

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

May 2013 Singapore - Arte Compass, Base Entertainment, MediaCorpVizPro and ATA All Star is pleased to announce the return of the super hit musical *The Merchants of Bollywood* at the MasterCard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands, Grand Theatre, from 5th November to 10th November 2013.

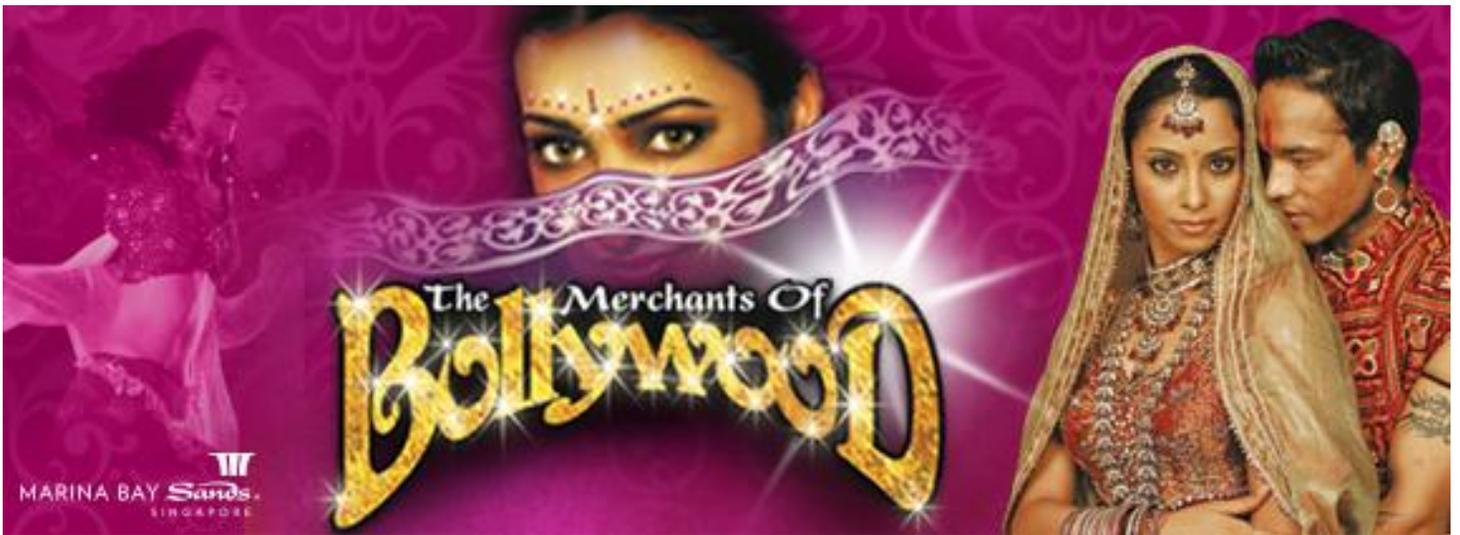
The Merchants of Bollywood is an original production from Australia with a cast and crew direct from India's film city – MUMBAI. Hailed as the world's first authentic Bollywood musical, it is inspired from the real life story of **Vaibhavi Merchant**, the shows choreographer. Producers **Mark & Tony Brady**, with over 40 years of experience in the industry have collaborated with the world's most prolific film industry – Bollywood. Performed by highly regarded film and stage artists, choreographers and music directors, the show which premiered in 2005 has since been staged in over **200 countries**. Having performed to rave reviews and thrilled **over five million audiences Worldwide with** over 1000 shows in **Brussels, Antwerp, Paris, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Canberra, Zurich, Geneva, Berlin, Frankfurt, Munich, Hamburg, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, Beijing, Bangkok, Paris, Amsterdam, Vienna, Rome, Milan** inclusive **three sell out seasons on London's West End**. **The Merchants of Bollywood** will pump up the energy on stage when it opens in Singapore.

This show will reach across all cultures in this multi-racial society. It features songs and dance from smash-hit Bollywood movies like *Lagaan, Devdas, Musafir, Bunty Aur Babli, Jhoom Barabar Jhoom, Rang de Basanti, Dhoom and Dhoom 2*, music from **the Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman**, and numerous other great moments of Bollywood live on stage in a lavish production capturing the essence of India, its rich and diverse culture, and its people in a world of Technicolor brilliance. For Singapore the show is being updated to include all the latest smash hit songs inclusive; *Thuh Le, Jigar Da Tukda, Haippa* and the block buster *Mashallah* from the hit film *Ek Tha Tiger*.



The musical with a **cast and crew of over 40** truly depicts India's rich traditions and values. While Indians will proudly feel the affinity towards this musical, for the non – Indians it will truly be a feast for the eye, heart and soul – representing the rich heritage across the length and breadth of the Indian subcontinent.

This music and dance spectacular is performed by internationally renowned dancers and stage performers to high energy music set by the famous **Bollywood duo: Salim&Sulaiman Merchant. Vaibhavi Merchant**, regarded as one of India's very renowned young choreographers is famous for her creativity that brings loads of vigour and life to all her spectacular shows. She has beautifully choreographed this production combining the ancient traditions of Indian Classical Dance with the contemporary and western dance forms in Bollywood's true glamorous style.

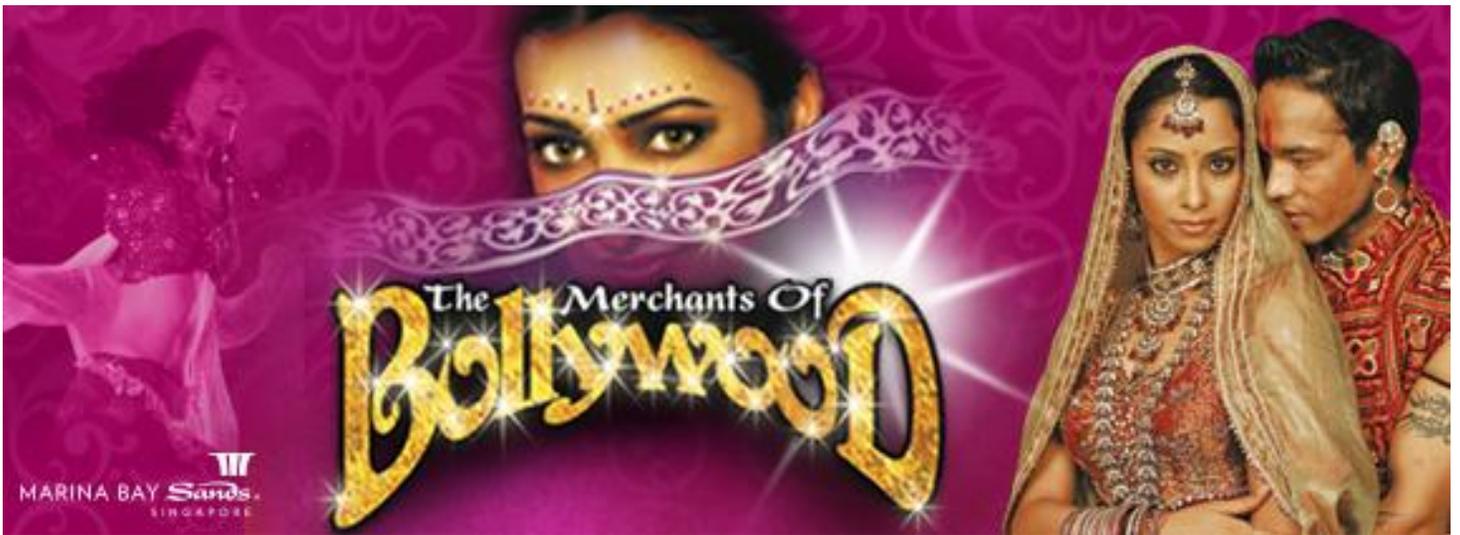


SYNOPSIS

The Merchants of Bollywood reveals the workings of the World's largest film industry – Bollywood and the part it plays in the heart and soul of Indian society. The show is written and directed by **Toby Gough**, who is famous for his creations that cross conventions, cultures and continents. In an extraordinary evening of music and dance spectacular lies a touching story of a young girl, her grandfather and their love of dance. The story set in the deserts of Rajasthan showcases the rich traditional culture, colourful costumes and vibrant music.

This splendid theatrical piece is a heartfelt story about the Merchant family dynasty: a young girl, Ayesha; her grandfather, Shantilal and their love for dance, music & Bollywood. The merchant family holds the responsibility of upholding the ancient tradition of Kathak, the dance of gods. Shantilal, a choreographer in India's film industry had faith in cinema to heal wounds in the minds of people, but eventually left the industry due to the lawlessness and commercialization. Ayesha left home against his wishes to make a career and became the reigning queen of choreography in Bollywood films. Her belief that cinema helps people escape from reality to a world of fantasy differed in opinion, causing irreparable damage to their relationship. Thus, tears are shed, wounds healed and conflicts reconciled in a powerful journey to the sacred heart of dance.

The finale showcases a healing bond between old and new; in a fusion of Folk, Classical, Modern, Western and Indian dance forms. Their electrifying energy, lively rhythm and enchanting dance steps, undoubtedly makes this the most exciting musical of the year!! This visual treat with over 8 performances ONLY is all set to spellbound Singapore audiences.

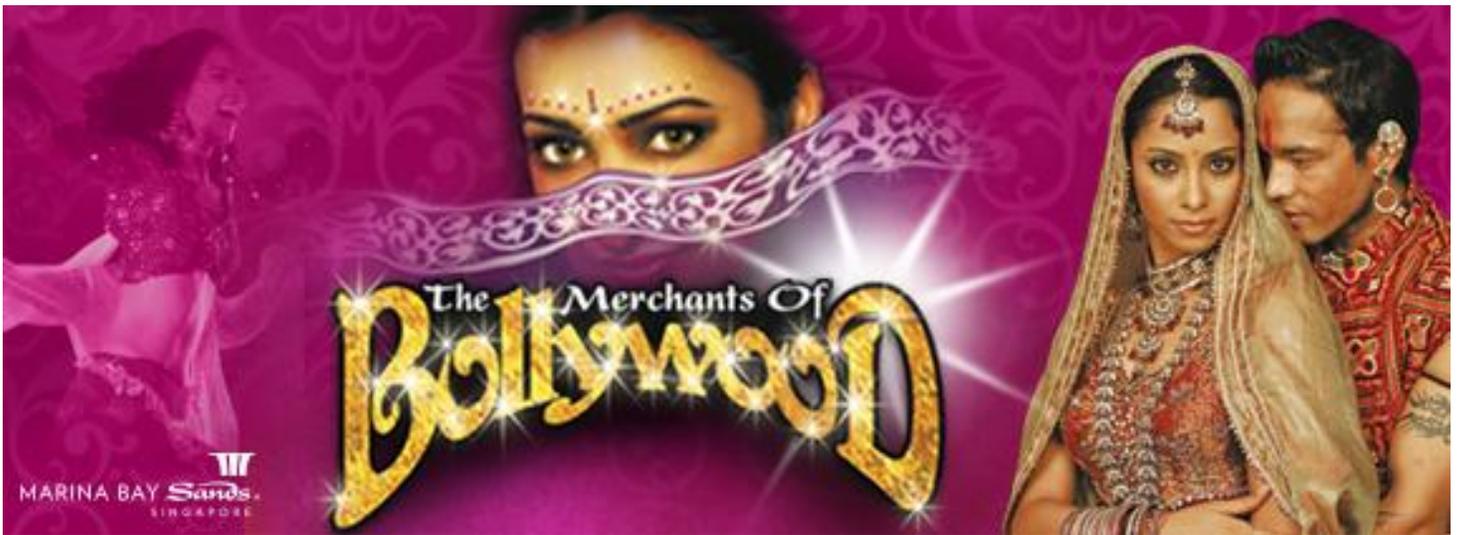


LEAD CAST:

Carol Furtado started from humble beginnings of school plays and local charities before going on to establishing her career as a professional dancer. She has hosted TV shows being aired in the US and UK, taken up modelling for various fashion houses like Tony & Guy and Levis and also been designing costumes for a US based dance company Naach. Carol has performed with world-class artistes like AR Rahman, Shankar Mahadevan, SadhnaSargam, Slash of Guns & Roses, ShwetaShetty, Baba Sehgal, AshaBhonsle, FalguniPathak, Kavita Krishnamurthy, Stereo Nation, Kumar Sanu, Colonial Cousins and many more. Carol is one of the original cast members and has performed well over 900 shows for MOB,

ArifZakaria started his career on television as early as 1988. He has played lead roles in popular serials and acted in various movies like *1947 Earth*, *The Hero*, *Thriller*, *Home Delivery*, *The Dressing Room*, *KahaniGudiya Ki*, *Refugee*, *DeewarandDance Like a Man*. He also played lead role in the film *Sab GolmaalHai*. Arif is also an original and was actually on stage for the shows very first performance in Sydney, Australia 2005. Arif has performed well over 850 shows of MOB.

SatwinderJaspal Nick-named **Romi**, his unique brand of physical comedy is well known in the theatre circles of Mumbai. Romi's hilarious performances are in great demand. He has completed a diploma in acting from Prof.RoshanTanejas school of Acting. Romi has performed in plays with many prominent theatre personalities in Mumbai such as SANJANA KAPOOR, PT. SATYADEV DUBEY, SUNIL SHANBAGH, and appeared in plays such as *Curfew*, *Seagull*, *The Magic Pill*, *Combat*, *Cyclewalla* and *Grey Elephants* in Denmark. Romi has also appeared in prominent roles in TV serials such as *Kitty Party*, *Insaaf*, *Sukanya* and *Khushi,Waqt*. He has worked in a classical feature film "THE LEGEND OF BHAGAT SINGH" in which A R RAHMAN scored the music. He also had the honour of working with legendary directors of Bollywood such as RAJ KUMAR SANTOSHI, SRIRAM RAGHVAN, SHIVAM NAIR, and SHIV SUBRAMANIUM. Romi plays the narrator and director in MOB and as an original has performed over 1000 shows World Wide.



Jayna Tidaisa British Indian actress from the United Kingdom. Whilst studying for her MBBS degree at Kings College London University she realised her dream to be a Bollywood movie star. Jayna is a trained Kathak, classical fusion and contemporary dancer and whilst studying she formed the popular fusion dance troupe Dhoon XY which debuted their performance at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall. She knew this wasn't an easy path breaking away from the norms. So she decided to complete her BSc at Kings and then set off for Mumbai to pursue her dream career. Obtaining a BSc in Medical Physiology now she was set to follow the path to becoming an Indian film actress. Having grown up watching Indian movies she knew to make it in the big league she had to be a perfectionist in every way. Jayna was crowned Miss India UK Talent in 2006. The journey hasn't been the easiest one but the city was beginning to feel like home and the passing only grew with time. Jayna has been the face of many commercial brands like Honda City, Clearasil, Frankinn, Capri soap, Pizza Hut, HP laptops, MTV, Ponds, Sony Cybershot, Dabur Vatika and Airtel. She feels she was born to act and dance and is willing to give her entire life to that moment that will stir the audience's soul. She is recently in the process of signing her first Bollywood Film.

Joy Fernandes has over 20 years of experience on stage. Before Merchants of Bollywood, he was part of Tim Supple's critically acclaimed production of William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', where he played the comic lead, Nick Bottom. The play had several successful shows in India, UK, USA, Australia, Canada and Verona. In India, Joy has acted, written, directed and produced many plays that have performed extensively in Mumbai and other parts of the country. Joy has co-authored a book for children. He conducts theatre & corporate training workshops for every age and personality profile. Joy has acted in Bollywood movies like Jajantaram Mamantaram, One two ka four, Dasvidanya, Agyaat, No Smoking, Paanch, Pagalpan etc. He has acted in and scripted for television shows and ad films. Joy conceives, writes, directs and hosts events and shows. What is salient about most of Joy's work is his flair and love for Comedy!



Sushant Pujari is a 29 year old from Mumbai. He has been performing since he was a teenager in various stage shows and awards nights. He has been able to fulfil his love of dancing and acting by appearing in Bollywood movie songs, Blackberry Boys TVC, LUX television commercial with Kareena Kapoor and many more. Sushant also played the lead in a show on the Tallink Silja Line European Cruise tour.

He is proud of his association with Remo d'Souza in assisting him with many shows and appearing in the upcoming ABCD (Anybody Can Dance), the first dance film in India in 3D.

PRESS & CELEBRITY TALK!

"Their energy is electrifying, their movements suffused with a rush of joy and yet ruthlessly precise and their frenetic flow onstage activity is almost non-stop. It's a high octane pleasure to warm up the coldest winter night."

The Times, London

"Dazzle, shimmer and sparkle... slick and sexy"

The London Metro

"The most exhilarating musical seen this year"

The Manchester Evening News

"Enthralling dance steps, lively rhythms and bold sound... splendid, colourful costumes... indulgence for all the senses"

tz, Munich

"One can't get enough of this artistic, spectacular"

Berliner Morgenpost



"Uplifting show... a real dazzler"

The Birmingham Post

"One big, brilliant finale right from the first forty dance numbers"

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

"Musical rekindles China's Bollywood love affair"

The Hindu

" Such a lot of enthusiasm; such a lot of energy' – Amitabh Bachan (Bollywood Legend)

"....Beautifully stunning looking show" –Priyanka Chopra (Bollywood Actor & Miss World 2000)

"The show is extremely interesting as it showcases the ability to amalgamate two different styles of dance - classical Indian and Western funk," - Abhishek Bachan (Bollywood Actor)



PROMOTER'Sand THEATRE PROFILE:

Arte Compass, launched in 2003 aims at promoting unique and quality entertainment for the artistic and cultural Singaporean. Reaching out to a multi ethnic community, our goal is to bring together people to enjoy and appreciating art. Our first endeavour was a fusion music concert, "Shraddha" by Shankar Mahadevan, U Srinivas, Sivamani and Loy Mendosa. Since then, we have organized various other successful events like: "Mumbai Masti" & "Madras Masala" in 2004 with Shankar Ehsaan & Loy; "Kaleidoscope of Rhythms" with Tabla maestro Zakir Hussein, "DusBahaneDhoomMachale with Sunidhi & KK" in 2006; The Merchants of Bollywood in 2010, "DhoomMachale with Pritam & Mohit Chauhan" in 2011, Dance musical "Ballet Revolucion" with Cuban artists in 2012, "Anhad" with Kailash Kher & Shafqat Amanat Ali in 2013 & many more to come.

About BASE Entertainment

BASE Entertainment specializes in the development, production, programming and management of live entertainment properties and theatre operations. BASE develops, produces and manages intellectual properties which reach audiences through various platforms, including live, digital, broadcast and licensing. BASE Entertainment founders include Brian Becker and Scott Zeiger, who have 45 years combined experience in the live entertainment industry. The company has offices in Singapore, New York, Las Vegas, and Houston. Since their Asia office opened in Singapore in 2010 Base Entertainment has brought a wide array of live entertainment to Singapore's Marina Bay Sands' two theatres, including *Disney's The Lion King*, *Riverdance*, *A R Rahman*, *Thriller Live*, *Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, *Cirque Eloize iD*, *Bar at Buena Vista*, and The Imperial Ice Stars productions of *Swan Lake on Ice*, *WICKED* and more recently presented *Jersey Boys* and *Cirque Le Noir*.

Media contacts

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

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Ticket Price:

Tuesday – Sunday

\$168/ \$138/ \$98/ \$68/ \$48 (Includes \$3 booking fee)

Discount Packages:

MasterCard -

Presale

15% Applicable to A - C Res

Not applicable to Fri & Sat 8pm performances

Valid between 8 - 14 May

Early Bird

Discounts

15% Applicable to A - C Res

Not applicable to Fri & Sat 8pm performances

Valid between 15 May - 9 June

Genre: Asian Musical Dance Spectacular **Country:** India / Australia

Date: 5-10 Nov 2013 **Showtime:** Tuesday – Sunday: 7.30 pm Saturday – Sunday: 2:00 pm

Venue: MasterCard Theatres at Marina Bay Sands, Grand Theatre, Singapore.



FOR TICKET BOOKINGS:

THROUGH INTERNET:

www.BASEentertainmentasia.com or www.MarinaBaySands.com/Ticketing

BY PHONE: +65 6688 8826

BOOK IN PERSON AT:

Marina Bay Sands Box Offices (Museum, Theatres, SkyPark, Retail Mall and Hotel Tower 1 and 3 Lobby). For more information please log onto - www.MarinaBaySands.com

For VIP, Hotel and Dining Packages visit www.showbizasia.com. Corporate and Group Bookings are available via Showbiz. Email: corporate@showbizasia.com or call **6688 1029**

SISTIC: www.sistic.com.sg. SISTIC hotline 65-63485555 & SISTIC authorized agents worldwide.

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