PIN DROP
THEATRE



TOURING PACK

Theatre for very young children need not be about entertaining them.





THE COMPANY

Three plays, each made from a single ordinary material.

We make immersive sensory theatre for toddlers and adults alike, using a single material on stage. The world children discover is shaped by their own imagination; our work is only a mediator.

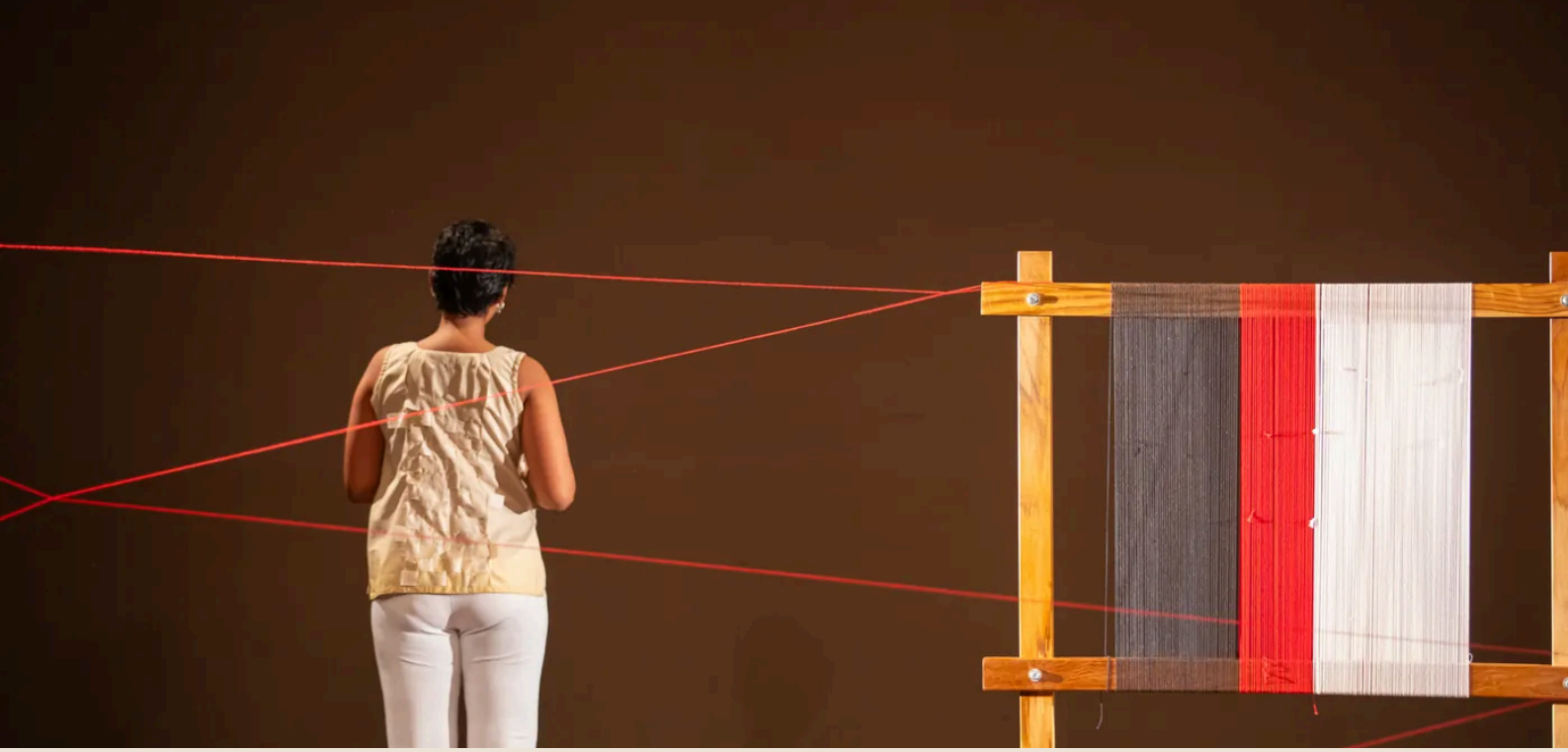
Three plays since 2012, each made by a different combination of us over the years. All of us have been preoccupied with one question: what can theatre be for a child who does not yet have the faculty of verbal language?

Bends & Flows opened at Ranga Shankara in July 2012, as part of the AHA! International Theatre Festival for Children, the first full-fledged theatre production for toddlers to be staged in India. The plays have since been performed in theatre auditoriums and alternative spaces, at arts and theatre festivals, and in schools and learning centres.

Each play travels on its own, but our aim is to stage all three together, at theatre venues, schools and other spaces where toddlers can gather, across the country. Only then, we believe, can theatre for toddlers arrive as a movement here.

WHAT A PERFORMANCE IS LIKE

HOW MANY	Twenty to twenty-five children at a time, each with one parent or guardian. Never more.
WHERE THEY SIT	On the floor, close to the playing area. There is no stage between the children and the performers.
HOW LONG	Twenty-eight to thirty minutes, with no interval.
MOVING ABOUT	Children may move, make noise, or turn away. None of that is a problem. The play does not depend on holding their attention by force.
AFTERWARDS	The children are invited into the performance area to handle the material: the kaala chana, the thread, the steel. We take that as their feedback on the play.



LOOM AND THREAD

Stories in Half

A play for toddlers, worked on hand looms designed and modified for the stage: an invitation to experience the making and breaking of rhythms.

We catch a story only in the middle. Three performers weave and unweave on hand looms built for the stage: a play that shows and lets a story be heard, rather than tells one.

Premiered 7 December 2024 at Ranga Shankara, Bengaluru.

Written & directed by Subhashim Goswami
Cast Apoorva Arthur, Ashwini Kumar Chakre, Samta Shikhar

Age range	18 months to 3 years
Running time	30 minutes, no interval
Language	Spoken text, in English
Cast	3 performers
Company on the road	6 in all: 3 performers, 1 director, 1 production manager, 1 technician
Audience capacity	20–25 children, each with one accompanying adult
Performance space	25 × 25 ft (7.6 × 7.6 m), on a suitable even floor. No stage required.
Get-in	3–5 hours before the start of the event
Get-out	1 hour after the performance
Lighting	A desirable lighting scenario exists; the play is flexible, from a full rig to almost none. Details on enquiry.



STEEL UTENSILS

Dinner is at 8

A non-verbal play for three- to five-year-olds, made from the sound and shine of the steel that is already in every kitchen.

An ode to the everyday: not only the routine and the ordinary, but that which accommodates the special in the mundane. Steel as a sensory medium of sight and sound.

Premiered 21 July 2016 at Ranga Shankara, Bengaluru, as part of the AHA! International Theatre Festival for Children.

Direction Subhashim Goswami
Co-direction Ashwini Kumar Chakre
Performed by Ashwini Kumar Chakre and Pratyush Singh (earlier, Samta Shikhar and Pratyush Singh)

Age range	3–5 years
Running time	28 minutes, no interval
Language	Non-verbal
Cast	2 performers
Company on the road	5 in all: 2 performers, 1 director, 1 production manager, 1 technician
Audience capacity	20–25 children, each with one accompanying adult
Performance space	25 × 25 ft (7.6 × 7.6 m), on a suitable even floor. No stage required.
Get-in	3–5 hours before the start of the event
Get-out	1 hour after the performance
Lighting	A desirable lighting scenario exists; the play is flexible, from a full rig to almost none. Details on enquiry.



KAALA CHANA

Bends & Flows

The bend of a road and the flow of a river: a visual and aural experience for toddlers, made from a material every one of us already knows.

Everything is always in transformation, and the possibility of change is already built into what exists. Our first play, and the first full-fledged theatre production for toddlers to be staged in India.

Premiered 26 July 2012 at Ranga Shankara, Bengaluru, as part of the AHA! International Theatre Festival for Children.

Direction Subhashim Goswami
Cast Samta Shikhar, Shrunga B.V.

Age range	18 months to 3 years. We ask that only children up to 3 attend.
Running time	28 minutes, no interval
Language	Non-verbal
Cast	2 performers
Company on the road	5 in all: 2 performers, 1 director, 1 production manager, 1 technician
Audience capacity	20–25 children, each with one parent or guardian, seated close to the performance area
Performance space	25 × 25 ft (7.6 × 7.6 m), on a suitable even floor. No stage required.
Get-in	3–5 hours before the start of the event
Get-out	1 hour after the performance
Lighting	14 PC, 4 profiles, 6 fresnels; rigged FOH, top fly bars, stage-side ladders or at least 6 stands, plus floor light. 24 kW dimmer board; console with programming. The play has run with far less.
Gels	10 × LEE 105, 4 × LEE 200

WHAT WE ASK OF A ROOM

The staging conditions are not preferences.

This work is made for an audience that has not experienced theatre before and does not behave like a general theatre audience. The conditions below are what makes the plays work at all.

AUDIENCE SIZE	Twenty to twenty-five children at a time, each accompanied by one parent or guardian, seated close to the playing area. We ask that only children within the play's age band attend.
SEATING	On the floor, close. No raked seating, no rows of chairs for the children.
AFTER THE PLAY	The children are invited into the performance area to handle the material. We treat this as their feedback on the play, and ask for it to be scheduled in rather than cleared away.
THE FLOOR	Even, clean and safe to sit on. Kaala chana and steel end up across it.
PER DAY	At most three performances in a day, for any of the plays.
LIGHTING	Each play has a desirable lighting scenario, and all three are flexible: from a full rig to almost none. We will match what your room can do.

WHERE FEES ARE A BARRIER

Write to us anyway.

We actively seek funding to bring the work to children whose settings cannot meet travel, accommodation or performance costs. If that is you, the conversation starts with the conversation, not with a budget.

Get in touch

Tell us who the children are, where you are, and what your room is like. We reply to everything.

Enquiry form: pindroptheatre.com/booking.html#enquire
contact@pindroptheatre.com · Instagram @pindroptheatre · Bengaluru