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## **Award-Winning Playwright Haresh Sharma Returns to ITI to Direct *godategod* – a Timely Exploration of Power, Faith and Grief at the Drama Centre Black Box**

ITI graduating actor-students demonstrate range and versatility in Sharma's latest work



**31 MAR 2026, SINGAPORE —**

From 23 to 25 April 2026, Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) will present *godategod*, written and directed by critically-acclaimed playwright and Cultural Medallion recipient Haresh Sharma and performed by the ITI graduating class of 2026.

*godategod* is a collection of multicultural, multilingual stories cutting across time and place, confronting the search for meaning in an existential vacuum. Cosmic in scope, tender and darkly funny, the play asks not only how we endure in seemingly relentless chaos, but who must answer for it.

Assembled from past works by Haresh Sharma and interwoven with new narratives drawn from the lives of three immigrant students in Singapore – Henry Joseph Fundo, Jyoti Rana and Pratiksha Sindhu – the play refracts the personal through the political, layering constructed narratives with lived experience. The title continues from Sharma's earlier play *godeatgod*, first staged in 2002 and written in response to the escalation of war following September 11.

Scenes include a portrait of a family in the kitchen at the end of things, a son grieving his mother in the age of AI, a philosophical conversation between a crow and the National Environment Agency (NEA) agent tasked to shoot them down, and more.

### ***In Sharma's Words***

**On the play:** “The play explores very serious and universal themes such as power, faith and grief. However, there are also many light-hearted moments. Audiences can look forward to a show that is both thought-provoking and heartfelt.”

**On the History of ITI:** “ITI today embodies an ethos of hard work, discipline and artistic exploration that is absolutely essential to the Singapore cultural landscape.”

**On working with the artists at ITI:** “To me, ITI is like an old friend. Pao Kun was a mentor to many young practitioners like me when we were starting out. Sasi continues to teach and inspire generations of theatre makers. The current teachers and the old and new graduates are people I respect very much and continue to work with.

Collaborators on the Creative Team behind *godategod* include Movement Director Ruby Jayaseelan, Set Designer Yvan Karlsson, Lighting Designer Faith Liu Yong Huay, and Sound Designer Bani Haykal.

This production marks Sharma's second collaboration with ITI. In 2014, Sharma wrote the play *Cloud Messenger*, directed by Alvin Tan and devised with the graduating class of that year. Similarly to *godategod*, *Cloud Messenger* also layered students' personal stories in the script, highlighting the importance of young artists' voices.

For more information, visit: <https://iti.edu.sg/events/godategod/>. Tickets are available via Peatix <https://iti-godategod.peatix.com>. For enquiries about the play or group bookings, please write to [events@iti.edu.sg](mailto:events@iti.edu.sg).

### **Event Details**

Production: *godategod*

Written and Directed by: Haresh Sharma

Performed by: ITI Graduating Class of 2026

Dates: 23–25 April 2026

Showtimes: Thu–Sat: 8 PM / Sat: 3 PM

Duration: Approximately 90 minutes

Venue: Drama Centre Black Box (Level 5),

100 Victoria St, National Library Building, Singapore 188064

Rating: TBA

**Tickets:** <https://iti-godategod.peatix.com>

Standard: \$27

40% discount for Students

20% discount for NSFs, PWDs, & Senior Citizens

25% buddy discount (Bookings of 2)

Discounts:

Concession for NSFs, PWDs & Senior Citizens: 20% discount (\$21.60) (Code: **LELONG**)

Concession for Students: 40% (\$16.20) (Code: **STILLHERE**)

Concession for Bookings of 2: 25% (\$20.25 x 2) (Code: **NICECROW**)

\*ID verification required at Front of House. Bookings of 2 must check-in together.

**Website:** <https://iti.edu.sg/events/godategod/>

### **Cast**

Henry Joseph Fundo, Jyoti Rana and Pratiksha Sindhu

### **Creative/Production Team**

Movement Director	Ruby Jayaseelan
Set Designer	Yvan Karlsson
Lighting Designer	Faith Liu Yong Huay
Sound Designer	Bani Haykal
Production Manager	Clarisse Ng
Stage Manager	Marilyn Chew
Assistant Stage Manager	Cheryl Lee

**Official Images** (credit to Intercultural Theatre Institute) - [godategod Rehearsal Photos](#)

For additional images of the director, creative team, cast, and more, write to [tess@iti.edu.sg](mailto:tess@iti.edu.sg)

### **ITI: Upcoming Events**

10–18 Apr	<b>The Imaginative Body - From Tradition to Presence with Remith Ramesh: a Kutiyattam and Contemporary Theatre workshop in celebration of ITI25</b>
23–25 Apr	<b>ITI presents: godategod</b> directed by Haresh Sharma
3–5 Sep	<b>FYiP bold</b> , original work by the graduating class of 2026
12–14 Nov	<b>ITI presents: The Fate of a Cockroach</b> directed by Ulrich Meyer-Horsch
25–28 Nov	<b>Asian Intercultural Conference (AIC) 2026</b> <b>Staging the Unseen: Bodies, Power, and Belonging</b> With Keynote Speakers Prof. Chen Kuan-Hsing (Taiwan) and Nabilah Said (SG)

## APPENDIX A



ITI students presenting Indian theatre form Kutiyattam

### ABOUT ITI

ITI was founded in 2000 by the late theatre doyen Kuo Pao Kun (1939–2002) and current Director T. Sasitharan, inspired by the unique experience of contemporary theatre in Singapore over four decades prior to its inception and, in particular, by Kuo Pao Kun's artistic vision and multicultural practice.

Today, ITI remains at the forefront of theatre training in Asia, renowned for its unparalleled teaching methodology, which draws from a matrix of traditional and contemporary theatre systems. ITI graduates impact communities around the world through their work as actors, theatre-makers, cultural leaders and policy makers.

In recent years, ITI has expanded its outreach and development initiatives for Singapore's arts community, including Residency@ITI - now in its third year - and a dynamic roster of workshops led by leading local and international artists. This year marks the return of the highly anticipated Asian Intercultural Conference (AIC), which brings together theatre-makers, academics, and cultural workers from across the region, featuring keynote speakers Chen Kuan-Hsing and Singapore's own Nabilah Said. The conference will bookend celebrations of ITI25.

# APPENDIX B

## HARESH SHARMA

Haresh Sharma (b. 1965) is the resident playwright of The Necessary Stage, Singapore. A critically acclaimed writer known for socially conscious work, he has written more than 100 plays staged in Singapore and internationally, from Berlin to London. His accolades include the 1993 Singapore Literature Prize for *Still Building*, the 1997 Young Artist Award, the 2014 S.E.A. Write Award and the 2015 Cultural Medallion.

## BACKGROUND ON THE PLAY

The title *godategod* continues from Sharma's earlier play *godeatgod*, first staged in 2002 and written in response to the escalation of war following September 11. It was most recently presented in 2020 by the LASALLE BA(Hons) Acting graduating students.

More archival information on *godeatgod* courtesy of Centre42:

<https://www.centre42.sg/archive/productions/12649/godeatgod-2002/>

Sharma's first collaboration with ITI, *Cloud Messenger*, was staged from 8 to 9 Aug 2014 at the Drama Centre Black Box. More information can be found here:

<https://iti.edu.sg/events/cloud-messenger/>

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