

THE WRITING ON DANCE LABORATORY



Friday Feb 6 to Sunday Feb 15, 10 am onwards
Centre for Law and Policy Research, Primrose Road



As the possibility and scope around the performing arts increases, there is also a growing need to build a meaningful discourse around them. There is a gaping hole in the mainstream media as it looks at arts coverage as some of the last amongst its priorities. Therefore there is also a need to look at alternative spaces to encourage long-form writing that works towards the building of this discourse.

In the past few editions of the Writing on Dance, the programme functioned as a workshop, mentoring and guiding writers interested in engaging with the arts, especially contemporary dance. This focus on skill development was useful for a number of writers from different arts backgrounds, especially in the presence of a mentor or mentor-facilitator.

This Biennial, there has been a slight shift in the way that the Writing on Dance Laboratory has been designed. Geared towards the online dance journal *Ligament*, the laboratory will function as a magazine editorial space, where eight experienced art and dance writers, selected through an open call for South Asia, will produce critical writing and articulations around the Biennial as part of a larger Biennial issue. This equal-footed space will allow for ideas to be hashed out, discussed, debated and put in perspective.

The writers will also have sessions with experts in the field of performing arts and cultural theory to gain perspective on the trajectory of contemporary art in South Asia.

PARTICIPANTS

Asoka Mendis de Zoysa (Colombo, Sri Lanka) is a professor in German Studies, Department of Modern Languages, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. He also reviews contemporary Sri Lankan dance and art for various publications and has translated German plays into Sinhala and English.

Kirtana Kumar (Bangalore, India) is an actor, director and filmmaker. A large part of her work has dealt with issues of gender and sexuality. Her interest is now in developing new audiences and the politics of urban-rural collisions. She lives on a farm with a musician and some dogs.

Namita Aavriti (Bangalore, India) is a writer and fledgeling filmmaker. Her interests are biopolitics, sexual speech and regulation, technology and archiving.

Nithin Manayath (Bangalore, India) is assistant professor with the department of Communication Studies at Mount Carmel College, Bangalore. His research interests include erotics, performance studies and science and technology studies. He writes occasionally on sexual politics for local magazines.

Ranjana Dave (Mumbai, India) is an Odissi dancer and dance writer. She runs Dance Dialogues, a platform that connects dancers and dance enthusiasts to provocative and multi-disciplinary ideas, individuals and institutions.

Roshan Kumar Mogali (Pune, India) is a writer, journalist and editor. He has worked with Domus India, Press Association UK and The Indian Express.

Ruhanie Perera (Colombo, Sri Lanka) is a performer, performance-maker and researcher working in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She is a founding member of Floating Space Theatre Company, and is also attached to the Department of English, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka as a visiting lecturer in performance and literature.

Swar Thounaojam (Bangalore, India) is a Bangalore-based playwright, theatre director, and performer.

The Writing on Dance Laboratory is supported by



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