

THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

arts
at Williams

SHAKUNTALA

DIRECTED BY SHANTI PILLAI

AND SEAN DEVARE

a remix

62CENTER.WILLIAMS.EDU

THU | MAY 4 | 7PM | DIRECTING STUDIO

FRI & SAT | MAY 5 & 6 | 7PM & 9PM

DIRECTING STUDIO

62

Williams Theatre Department

presents

**SHAKUNTALA:
a remix**

Directed by
Shanti Pillai & Sean Devare

Performers

Ryan Crants '24, Sean Devare, Jonas Echeandia '23,
Vania Gautam '26, Marc Gomes, Hung Ha '26,
Analua Moreira '25, Stella Oh '25, Shanti Pillai,
Sophia Rothman '25, Diliara Sadykova '26,
Luke Santy, Saumya Shinde '26,
Danae Tsiamis, E Wolfson '23

Puppet Design
Sean Devare

Music & Sound Design
Luke Santy

Scenic Design
Ant Ma

Lighting Design
Barbara Samuels

Costume Design
Deborah A. Brothers

Bollywood Choreographer
Sujata Goel

Dramaturg
Amy Holzapfel

Props Design, Puppet Fabrication
Katie Polebaum-Freeman

Vocal Coach
Kim Stauffer

Puppetry Consultant, Fabricator
David Lane

Stage Manager
Sari Klainberg '25

The performance runs 1 hour and 20 minutes. There is no intermission.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Jennifer Collins Hard	Production Manager
Tim Gore '24.....	Asst. Lighting Designer & Dramaturgy Asst.
Jane Su '26	Assistant Stage Manager
Leo Levine '26.....	Light Board Operator
Eriks Zamurs '24.....	Light Board Operator
Peyton Beeli '23.....	Backstage Crew
Satya Benson '26	Wardrobe Crew
Jordan Furtak '23	Wardrobe Crew
Emma Hennessy '26.....	Wardrobe Crew
Sally Neugarten '26.....	Sound Operator
Charlotte Newman '26.....	Sound Operator

The Recognition of Shakuntala is a poetic masterpiece by Kalidasa, written in the golden age of Sanskrit theatre, sometime around the 4th century CE and based on a tale from the epic, the Mahabharata. In this contemporary adaptation, we invite our audiences into an immersive experience as we explore themes of love, memory, betrayal, and forgiveness.

“On reading *Shakuntala*, naturally I recognized it’s greatness, but I said to myself: ‘None of this corresponds to my own experience.’ The classics are like a mountain which we use in order to see into the distance, and on climbing the mountain we discover our uncertainties.”

- Eugenio Barba

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This project seeks to honor the power of collaborative art making. At every moment of the process, we have endeavored to celebrate the contribution of each participant in achieving something larger than any one individual. We have worked side by side, committing ourselves to the arduous labor of performance with hard work, patience, rigor, and, most importantly, joy. It is my wish that our audiences can share that joy with us during these nights.

- Shanti Pillai, Co-Director

In both form and content, our exploration of Shakuntala's story has embraced fluidity of time, space, and identity. In our ever-changing worlds, how do we reconcile the collision of past and present, and how recognizable are we to ourselves and others through the passage of time? Many of us have experienced prolonged separations from loved ones over the last few years, and reunions are cathartic if we are fortunate enough to have them at all. But in some instances, meeting someone new can feel eerily familiar, as if we are repeating a cycle or encountering someone from a past life, but remixed in the present.

- Sean Devare, Co-Director

BIOS

Ryan Crants '24 (he/him/his, Performer) is a Theatre and Statistics double major from Nashville, TN. Elsewhere on campus, he has directed *Frosh Revue* and sings with the Williams Springstreeters. He spent last semester studying at the National Theater Institute and is excited to be back on the Williams stage!

Sean Devare (he/him, Co-Director, Puppet Designer, Performer) is a NYC-based interdisciplinary director, designer, and performer. He is at Williams this semester as the Arthur Levitt Jr. '52 Artist in Residence. Sean's work explores questions of cultural inheritance and hybridization through reinterpreting folklore and mythology by combining classical western art training with Asian artistic practices; from mask-carving and puppetry to Carnatic violin techniques. His pursuits in puppetry and ancient performance traditions have brought him to study and work in Bali, India, Ecuador, and Sicily. MFA Theatre, Sarah Lawrence College; BFA Illustration, RISD. www.seandevare.com

Jonas Echeandia '23 (he/him, Performer) is from Providence, RI. He has three brothers and one sister. He likes to make music and perform on stage. This is his second production.

Vania Gautam '26 (she/her/hers, Performer) is from Hopkinton, MA. Vania has been a classical Indian dancer for the past 10 years and enjoys sharing her culture with others. At Williams, she is learning how to play the sitar and is a member of various student organizations. Vania would like to thank Shanti, Sean, and everyone in the cast and crew for being so supportive. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Marc Gomes (he/him, Performer) is an actor and teacher. He is Assistant Professor of Acting at Ithaca College.

Hung Ha '26 (he/him, Performer) is from Hanoi, Vietnam. He is curious about the arts: the performing arts (theater, music, dance), the visual arts, and literatures. *Shakuntala* is his second show at Williams. He encountered new theatrical practices that changed his mind about the intersection of art forms. He hopes to continue in the future.

Sari Klainberg '25 (she/her, Stage Manager) is a Theater and Comparative Literature double major from Brooklyn, NY. She is a director, stage manager, lighting designer, associate production manager for Cap & Bells, and works in the '62 Center Scene Shop. Williams credits include: *Area D* (AD), *The Baltimore Waltz* (Lighting Designer), *Next to Normal* (Director), *Penelope* (Lighting Designer), *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea* (AD), *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (SM) and *Mamma Mia!* (AD). Special thanks to Jane, Shanti, and Sean!

Analua Alencar Moreira '25 (she/her/hers, Performer) is an English and American Studies double major from Belchertown, MA. This is her first production at Williams. She is excited to continue exploring the intersection points of art and social justice in all its forms in this production and beyond. She'd love to thank her family and friends for the FaceTimes, love, and the endless stream of quotes for the quote list; and Shanti, Sean, Sari, and everyone in the cast and crew for making this show a possibility!

Stella Oh '25 (she/her, Performer) is a Theatre and Computer Science double major who's from Queens, NY and Seattle, WA. Her recent Williams' credits include *with witchcraft in our lips* (Maeve), *Baltimore Waltz* (Sound Designer), and *She Kills Monsters* (Tilly Evans). She hopes you enjoy *Shakuntala* and thanks the wonderful cast and crew for such a lovely experience!

Shanti Pillai (she/her, Director, Performer) is an artist, teacher, and scholar. She is Assistant Professor of Theatre at Williams College.

Sophia Rothman '25 (she/her/hers, Performer) is an English major and songwriter from New York, NY. She's been involved in Cap and Bells shows as a director, actor, and sound designer, but this is her first Theater Department production! She hopes you enjoy the show.

Diliara Sadykova '26 (she/her, Performer) is a prospective Economics and Computer Science double major from Kazan, Russia. She took THEA 15 - a clown course - during Winter Study and decided to explore theater at Williams more. Diliara has no previous experience, but she is obsessed with fantasy worlds and actors portraying fictional characters. She wants to take as many theater courses as possible.

Saumya Shinde '26 (she/her/hers, Performer) is from Mumbai, India. She uses art for advocacy and wishes to do social work - especially Conflict Mediation and Dialogue Facilitation after Williams. She is excited to bring to life the beginning of the Hindu Indian mythology with this amazing group and hopes the audience enjoys it. She started her theater journey at Williams with Vanessa Silva's Thesis play *with witchcraft in our lips* and has fallen in love with the Theatre Department ever since.

Jane Su '26 (she/her, Assistant Stage Manager) is a prospective Theater and Art History and Studio double major from Shenzhen, China. Her past theater credits at Williams include *Theatre: A Love Story* (assistant set designer), *with witchcraft in our lips* (scenic designer), *Next to Normal* (set/prop designer), *Tropical Edge* (costume designer), and some more edgy performance pieces in the visual art realm. She is honored and grateful to be in part of this Indian epic love story, especially the Bollywood dance number.

Danae Tsiamis (she/her, Performer) is a French language associate at Williams from Kos, Greece. She has performed in *The Little Prince* (Fox), *Romeo and Juliet* (Prince), Anouilh's *Medea* (Nurse), and various characters in the anthology plays *Stand up for Bastards* and *Chroniques 3*. She was the assistant director for Caridad Svich's *Theatre: A Love Story* directed by Emmanuelle Delpeche.

E Wolfson '23 (they/them, Performer) is a Theatre and Psychology double major from Los Angeles, CA. Past theatre department credits include *Yerma* (Yerma II/Ensemble), *Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea* (Little One), *Theatre: A Love Story* (Two), *Jenny's Doll Hospital* (Willow), and *The Baltimore Waltz* (Carl). They are excited to work with this team and know this last production as an undergrad will be a memorable one!

Featured Upcoming Events:

arts
at Williams

DANCE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

SPRING ALL ENSEMBLES PERFORMANCE

62CENTER.WILLIAMS.EDU

'62

THU & FRI | MAY 11 & 12 | 7PM | MAINSTAGE

'62 CENTER FOR THEATRE AND DANCE

Join us for our Spring all-ensembles performance. This year the students and faculty will examine how we present performances as a collective of movement and storytelling practitioners. Please join us to support our explorations of how we present a year's worth of work!

SPRING '23



Williams College is an institution built on the homeland of the Muh-he-con-neok, the People of the Waters That Are Never Still. Ephraim Williams Jr., the founder of the College, played an integral role in the forced displacement of the Muh-he-con-neok, just as his family were involved in the enslavement of African Americans.

Today known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, the Muh-he-con-neok live all over the country. Roughly a third live on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation in Shawano County, Wisconsin -- over 1000 miles from their native land. This history is recent; it shapes our present day.

All artistic endeavors that happen here, such as the work you are going to see today, are indebted to the community, their ancestors, and these lands. To them we pay our deep respects. Although we cannot change the past, it is our responsibility to work in the present to create the possibility for a better future that can nourish the lives of all beings. We pledge our commitment as artists to act in ways large and small that support the building of inclusive and equitable spaces and ways of living. For more information about the Stockbridge Munsee Community, see www.mohican.com.

We also encourage you to find out whose land you are on, wherever you live and work, and which indigenous organizations you can support. Please check out this resource to locate geographic details about indigenous peoples, languages, and treaties made with US and Canadian governments: native-land.ca.



THEATRE DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF

Professor of Theatre	Robert Baker-White
Costume Shop Manager.....	Barbara A. Bell
Administrative Coordinator	Laurie Booth
Costume Director, Lecturer in Theatre, Retired.....	Deborah A. Brothers
Patron and Visiting Artist Services Manager	Corissa Bryant
William Dwight Whitney Professor of Arts and Theatre, Emeritus.....	Jean-Bernard Bucky
Sound and Media Manager	John Burrow
Arthur Levitt, Jr. '52 Artist-in-Residence.....	Sean Devare
House Manager	Ann Marie Dorr
Professor of Theatre, Emeritus	David Eppel
Visiting Artist Producer and Outreach Manager	Randal Fippinger
Production Manager	Jennifer Collins Hard
Professor of Theatre	Amy Holzapfel
Production Technician.....	Daniel O'Connell
Career Program Advisor.....	Kevin O'Rourke
Assistant Costume Shop Manager.....	Samantha E. Patterson
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre.....	Jessica Pearson-Bleyer
Senior Lecturer in English and Theatre	James Pethica
Assistant Professor of Theatre	Shanti Pillai
Technical Director of the Theatre Department	Maia Robbins-Zust
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre.....	Barbara Samuels
Chair and Professor of Theatre	Omar Sangare
House Manager	Emma Whittum
Operations Manager, Dance Technical Director, and Presenting Production Manager.....	Nathaniel T. Wiessner

Costume Shop: Delilah Delgado, Mayel Levin, Rebekah Lindsay, Carolyn Mielke, Luiza Repsold Franca, Lane Sillin, Kayla Swift

Scene Shop Crew: Alexis Ahn, Cassandra Aretsky, Peyton Beeli, Francie Brewster, Ruth Bristol, Jessica Jiang, Sari Klainberg, Leo Levine, Locke Meyer, Stella Oh, Ariana Oppenheimer, Aiden Pham, Jane Su, Eriks Zamurs, Emily Zas

Student House Manager: Alameda Chapman

Event Assistants: Kei Bayramshian, Lola Casenave Barranguet, Alameda Chapman, Margo Cramer, Lucy Cumming, Rebecca Gross, Simon Jenkins, JinYoung Kim, Emily Kuwaye, Elyes Laalai, April Li, Beza Lulseged, Lee Mabhena, Dalilah Montesino, Dylan Nadelman, Ariana Oppenheimer, Ozan Sarac, Ruby Teklemariam, Milton Vento

Marketing and Outreach support: Katheleen Hakes