

Anthropologies Imaginaires

AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE
Gabriel Dharmoo, Canada



“It’s at once a technically impressive and very serious contemplation of cultural differences and a wildly inventive skewering of imagined traditions and the way we talk about real ones.”

My Entertainment World

“A theatrical encounter at the intersections of sound art and video installation that cunningly evokes amusement and discomfort on themes of cultural domination, exoticization, and cultural appropriation.”

Mooney on Theatre

Photo: Jan Gates

Winner of awards at the 2015 Amsterdam Fringe Festival and the 2016 SummerWorks Performance Festival in Toronto, *Anthropologies Imaginaires* is a solo performance about the virtuosity, versatility and strangeness of the human voice. Interacting with a video of so-called experts, the performer invents vocal traditions, woven together with imaginary folklore and experimental voice techniques. The result is an aural landscape that questions concepts of normality. *Anthropologies Imaginaires* is a humorous exploration of post-colonialism, post-exoticism, cultural extinction, globalization, normalised racism and cultural appropriation.

A distinguished composer and vocalist, **Gabriel Dharmoo** mixes musical styles to create discourse. He’s an artist interested not only in music, but in what it can represent, and how it can be used to interrogate our cultural assumptions. An intellectual artist in the best sense, Dharmoo is equally concerned with beauty and meaning. In this performance he appears onstage by himself, evoking the chants and rituals of fictional, exoticised ‘others’. On screen behind the singer, various anthropologists and other humanities experts, hold forth on the origins and meaning of these vocalisations.

His purpose is quizzical and satirical; his creations hold a light up to our own cultural perspectives, provoking us to examine the way we look at others.

Gabriel Dharmoo's musical practice encompasses composition, vocal improvisation, live-arts and research. His musical compositions have been performed in Canada, the U.S.A, Europe, Australia, Singapore and South Africa. He was awarded the SOCAN Jan V. Matejcek Award (2016), the Fernand-Lindsay Prix d'Europe composition prize (2011), the Canada Council for the Art Robert Fleming Prize (2011) as well as 6 prizes from the SOCAN Foundation Awards for Young Composers. Besides his Western classical training, he sought training, mentorship and research in South Indian Carnatic music, overtone singing, yodeling, beatboxing and other experimental vocal techniques. He

MEDIA RELEASE

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is currently enrolled in Concordia University's PhD "Individualized Program" with Sandeep Bhagwati (Music), Noah Drew (Theatre) and David Howes (Anthropology of the Senses).

Where	The Reginald, Seymour Centre
When	9, 10, 11 & 13 January at 7.30pm 14 & 15 January at 6pm
Duration	45mins (no interval)
Tickets	General Admission \$36 (M)
Bookings	Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876 sydneyfestival.org.au/anthropologies

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