

కమ్ ఈట్ విత్ మీ COME EAT WITH ME

created & performed by sri vamsi matta



Friday 10 October, 6:30pm & Saturday 11 October, 6:30pm

Campbelltown Arts Centre

We pay our respects to the Dharawal people who are the traditional custodians of the land, whose deepening connection to culture and customs have cared for this country for over 60,000 years.

We acknowledge Elders past, present and future for their immense spiritual connection to place which was never ceded.

Dharawal land has always been recognised as a meeting place for people from other lands, and in this spirit we respectfully continue this tradition through the bringing together of our communities through arts and culture.

This Always was and Always will be Aboriginal land.



Image: From the archives of Come Eat With Me, supplied by the artist

CAC Foreword

It is an honour to welcome Sri Vamsi Matta in residence at Campbelltown Arts Centre (CAC). Vamsi is an interdisciplinary theatre artist from Bangalore, India, whose work transcends boundaries and engages every sense. His performance 'Come Eat With Me' explores the intersection of caste, food, and personal history using storytelling and shared meals to challenge stigma and prejudice rooted in the caste system.

During his time with us, Vamsi has immersed himself deeply in our community, forging meaningful connections with local artists, culinary creatives and audiences. To sit with Vamsi is to enter a space of reflection, dialogue, and transformation. You leave nourished, not just by food, but by shared knowledge.

On behalf of the Campbelltown Arts Centre team, we are proud to host such an exceptional artist and human being. Congratulations to the CAC team for their efforts in producing this work particularly the Creative Producer Brittany Green and Creative Programs Assistant Anne Cutajar. I also extend our deepest thanks to Nithiya Nagarajan and James Lew for making this residency and Australian tour of 'Come Eat With Me' possible through the Nagarajan-Lew Fund along with Campbelltown Arts Centre, Arts House and H_ME W_RK.

We invite you to experience this extraordinary work with open hearts, open minds, and a willingness to listen deeply.

— Mouna Zaylah, Director, Campbelltown Arts Centre

Artist's Statement

'Come Eat With Me' is an intimate performance where food becomes both memory and metaphor. Moving through stories, literature, and lived experience, it reflects on how caste is written into what we eat, how we eat, and with whom we share a meal. As dishes are served and tasted, food becomes testimony, and memory becomes dialogue.

The performance blends storytelling, song, and collective dining to ask: What does it mean to eat together? To refuse? To remember? To belong? At its heart, 'Come Eat With Me' is an invitation to build community through food, memory, and solidarity.

A key intention of this work is to bring the conversation of caste and food into spaces that have historically excluded Dalit artists and communities. These are also the spaces where caste realities are most often erased. By centering Dalit cuisine, the performance disrupts this silence and creates space for reflection. But what is Dalit food? Unlike other celebrated culinary traditions, Dalit food is not a single cuisine. It is a history shaped by exclusion, survival, and creativity. Too often, discourse on caste overlooks joy, yet Dalit food also carries joy: of eating, sharing, and celebrating resilience.

'Come Eat With Me' asks audiences to sit with both joy and pain, and to taste history, memory, and imagination together.

— **Sri Vamsi Matta, Lead Artist, 'Come Eat With Me'**

Nagarajan-Lew Fund Statement

This fund, residency, and tour were made possible by a wedding present. This opportunity has highlighted to us, as PoC artists and arts workers, the importance of diversifying giving in the arts in Australia and shifting who/where these resources are distributed to, what impact they can have, and how the artist is scaffolded in that process. It has been an honour and highlight to work with Vamsi, Campbelltown Arts Centre (CAC), Arts House, H-ME W-RK, Magenta House and InPlace Inc. We hope this act sustains innovative arts funding models that are co-funded from the community and flow straight back into the community.

— **Nithya Nagaran and James Lew, Nagaran-Lew Fund**



Image: From the archives of Come Eat With Me, supplied by the artist

Creative Team

Writer, Director, Producer and Performer

Sri Vamsi Matta

Banner Illustrations

Tabitha Percy

Operator & Lighting Consultant

Darcy Catto-Pitkin

Production Lead

Frank Mainoo

Creative Producer

Brittany Green

Creative Program Assistant

Anne Cutajar

Performance Details

Dates:

Friday 10 October 2025, 6:30pm

Saturday 11 October 2025, 6:30pm

Key Times and Duration:

CAC Opens & 2025 Fisher's Ghost Art Award Exhibition: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Performance Studio Opens & Pre-Show Engagement: 6:00pm - 6:30pm

Performance: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Dinner: 8:00pm - 8:30pm/9:00pm

Show Duration:

90 minutes, followed by dinner

Dinner Menu:

Ammulu's Chicken Curry

Pappucharu / Andhra Style Lentil Soup (Vegan)

Salt Bush & Karkalla Chutney

White Steamed Rice

Warnings:

Themes of death, murder, discrimination and physical, emotional and social violence. Lights change colours and intensity.

కమ్ ఈట్ విత్ మీ Come Eat With Me

'Come Eat With Me' is an interdisciplinary theatre performance exploring the layered relationship between caste and food, culminating in a shared meal.

Through Dalit stories, histories and everyday resistance, 'Come Eat With Me' invites you on a sensory and emotional journey that unpacks themes of oppression and solidarity, grief and joy and the resilience of Oppressed Caste communities.

Intimate and participatory, 'Come Eat With Me' is rooted in lived experience and collective memory. The performance transforms the act of inter and intra-communal eating – a practice often shaped by caste hierarchies – into a space for reflection, connection and community building.

Concluding with a shared meal, this powerful and immersive experience reveals how culinary traditions can carry both historical trauma and the quiet triumphs of survival and resistance.



Image: Alex Andre

Sri Vamsi Matta

Sri Vamsi Matta, or simply Vamsi, is a Bangalore-based interdisciplinary theatre artist whose work is deeply informed by his Dalit identity, experiences, and the socio-political context of his location. As a member of a community historically marginalised and labelled “untouchable” within the Hindu caste system, Vamsi critically engages with oppressive structures and narratives affecting his community.

His recent work includes ‘Star in the Sky’, a play that poignantly captures the struggles and resilience of Dalit students in Indian universities, exploring themes of pain, identity, and systemic discrimination. Developed under Indian Ensemble’s Idea Development Lab-First Draft program, the play was a runner-up for the Tata Lit Fest’s Sultan Padamsee Playwriting Award. The play opened on 26th April, 2025

Vamsi co-founded OffStream, a Bangalore based arts collective supporting artists with an anti-caste lens, and building community around anti-caste histories and imaginations. He also co-founded Perishable Goods Collective, a transdisciplinary artist collective using food and art to challenge caste oppression and reclaim marginalised cultural narratives.

CAMPBELLTOWN ARTS CENTRE STAFF

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Business and Engagement Coordinator	Bronwyn Papantonio
Head of Curatorial	Adam Porter
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Assistant Curator, Contemporary Visual Arts	Hannah James
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Exhibitions Assistant	Tyrra Sandberg
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Creative Producer, Performance	Brittany Green
Creative Producer, Public Art	Timothy George
Creative Programs Assistant	Anne Cutajar
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Design & Communications Officer	Donna Vo
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Little Orange Studio Coordinator	David Capra
Little Orange Studio Assistant Facilitator	Julie Finch
Arts Administrator	Sharon McAndrew
Senior Visitor Experience and Retail Officer	Louise Snowdon
Visitor Experience Officer	Mellissa Grierson
Visitor Experience Officers	

Mellissa Grierson, Julie Finch, Laura Brunick, Erica Revere, Tim Almonte, Mariam Chanaoui, Paige Northwood, Eva Hampel



Special Thanks

The Artist Vamsi would like to give special thanks to the team back home: Apeksha Vora, Sri Harsha Sai Matta, Matta Suguna Rao, Percy Kaki, Rahee Punyashloka, Big Fat Bao, Latha Kanthraj & Sheetal Sahu.

Campbelltown Arts Centre
1 Art Gallery Rd Campbelltown
Open daily, 10am - 4pm
02 4645 4100
campbelltownartscentre.com.au



Presented by Campbelltown Arts Centre and H_ME_W_RK. The Australian tour and residency of 'Come Eat With Me' is supported by Arts House (VIC) and Campbelltown Arts Centre (NSW) and made possible by the Nagarajan-Lew Fund for independent artists.

Cover: Illustrations by Tabitha Percy