



CH  WK  
PRODUCTIONS

PITCH DECK





## Who we are

Chowk is a non-profit dance company from Singapore that focuses on creating dance-theatre performances rooted in classical Indian dance while experimenting with Asian and Western Somatic practices to create a Singapore-made idiom of Asian contemporary dance.

Through rigorous innovations in form and aesthetic, their performances blur the dichotomy between tradition and modernity, transcending cultural boundaries and redefining what it means to amalgamate past and present in today's multicultural society.





Our teachers use the traditional block (kattai) and stick (kol) to instruct our students in Odissi

In 2007, founder Raka Maitra began teaching Odissi, an Indian classical dance, to a handful of students which slowly grew in numbers to form a budding community.

Chowk Productions was awarded the National Arts Council's Seed Grant in 2014, forming the professional company which spearheaded many of Chowk's experimental dance works that established the company with its distinct language of dance both locally and internationally.

In 2022, Chowk was officially recognised as a Major Company under the National Arts Council's Major Company Scheme and is an Institute of Public Character. To date, Chowk has staged over 15 professional productions and counting.





## What we do

Chowk runs a professional training wing under our Associate Artist Programme which invites dancers and theatre practitioners working in the arts to train with Chowk.

The focused training incorporates Odissi with Asian somatic practices to form a training methodology developed by Chowk, enabling performers to master the classical techniques and adapt the form into expressing a variety of stories beyond the Indian dance canon.

Through this process, Chowk Productions actively hones a new generation of Indian dance lovers and practitioners of an international standard in Singapore.

Associate artists in *These Brief Encounters* (2021), a collaboration with Siong Leng Musical Association





**Our community, the heart of Chowk**

Chowk is a home to a community of dancers and enthusiasts who train under our dedicated company artists, experiencing the beauty and joys of Indian classical dance. The classes remain open to the public regardless of age, ethnicity, and cultural background, forming new connections and friendships through dance.

Each year, the Chowk Community stages a public performance to showcase the students of all levels in the annual *Chowk Show*.

Our students practicing Seraikella Chhau, a martial art form incorporated to complement Odissi training at Chowk.



## **Our Mission**

To be a trailblazer in the arts that transcends boundaries by creating relevant, intercultural performances which unite and inspire through its rigour and originality.

## **Our vision**

To foster a sense of community for everyone through art.





## Upcoming works

### Tropic of Capricorn, 2023

*Tropic of Capricorn* is a new collaboration between Chowk Productions and award-winning Argentinian director Guillermo Angelelli with an original devised work that bridges Asian and Latin American performance practices in this unique intercultural collaboration.

Inspired by the novel of the same title by Henry Miller, *Tropic of Capricorn* seeks to contemplate the male gaze and its political, societal, and personal impact on relationships and our humanity through this confluence of movement, text, and music.

***Tropic of Capricorn will be performed from 28-30 September 2023 at the Drama Centre Black Box***



Company dancers Sandhya Suresh and Caroline Chin



## Tropic of Capricorn, 2023

Chowk is currently raising funds to support the artistic, venue, and technical costs for staging this performance.

100% of the proceeds will go towards supporting and recognising the efforts of our freelance artists and technicians involved in mounting this production.

To find out more about how one can support this work and the company's artistic endeavours, please reach out to us today.

***The Tropic of Capricorn* is endorsed by the Argentinian Embassy of Singapore.**



## Upcoming events

Chowk's 10 year anniversary in 2024

Chowk will be celebrating a decade of Singapore-made intercultural work that has become its own idiom of dance that is unique and unlike any other in the world.



We will be reprising our most acclaimed works that marked key milestones within Chowk's repertoire:

***Pallavi in Time*** (an original classical Odissi production)

***These Brief Encounters*** (a collaboration with Siong Leng Musical Association)

***Variations on a Theme*** (a commission by Esplanade Theatres on the Bay)



# Our future goals

Chowk aims to grow its audiences both locally and internationally while supporting an even bigger pool of young artists who represent the future of Singapore's Arts and Cultural landscape together with our ever-growing community of arts enthusiasts and supporters of the Arts in Singapore.

Chowk company dancers and associate artists during an international collaboration with indigenous Santhal performers in Bhirbhum, India, 2022.



## Our commitment to you

As a non-profit organisation, Chowk seeks to continually source for new avenues that will support the growth of our company and the community it supports by remaining accessible to all. If you would like to support Chowk and help us continue growing the arts scene, donate or speak to us about commissions today.

*All donations made to Chowk are matched dollar-for-dollar under the Cultural Matching Fund and are eligible for a 250% tax deduction*



Company dancer Caroline Chin in Odissi (2022), a classical dance production



## Our core team

**Founder, Artistic Director**

Raka Maitra

**Company Dancer, Marketing Executive**

Caroline Chin

**General Manager**

Rashmi Vasishta

The Chowk ensemble in *Yahi* (2022), a contemporary production.





# Get in touch with us

**Email**      [chowk@chowk.sg](mailto:chowk@chowk.sg)

**Website**      [www.chowk.sg](http://www.chowk.sg)

**Socials**      [www.facebook.com/chowkdance](http://www.facebook.com/chowkdance)

[instagram: @chowk.sg](https://www.instagram.com/chowk.sg)

[Vimeo: vimeo.com/chowk](https://vimeo.com/chowk)

Aliwal Arts Centre. 28 Aliwal Street, #03-08 199918.



Check out this mini-documentary about our company  
and why creating new perspectives in dance matters.

The logo for CHOWK PRODUCTIONS is centered on a frosted glass window. The word "CHOWK" is in a large, black, serif font, with a stylized red and black geometric shape replacing the letter "O". Below "CHOWK", the word "PRODUCTIONS" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, with wide letter spacing. The background shows a window with a view of a building exterior and some indoor plants in the foreground.

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