



## ABOUT US

Black Box India is a dynamic and innovative company that was established in 2014 with a vision to explore the realms of art, creativity, and entertainment. What began as a multi-faceted organization has now expanded to include a prominent theater group as part of its diverse portfolio.

At Black Box India, we believe in the transformative power of theater and its ability to touch hearts, provoke thought, and ignite the imagination. With a team of passionate artists, directors, writers, and technicians, we strive to create compelling theatrical experiences that resonate with audiences on a profound level.



Black Box India  
presents

# NO STRINGS ATTACHED

By  
Sal Yusuf & Archana Kumar



## Date & Time

SUPPORTED BY



## SYNOPSIS

Experience a captivating journey through time and culture in "No Strings Attached," written and directed by Sal Yusuf and brought to life by the talented ensemble of Black Box India. The show combines the charm of a contemporary vaudeville with the power to unveil our society's personal and global intricacies.

At the heart of the performance is Hasan, an engaging character who is abruptly interrupted by Isabella, leading to a tumultuous dynamic that mirrors the unraveling fabric of our social values, immersing the audience in a profound exploration of the human condition.

"No Strings Attached" masterfully weaves together three distinct periods in time, each reflecting a different facet of societal breakdown. The present unveils our growing inability to forge meaningful connections on a personal and communal level. The past immerses us in a clash of cultures, where opposing ideologies collide and challenge our collective understanding. Finally, the show takes a daring plunge into a dystopic future, where the potential consequences of Artificial Intelligence are laid bare before our eyes.

Throughout the performance, languages blend harmoniously, with English serving as the predominant medium. Hindi, Kannada, and Spanish grace the stage, adding depth and cultural richness to the narrative. Dance, mime, prose, and improvisation seamlessly intertwine, accompanied by moments of levity and humor. Yet, beneath the surface of pure entertainment lies a profound and thought-provoking concept that will linger in the hearts and minds of the audience long after the final curtain falls.

Black Box India invites you to reflect on the intricate tapestry of our society through 80 minutes of an indelible theatrical journey.

# ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHIES



**SAL YUSUF**  
Founder

Born in London in 1969 to Turkish Cypriot immigrant parents, Sal Yusuf discovered his passion for the creative arts at a young age. He actively participated in amateur theatre during his formative years, honing his acting and artistic skills. This inclination led him to pursue a BA (Hons) Degree in Visual & Performing Arts from the University of Brighton, where he had the opportunity to create, devise, act, and direct a series of performances. It was during this time that Sal developed a particular interest in puppetry.

After graduating, Sal Yusuf landed a dream job at Spitting Image in 1992. He started as a workshop assistant involved in the production of puppets during the show's 14th season. His talent and dedication eventually led him to become a puppeteer on television in the following season. However, the program came to an end, prompting Sal to explore other avenues.

During the years that followed, Sal Yusuf obtained qualifications as a teacher as a fallback option while continuing to work in children's theatre. He also conducted workshops of his own, further nurturing his artistic skills. However, a turning point came in 2007 when Sal decided to move to India. This move allowed him to change the narrative and fully embrace his artistic talents, which he felt he hadn't fully explored in England.

Sal embarked on a new journey in India, establishing himself as a reputed voice artist. He lent his voice to various projects, including television commercials (TVCs) and other voice-over work. He also delved into the world of stand-up comedy, making a name for himself on the Bangalore Stand Up circuit. His success culminated in an appearance at the Bombay Comedy Store in 2012.

In 2013, Sal Yusuf joined the popular improvisational acting group called The Improv. Working with acclaimed director Prakash Belewadi, Sal participated in plays such as Hardy's Apology, Square Root of a Sonnet, and The Investigation, and collaborated with other theater groups like BLT (Tiger, Tiger). This period also marked the beginning of Sal's film career, as he secured roles in notable Malayalam films, including IyobintePustakum (2014), Comrade In America (2017) portraying Karl Marx, and Take Off (2017) as a humble Iraqi doctor. Eventually, he ventured into Bollywood with the film Tiger Zinda Hai (2017). Although primarily recognized as a South Indian actor, Sal Yusuf received critical acclaim for his supporting role in the Kannada film French Biryani (2020), which earned him a nomination for a SIIMA award. He has now amassed over 20 film and web series credits, continuously expanding his career in the industry.

In 2014, Sal founded Black Box India, a company specializing in voicing animations for Graphic India, an international graphic novel book company. Not only did Sal lend his voice to numerous characters, but he also directed other voice actors on their projects. Black Box India's repertoire has since expanded to include workshops, stage shows under banners like Tortilla, music videos, and short films, all of which Sal Yusuf directed. The company recently debuted its independent stage performance titled "No Strings Attached" and plans for future shows, including "What's Mime is Yours."



**ARCHANA KUMAR**  
Choreographer & Collaborator



A consummate artist with a profound background in dance and acting, has traversed diverse cultures and continents, enriching her artistic journey with invaluable experiences. Born in the vibrant city of Mumbai, Archana spent her formative years in Abu Dhabi, UAE, where she fostered a deep appreciation for the arts. Subsequently, she ventured to the United States, where she resided for a decade and immersed herself in the realm of dance, honing her skills in various contemporary techniques including Flamenco, Butoh, and Improvisation.

Archana's dance odyssey commenced with her training in Bharatanatyam from 1989 to 1997. Building upon this strong foundation, she embarked on a rigorous journey in Kathak, beginning in 1996 and continuing to this day. Kathak not only serves as a medium of artistic expression for Archana but also as a gateway to comprehending the nuances of the physical body, allowing her to develop control, discipline, and balance. Her expertise and passion for Kathak led her to assume a leadership position at a premier Kathak school in Seattle, where she imparted her knowledge to aspiring dancers. Additionally, Archana served as adjunct faculty at prestigious institutions such as the Cornish College of Arts in Seattle and Northwestern University in Evanston, further solidifying her commitment to dance education. In recognition of her remarkable contributions to the art of Kathak, Archana Kumar was honored with the SPANDANA Award in 2011, bestowed upon her by the state of Karnataka, India. This esteemed accolade celebrated her exceptional dedication to spreading the knowledge of Kathak among the youth, reflecting her profound impact on the dance community. Archana's artistic endeavors expanded beyond the realm of dance when she became involved in the groundbreaking production "Asia Meets Asia" in 2005. Under the mentorship of the late Mr. Hiroshi Ohashi, an esteemed director from Tokyo renowned for his avant-garde experiential collaborative work, Archana's acting career blossomed. This fruitful collaboration persisted until 2019 and resumed in 2022, fueling her artistic growth and exploration. As a female performer, Archana's solo projects serve as a platform to address uncomfortable truths often overlooked by society, fearlessly delving into issues such as the gender crisis, societal constructs, addictions, biases, and more. Her performances resonate with boldness, evocativeness, and radicality, evoking a profound response from audiences across the USA, Canada, Japan, China, and Indonesia.

However, Archana's artistic pursuits extend beyond dance and acting. She has graced the stages of numerous theatrical productions in Bangalore, captivating audiences with her versatile talent. Furthermore, she made her debut in the full-length feature film "The ROSE VILLA" in the Telugu language, released on Amazon Prime in November 2021. Archana's remarkable acting career also includes appearances in popular commercials for renowned brands such as Zepto, MRF, and Aster, showcasing her ability to embody diverse roles and captivate viewers. Additionally, she has amassed an impressive portfolio of short films, establishing herself as a formidable talent within the industry.

As an integral member of the esteemed company Black Box India, Archana Kumar not only offers her finely tuned acting skills but also contributes as a choreographer and collaborator. Her involvement in the acclaimed production "No Strings Attached" has allowed her to explore a hidden comedic element, further expanding her artistic range. Looking ahead, Archana plans to revive her choreographed work "Bubble Pops" under the banner of Black Box India, promising captivating and thought-provoking performances that will leave a lasting impact on audiences.



**Suraj Stephen D'Souza**  
Multidisciplinary Artist & Collaborator

Suraj Stephen D'Souza is a distinguished multi-disciplinary artist hailing from Karnataka, whose unwavering commitment to artistic excellence has cemented his position as a prominent figure in the art and entertainment industry. With his versatile talents spanning various artistic disciplines, including visual arts, acting, and commercial advertisements, Stephen has achieved notable accomplishments that showcase his exceptional abilities and passion for his craft. Stephen's journey in the art world began with a formal education at the esteemed Ken School of Art, where he honed his skills and acquired a Bachelor's degree in visual Art. He further expanded his expertise by obtaining a Diploma in Graphic Design, demonstrating his versatility and mastery of multiple artistic mediums. His dedication to his craft is evident in his remarkable work, which includes art installation, logo and brand design, product package design, painting, and performance art. One of the highlights of Stephen's career was his recognition as one of the top photographers in The International Photography Competition in 2017. This prestigious accolade solidified his position as a prominent figure in the vibrant Bangalore photography scene. Moreover, his outstanding contributions to the field of visual arts earned him a nomination for the esteemed State Award by the Karnataka Lalithakala Academy during the 40th Art Exhibition in Shimoga in 2011. Stephen's commitment to preserving and showcasing the rich artistic heritage is further exemplified by his significant role as an assistant to renowned artist Balan Nambiar, where he played a crucial part in the restoration and photographic documentation.

In addition to his prowess in the visual arts, Stephen's passion for acting emerged during his school years when he began directing and performing in small skits. This passion flourished during his college years, leading him to appear in television serials and paving the way for a successful acting career. Stephen's talent and dedication have made him an integral part of numerous South Indian Kannada films, where he has showcased his skills on the silver screen. Furthermore, his craft has extended to theatrical performances, where he has delivered memorable portrayals such as the lead character of a ship captain in "Naale Yarigu Illa" by Chi. Srinivas (Kannada) and the role of Capulet in "Romeo and Juliet" (English). Through his versatile performances in both Kannada and English theater productions, Stephen has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the performing arts and his ability to embody diverse roles. Stephen's artistic prowess has also found expression in the world of television commercials, where he has appeared in notable advertisements for esteemed brands like Gumon, Sleepyhead Sofabed, and Kreditbee. His ability to bring characters to life in various mediums is a testament to his exceptional talent and versatility. Currently,

Stephen is exploring the realm of documentary filmmaking, showcasing his passion for storytelling, and capturing the essence of real-life narratives. As a valued member of the esteemed company Black Box India, Stephen D'Souza not only displays his finely tuned acting skills but also contributes as an in-house artist and collaborator. His participation in the acclaimed production "No Strings Attached" has allowed him to push the boundaries of his artistic range and delve into a hidden comedic element. With an eye toward the future, Stephen remains dedicated to delivering captivating and thought-provoking performances that resonate deeply with audiences.

His unwavering commitment to artistic excellence, his versatility spanning various artistic disciplines, and his notable accomplishments in the worlds of visual arts, acting, and commercial advertisements have firmly established him as a prominent figure in the art and entertainment industry. With his remarkable talent, Stephen continues to leave an indelible mark, captivating audiences, and inspiring fellow artists with his extraordinary creativity and unwavering passion.