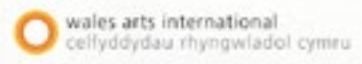


present

CAITLIN

BY LIGHT LADD & EMBERTON

Supported by



Local Partners



Poster for *Caitlin* by Light Ladd and Emberton

SPECIAL

In January 2019, Pickle Factory in partnership with Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet, presented 8 days of engagements in Calcutta and Bolpur with the dance company Light Ladd and Emberton from Cardiff, centring around their award-winning production CAITLIN.

The project was supported by British Council and Wales Arts International, with local partners Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata, Padatik Theatre, Think Arts and Kala Bhavana.

Bolpur

- 1 work demonstration
- 1 workshop with students of Kala Bhavana
- 1 workshop sharing

Calcutta

- 4 public performances of CAITLIN
- 1 special performance for high school students
- 2 post-show discussions
- 2 workshops – for performers and for students
- 1 lecture demonstration for Jadavpur university students and faculty
- 1 panel discussion at the Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet

CAITLIN was presented as part of Wales in Kolkata, a season of Welsh arts activity and collaboration taking place in Kolkata in January. Supported by the British Council and Wales Arts International, Wales in Kolkata was a result of the relationships and networks formed by the 2017/18 IndiaWales season, a major programme of artistic collaboration between Wales and India.

Partners and Collaborators

1. Goethe Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata: PF Preludes, workshop venue, performance venue for CAITLIN
2. Padatik Theatre: venue partner for workshops
3. Women of EO: for workshop with Preeti Vasudevan
4. Janus: venue partner for PF Weekends
5. Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council: collaboration for Alessandro Schiattarella
6. Akshar School: for workshop with Alessandro Schiattarella
7. Tata Steel Kolkata Literary Meet: India partner for Light Ladd and Emberton
8. Wales Arts International: international partner for Light Ladd and Emberton
9. British Council: international partner for Light Ladd and Emberton
10. Kala Bhavana, Bolpur: local partner for Light Ladd and Emberton
11. Think Arts: partner for young audience's engagement, Light Ladd and Emberton
12. Edinburgh Fringe Society: Vikram Iyengar's participation in the Promoter Plus programme at EdFringe 2018
13. International Society for the Performing Arts: Vikram Iyengar's participation as a Global Fellow in the New York Congress
14. Japan Foundation: Vikram Iyengar's delegate participation at Tokyo Performing Arts Meet (TPAM)
15. Australian High Commission: Vikram Iyengar's delegate participation in Dance Massive and Ten Days on the Island





PF Preludes, *Tagore, Dance and Modernity*, photograph: Dana Roy



Workshop with Xiao Ke and Zi Han, photograph: Vikram Iyengar



Workshop by Pritam Das, *The Free Male: negotiating the female in dance*, photograph: Vikram Iyengar



Amrit Khatua in *Streevesham, The Free Male: negotiating the female in dance*, photograph: Vikram Iyengar



Workshop by Alessandro Schiattarella at Akshar School, photograph: Dana Roy



Work demonstration by Light Ladd and Emberton at Kala Bhavana, Bolpur, photograph: Aopala Banerjee

Preeti Mam
for teaching us new things and helping us for opening up with our memories!.....

+ a great experience
I became more confident and + humble as an actor.
Thank You,
Ma, am.
Goutam.

ThankU Pickle Factory for organizing a Workshop to connect closely with hwe. Keep doing the work, Kolkata needs it. We want it...
Pragya.

Hii! THIS IS SUBHASISH.
THIS IS A VERY BIG PLEASURE TO MEET NA'AM

Simple
Dance

Meeting Dana at Preeti's show was serendipity!
I got to know about the workshop after the movie
abreyee.day@gmail.com

Acknowledgements

We are very thankful to the following for their support over the year:

A. P. Rajaram	Mahmud Alam
Akshay Pathak	Malavika Banerjee
Allegra Nespoli	Michael Rao
Aman Kaur	Mohua Banerjee
Anjum Katyal	Nandita Palchoudhuri
Anuradha Lohia	Natalie Smith
Aoi Ishimaru	Nicola Morgan
Aopala Banerjee	Nilanjana Gupta
Cathy Gomez	Noni Khullar
Daminee Benny Basu	Nora Fleury
Debanjan Chakrabarti	Pami Brahma
Debaroti Chakraborty	Pratiti Ganatra
Debrop Chakraborty	Priyadarshini Ghosh
Emily Sexton	Radhika Singh
Emma Porteus	Rebecca Gould
Friso Maecker	Robyn Jancovich-Brown
Geraldine Gante	Sampurna Chakraborty
Gulan Kripalani	Sanchayan Ghosh
Guru Kalamandalam	Sanchayita Bhattacharya
Venkit	Sharanya Chattopadhyay
Hema Rance	Sharmistha Sarker
Indrani Chakrabarti	Shonali Ganguli
Isha Daga	Stephanie Samuel
James Tyson	Surjit Nongmeikapam
Jennifer Kishan	Swati Ganguli
Kathakali Jana	Tanima Maniktala
Laura Drane	Tish Brennan-Steers

3.

PICKLE FACTORY 2019-20

Overview

Pickle Factory has a diverse range of programmes planned for 2019-20, involving artists and guests from India, Scotland, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Germany, Austria and Uruguay. The year will also see us forge new partnerships with organisations in Manipur, Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore, as we continue to deepen our existing relationships.

Planned Programmes

- Pickle Factory Preludes and Pickle Factory Weekends will return in reviewed and revamped versions, working with local artists and groups to present exciting engagements with dance practice and discourse. There will be three presentations under each module starting May and June 2019 respectively.
- As the first part of a reciprocal Asialink Residency, we will host two artists from Australia – a choreographer and a filmmaker – for six weeks in Calcutta from end October to early December. They will work with local dancers and create various interventions while here, as well as travel to other locations.
- Pickle Factory Season 2 is scheduled for November 2019, and will feature:
 - » a festival including performances, workshops, artist interactions, talks and more in various venues in the city
 - » conversations on repurposing spaces for the performing arts bringing together artists, architects, government bodies, business houses, arts audiences, and many others
 - » a focus on developing critical responses to dance and movement work through training, facilitation and audience interactions
- Pickle Factory Specials in early 2020 will offer in depth experiences with artists from India and abroad.

4.

PICKLE PAL PROGRAMME



All the plans we have outlined above for the short term and long term require many resources. We invite you to be part of the Pickle Factory movement. Become a Pickle Pal!

Would you like to partner us in any of our projects?

Do you have / know of / have access to a space in Calcutta that could be re-purposed for the arts? Invite us to take a look.

Would you like to volunteer your time, resources, expertise to help us in our journey? No contribution is too small or too large!

Would you like to be a member or donor to the Pickle Factory Dance Foundation and support us long term?

We would love to hear from you, and start a conversation. Please get in touch with us on picklefactorycalcutta@gmail.com

Follow us on **Facebook**
Join our **database** to receive regular updates on our programmes

