WANG RAMIREZ PERFORMS IN U.S. PREMIERE OF DYSTOPIAN DREAM ON OCTOBER 4 & 5 AT MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

Based on Nitin Sawhney’s album of the same name, the Sadler’s Wells dance production is the highlight of his Stanford residency.

Stanford, CA, September 5, 2018—He may be a DJ, a producer, a guitarist and a composer who’s written for films, TV shows, video games and symphony orchestras, but dance has always been a force in composer Nitin Sawhney’s life. Sawhney has become such an integral part of the British dance scene, he’s been made an associate artist of Sadler’s Wells, the UK dance house that produced his latest work Dystopian Dream. Co-commissioned by Stanford Live, the piece now debuts in the U.S. with two performances at Stanford University’s Memorial Auditorium, October 4 and 5.

The 75-minute work is a theatrical realization of a concept originated by Sawhney, and is a collaboration with the international hip-hop dance duo Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez who appeared in the Bing Studio last season in Monchichi. Now they return in Sawhney’s a full-scale production featuring animated projections, flying by wire and dazzling set design. It also grapples with themes of loss, isolation, surrender and continuity.

“Dystopian Dream was initially a response to my father passing away and then gradually became something else,” says Sawhney. “It became my response to mortality and our search for our own significance when we are sandwiched between infinite space and time, between life and death and between reality and dreams.”
Sawhney has been developing ideas with Ramirez and Wang on *Dystopian Dream* since 2015, and last year they danced to four of his songs at the Royal Albert Hall in a concert co-produced by Sadler’s Wells. This has now been expanded to a dance production to the entire album.

In addition to Sawhney, Ramirez and Wang, *Dystopian Dream* brings together costume design by Hussein Chalayan, video design by Nick Hillel, set design by Shizuka Hariu and lighting design by Natasha Chivers. Eva Stone reprises her role as singer and performer.

“I’m excited that the piece is a core component of our residency with Nitin,” says Stanford Live’s executive director Chris Lorway. “His powerful music combined with Honji and Sébastien’s dynamic movement language creates a multisensory work that is not to be missed.” While on campus, Sawhney will also put his own life on center stage in a new orchestration reflecting upon his past. Entitled *A Musical Life*, this evening of music and memories from his 30-year career—performed on September 29 at Bing Concert Hall—features Aref Durvesh on tabla and vocalist Eva Stone.

For more information on the performances, visit live.stanford.edu.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for *Dystopian Dream*, on October 4 and 7 at 7:30 p.m., range from $32-68. Tickets for Nitin Sawhney: *A Musical Life*, on September 29, range from $30-40. Discounts are available for Stanford affiliates. Tickets are available in person at the Bing Concert Hall Ticket Office, by phone at 650-724-2464 (BING) or online at live.stanford.edu.

**ABOUT STANFORD LIVE**

Stanford Live presents a wide range of the finest performances from around the world fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through the performing arts. With its home at Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live is simultaneously a public square, a sanctuary and a lab, drawing on the breadth and depth of Stanford University to connect performance to the significant issues, ideas and discoveries of our time.
CALENDAR EDITORS NOTE:

Nitin Sawhney: A Musical Life
Talk and Performance
Saturday, September 29, 7:30 p.m.
Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford University
Tickets: $30-40
live.stanford.edu | (650) 724-2464

Composer Nitin Sawhney presents an evening of music and memories from his 30-year career, featuring Aref Durvesh on tabla and vocalist Eva Stone.

Dystopian Dream
Nitin Sawhney and Wang Ramirez
Thursday, October 4 & Friday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Auditorium, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford University
Tickets: $32-68
live.stanford.edu | (650) 724-2464

The U.S. premiere of Dystopian Dream, a theatrical realization of a concept originated by composer Nitin Sawhney, is a collaboration with international hip-hop duo Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez.

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