Thirunarayan Productions

Sarah Trist
Dance Management Agency

Holy Dirt



Visually stunning, boundary breaking theatre directed and designed by David Glass

“an exhilarating ride” Total Theatre

Internationally renowned as a Bharatanatyam dancer and an accomplished ceramicist, **Vidya Thirunarayan** blends her dual expertise as a dancer and potter under the banner *Thirunarayan Productions*. The work explores dance and ceramics as a cohesive performance language, and is visually rich, conceptually bold and ambitious.

Vidya premiered her first production using this unique performance language with *Lives of Clay* in 2021/22, an outdoor work directed by Tim Supple and commissioned by Without Walls, Brighton Festival and Certain Blacks. The work went on to tour nationally and was presented at leading festivals in India, among them the Serendipity Festival in Goa and the Tata Literature Festival in Mumbai.

In 2025 Vidya partnered with theatre legend **David Glass** to create a second Without Walls commission ***Holy Dirt***. A pioneering multi-sensory theatrical experience rooted in eco-feminism, ***Holy Dirt*** draws on movement, music, mime and visual image to create a playful mini-epic which follows the struggle of the mythic female in the ecological crisis. Dystopian symbols of power and rebellion are channeled through Vidya’s absurdly hum-drum character and her on stage partner, a magical otherworldly figure in butoh-style make up and androgynous costume. As the Day in the Life draws to a close, the narrative reaches a transformational conclusion, one of hopeful freedom and defiant joy, offering a message of optimism and resistance.

Originally produced for outdoor settings Holy Dirt is headed to theatre settings in 2027.



PRESS:

“Holy Dirt is an odd amalgam of Vidya’s Bharatanatyam Indian Classical Dance style, the classic mime and physical theatre of David Glass, and the strong interest in creating a visual theatre of striking imagery from both key artists, all held together by Foz’s excellent soundtrack. Somehow, against the odds, it all works beautifully!” Total Theatre

PRESENTERS

“Funny and insightful” Clive Lyttle, Ensemble Festival

"I .. thought it was truly bonkers, in the best way and really had me captivated for the whole show. Emotion, absurdity, and a powerful reminder of what our world is!" Tor Byrnes, From the Fields

AUDIENCES:

“The mixed media elements completely captured me — the wet clay, sand, cardboard houses, tiny cars and buses, even the conveyor belt — each one emerged so unexpectedly and beautifully. It was like watching the world being built and broken before my eyes. I loved every moment of it.”

“Absolutely blown away, it’s the story of our modern day”

“The comedy and tragedy were joyous to watch”









Holy Dirt is funded by Arts Council England and Without Walls with generous support from Certain Blacks, 101 Outdoor Arts, ArtAsia and David Glass Ensemble. It is made in partnership with INKO Centre who produce and tour performances made in India and Korea.

Vidya Thirunarayan

Vidya is a performer-maker with over three decades of experience in Britain and trained Bharatanatyam at the world-renowned Kalakshetra in. She began her career with Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company and appeared in the BBC's first Dance for the Camera series. As Co-Artistic Director of Sankalpam (a Regularly Funded Organisation of Arts Council England), she created and toured 14 productions internationally, demonstrating a strong track record of producing and presenting work across diverse contexts. Her practice blends artistic excellence and leadership, including residencies as the inaugural Artist in Residence at The Point, Eastleigh, and policy work with Arts Council England. She is currently a researcher at the University of Chichester.

Over the past decade, Vidya has integrated dance and clay into her performance practice, developing a distinctive cross-disciplinary approach and increasingly presenting work outdoors. Clay, initially a quiet counterpoint to dance, is now central to her creative life; she runs a ceramic studio where making, movement, craft, and education intersect.

David Glass

David Glass is an award winning solo performer, theatre director, writer, designer, lighting designer, filmmaker, teacher and creative thinker. He trained at the Lecoq School of Physical Theatre and also studied with Decroux, Grotowski, Alvin Ailey, Mike Alfreds, Ed Berman, Peter Brook, Master Lim and Augusto Boal. As the founder of the David Glass Ensemble, he has masterfully blended innovative storytelling with striking visual and physical language, delivering timeless works that challenge, provoke, and move. Whether captivating audiences with unforgettable productions like The Lost Child Trilogy or mentoring the next generation of theatre-makers, David Glass's commitment to the transformative power of theatre remains unwavering. David is a leading international theatre teacher and has taught in 73 countries.

"Glass's work is a reminder of the transformative power of theatre, and the enduring relevance of the stories we tell."- The Independent

BOOKING DETAILS

Available for touring	Autumn 2027
No. of performers:	2
Total no. on the road:	4 including stage manager and sound operator (Mics/Q Lab)
Performance space:	Minimum 8m x 8m performance area. Black box required.
Outline Technical requirements:	PA with sound desk including L/R output, minimum 4 inputs and onboard reverb effect; lighting as available in house.
Get in:	On the day of the performance with lighting rigged in advance.
Technical staff required:	1
Running time:	50 min
Video footage:	TRAILER (Outdoor version) AUDIENCE FEEDBACK FULL RUN (Outdoor version)
Fee:	£2000 inclusive of travel and accommodation.
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