

# IS THIS THE END?

**A tribute to Sri Aurobindo**

A theatrical, musical and choreographic show

From a poem by Sri Aurobindo

**A CREATION BY SURYA PERFORMANCE LAB**

Under the aegis of Auroville Art Service,

**In partnership with 150<sup>th</sup> Sri Aurobindo Birth Anniversary, AUROVILLE, INDIA**



**Venue: Sri Aurobindo Auditorium,  
Bharat Nivas, Auroville**

**Date: 10,11,12th February 2022**

**Time: 8pm (IST)**

# Artistic Proposal

## Story

Two young people, a man and a woman in love, face a world in crisis and in deep transition. They carry on their shoulders and in their bodies, the memory of a world which seems to be extinct and especially the memory of a suffering Nature.

In this stifling, dying world, where everything seems small, cramped, confined, they are, like the planet, in the urgency of a new deep breath.

"Is this the end of all that they did or dreamed?"

Is this the end or a new beginning?

Will they finally find their right places in Nature, as a part of it?

Will they hear their inner call for change?

Beyond any restriction, will they finally find their rightful place within Nature whose call they feel?

Finally free, vast and loving?



## Artistic note

Theatrical, choreographic and musical show inspired by the poem from Sri Aurobindo "The End". The show is accessible to everyone, whatever their culture and background, it is an universal story. Three artists on stage: dancers, musicians, actors in interaction with the music and frequencies send by the musical composer.

**Duration of the show: 1 hour.**

With "Is this the end ?" we are exploring the body memories of the actor/dancer and his/ her movements provoked by the sounds and frequencies. We are experiencing the bodily dimension of the sound and the sonic dimension of the body.

*"The role of music lies in helping the consciousness uplift itself towards the spiritual heights."*

*Sri Aurobindo*

### 1) Work on sound, sound immersion

The show offers a sound immersion, with contemporary, electronic music, in fusion with natural sounds. Frequencies, sounds and music, offer an intimate, organic experience, a journey.

The music is there to accompany and provoke the transformation of the characters, in their matter. The sounds call to different states of consciousness putting us in connection with life, the living and the Nature.



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The text is also present and experienced here as a sound material which will animate the bodies. For this work on the sound and music, we are inspired by the mantric poetry of Sri Aurobindo.

## **2) Universal body language, theatre and contemporary dance**

Immersed in a scenographic device of lights, sounds, the three performers explore energy in a world in full transition. They seek each other, desire each other and try to find a balance in connection with Nature.

The artists' bodies are pushed to their limits by this question: "Is this the end?". They express this physical, organic urgency of a new breath, of a new link to oneself, urgency of the link to the other. The artist's body on stage, between dance and theatre, becomes the very place of the performance.

## **3) Tribute to Sri Aurobindo**

This show is inspired by a poem written by Sri Aurobindo. This evokes one of the essential truth of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy: The human being is a being of transition. He is a "living laboratory" in who a veiled force is at work, to reach the great equilibrium, to enter the vast home, the vast consciousness, where there is no end.

The crisis that our characters face is the opportunity for a profound transformation of their material being. Sri Aurobindo offers the keys for this transformation which today takes on a particular meaning.

The asphyxiation and all the limitations, restrictions imposed by the news of a world in crisis, provoke in the bodies, the urgency of a new breath, of a vastness, of a freedom, of a thirst for 'To be.'

Apart from the performance will be offering a lecture about this poem of Sri Aurobindo, about the show and how Sri Aurobindo inspires this creation and also will be conducting workshops.



## ***Is this the end?***

*Is this the end of all that we have been,  
And all we did or dreamed,–  
A name unremembered and a form undone,–  
Is this the end?  
A body rotting under a slab of stone  
Or turned to ash in fire,  
A mind dissolved, lost its forgotten thoughts,–  
Is this the end?  
Our little hours that were and are no more,  
Our passions once so high  
Being mocked by the still earth and calm sunshine,–  
Is this the end?  
Our yearnings for the human Godward climb  
Passing to other hearts  
Deceived, while smiles towards death and hell the world,–  
Is this the end?  
Fallen is the harp; shattered it lies and mute;  
Is the unseen player dead?  
Because the tree is felled where the bird sang,  
Must the song too hush?  
One in the mind who planned and willed and thought,  
Worked to reshape earth's fate,  
One in the heart who loved and yearned and hoped,  
Does he too end?  
The Immortal in the mortal is his Name;  
An artist Godhead here  
Ever remoulds himself in diviner shapes,  
Unwilling to cease  
Till all is done for which the stars were made,  
Till the heart discovers God  
And the soul knows itself. And even then  
There is no end.*

***Sri Aurobindo***



## Distribution and team

- Stage direction and choreography: Philippe Pelen
- Assistant director and dramaturgy: Thierry Moucazambo
- Assistant choreographer : Gopal Dalami
- Musical composition and soundscape: Zan David
- Performers: Thierry Moucazambo, Gopal Dalami, Huong Pham
- Coordinator: Huong Pham
- Light designer: Sophie Mélodie
- Costumes: Surya Performance Lab team
- Communication, Website & Social Media: Giri Thirumal
- Videography: Alessandra Silver
- Photography: Frederic Martin Duchamp, Sagar, Piero Cefaloni
- Guidance for the research: Barbara Paschinger



## Partners

- Surya Performance Lab under the aegis of Auroville Art Service
- 150th Sri Aurobindo Birth Anniversary, Auroville team
- SAIER
- Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Cripa, Ritam
- Alliance française de Pondichéry

## Planning

- Research on sound material: April to July 2021
- Research and rehearsals: August 2021 to January 2022 at Cripa Hall, Kalabhumi, Auroville.
- Public rehearsal: 12, 14, 21, 28 January 2022, at Cripa Hall, Kalabhumi, Auroville.
- Creation and performance on stage: 10,11,12th February 2022, at Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Bharat Nivas, Auroville, 8pm (IST)

## Expected tours 2022/2023

- Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, Auroville - 10,11,12th February 2022
- Festival Tantrostav, Kalarigram, Edayanchavadi - February 2022
- Festival Francophonies Pondichéry - April 2022
- Alliance Française Pondichéry,
- Alliances Françaises in India
- Bharat Rang Mahotsav (National school of Drama)
- Festival Orissa
- Pondicherry University
- Auro University /Surat
- Baroda University

We also hope to tour other places in India and abroad, when the Covid situation gets better.



## CV

### **Philippe Pelen - Founder, Director, Choreographer**

Aurovilian. Born in France. Founder, artistic director, choreographer of Surya performance lab Auroville, India. Previously founder and director of Théâtre Talipot, France. He created and directed 40 shows with dancers, actors, musicians, and video creators. He worked and toured in 82 countries. He received many international awards. He gave many lectures especially at UNESCO. His work is based on body memory, mixed-culture and human unity. He directs training programs in Auroville and different universities.

### **Thierry Moucazambo - Founder, Ass. Director, Performer**

Aurovilian. Born in Reunion Island, France. Founder, assistant director, Aurovilian. He has many different origins: Indian, Chinese, and African. He carries in himself this mixed culture of the island that nurtures his imagination and creativity. He approaches many different cultures, experiencing their common values and essence. His relationship to indigenous peoples comes from this personal history. He lends his voice to their wisdom, favoring a connection with nature and the cosmos. Multitalented performer, he is also assistant director with Philippe since 35 years. He worked and toured in 82 countries. He also directs many workshops

### **Gopal Dalami - Dancer, Performer, Ass. Choreographer**

Aurovilian. Born in Delhi, India, of Nepalese descent. He began his dance training at Voxpop Dancers India in 2010. He is trained in classical ballet, Jazz, contemporary, acrobatics (aerial fabric) and hip-hop. Since 2015, he has performed in various dance productions with Vikram mohan, Mandeep Raikhy, Anish Popli, Nikolina Nikoleski, Diniz Sancheza and many other national and international choreographers. He has toured in India and abroad. Since 2018, he is a dancer and assistant Choreographer at Surya Performance lab.

### **Huong PHAM - Dancer, Performer, Coordinator**

Auroville volunteer. Born in 1988 in Vietnam, is a qualified architect. Her inner questions about the human being and the meaning of life lead her on the artistic path. Her practice encompasses contemporary dance, performance, multimedia interaction and the application of art to human development. As a freelancer artist, in Vietnam, she worked with Knergie Studio, Nha San Collective, with Vietnamese and international artists. In 2021 she moved to Pondicherry, India. She collaborates with Surya Performance Lab in Auroville, She is an actor, dancer of *Is this End?*

## **ZAN David - Musician , Composer & Sound Engineer**

Zan David was born in Pondicherry India in 1998. As a sound engineer he worked with Sound Garden Company as well as famous musicians. Above all, David is a very talented musician and composer, he is a multi-instrumentalist. He plays with several groups of different styles, pop, blues, funk, jazz, but his main practice and his passion are electronic and contemporary music. With Surya Performance Lab, he is now dedicated to research on immersive sound, frequencies, the relationship of sound to the dancer's body. He creates original music for the show, "Is this the end?"



## SURYA PERFORMANCE LAB. Auroville

After having founded and directed the Talipot Theater in France (Reunion Island) and toured and worked in 82 countries on prestigious stages such as the Paris Opera, the Théâtre de la Ville de Paris, the Grande Halle de la Villette or even festivals in Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore, the Grahamstown festival in South Africa, or the Festival do Africa in Brazil and many others, Philippe Pelen and Thierry Moucazambo, with guidance of Barbara (Ritam, Auroville), assisted by Gopal Dalami created in Auroville, in South India: Surya Performance Lab - a dance theatre group of fully dedicated artists from different parts of India and the world.

Surya Performance Lab explores body memories and works for the decolonization of the mind and the body to experience a free and authentic expression, acting and dancing.

Inspired by the Integral yoga of Mother and Sri Aurobindo, and the indigenous culture, also by new discoveries in the field of energy, body-mind consciousness, we create a contemporary expression and art, a dance and theatre linked to nature, planet and living.

We research, create, perform, tour and offer workshops and training programs (theatre, dance, personal development, energy).

In India, Surya Performance Lab collaborates with different structures within Auroville, Cripa, Sri Aurobindo Auditorium, New Creation Dance Studio, SAILER, Ritam.

Surya Performance Lab also offers training at the University of Pondicherry, Auro University in Surat, National School of Drama in Delhi, at the University of Baroda.

Surya Performance Lab has performed in Auroville and also at the Bharat Rang Mahotsav International Festival in Delhi, the National Festival in Odisha, the University of Baroda, Auro University of Surat, Tantrota Festival in Tamil Nadu and in the Alliances Françaises of Pondicherry, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, Trivandrum.

Surya Performance Lab also tours abroad: Nepal, France (Lorient Festival), South Africa (State Theatre, Kucheza Afrika Festival).

Surya Performance Lab works under the aegis of Auroville Art Service. Other projects are underway.





## Contacts

Surya Performance Lab  
Ass. Director - Thierry Moucazambo (+91 8903869078)

Email: [suryaperformancelab@auroville.org.in](mailto:suryaperformancelab@auroville.org.in)

Website: <https://www.surya-performance-lab-auroville.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/suryaperformancelab/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/surya\\_performance\\_lab\\_](https://www.instagram.com/surya_performance_lab_)

Youtube channel: [https://youtube.com/channel/UC3pA6PgT43j\\_6pXxBzf5onA](https://youtube.com/channel/UC3pA6PgT43j_6pXxBzf5onA)



Proposed by: Philippe Pelen Baldini and Thierry Moucazambo  
Photo credit: Sagar



## Feedback from audience

**"I think the way you depicted and brought so many elements...  
The way you wove it all together is absolutely brilliant...  
It was absolutely wonderful"**

Dr. Jayanti Ravi, IAS,  
Secretary of Auroville Foundation

**"Thank you for this great performance, this first draft of  
IS THIS THE END. Lots of emotions, inspirations and, vibrations."**

Lise Talbot-Barré,  
Consule Générale de France à  
Pondichéry

**"A true piece of art is always a treat to watch.  
Thanks for the performance. I wish you all the great heights"**

Chali,  
Aurovilian