



Indian inkling

The gods are in Melbourne, writes **Harbant Gill**

OUT of the fog of a cold Melbourne morning emerges Toronto filmmaker Srinivas Krishna (pictured) with a gift of light for Melbourne.

It's so romantic walking in the fog, he enthuses, rather than the "white-out blizzard" of a Toronto winter.

It was during such a snowstorm that Srinivas, director and star of the award-winning international hit *Masala*, created *When the Gods Came Down to Earth* for 24-hour screenings at Federation Square.

Friday the 13th was a deliberate choice to launch his film as part of curator Robyn Archer's *The Light in Winter*, which gathers works of light from nine Melbourne communities to brighten the darkest days of our year.

The gods had something to do with the launch date. A priest at a Melbourne Hindu temple advised Srinivas that the most auspicious star-aligned time was between 4pm and 6pm on June 13.

Madras-born Srinivas wasn't about to argue, despite his western upbringing.

His film is a community project that he researched in India and created in Canada for a Melbourne audience. It features Toronto-based classical dancers who — through a morse code of gestures, animation and special effects — tell the stories of the various deities and archetypes such as Ganesh the elephant god and the multi-limbed Kali.

"These characters are like my best friends. Every day I'd come home from school and my grandmother would make a coffee, and she'd give me a little bit too, even though she wasn't supposed to, and tell me these stories," he says.

"They do have deep religious meaning for millions. For me they are the repository of the collective wisdom of the culture over the years."

Now Srinivas is making his first documentary *Ganesh, Wonder Boy*, about an Indian lad born with a gigantic nose. He will also direct a thriller set in 1940s India, *A Tryst with Destiny*.

For *When the Gods Came Down to Earth*, he was particularly interested in how calendar art of the gods poured into homes, cars and streets, particularly during British rule.

Srinivas's unique view of the gods, shown as random images on a three-sided outdoor screen, works as a puzzle through which audiences get a glimpse of the bigger picture.

"Like enlightenment it comes in epiphanies. You'll have that aha moment, then it will go back into a kind of randomness," he says.

Srinivas had his own aha moment about Federation Square while on a research trip in February.

"There were 15,000 people crowded around the screen watching Kevin Rudd apologising. Federation Square exists to bring people together. It is the only square in the world designed around a large screen.

"It's a place of enlightenment already. I don't know that Melburnians know that enough. I've never seen anything like this place anywhere else," he says.

see > THE LIGHT IN WINTER

Where: Federation Square, until July 13 for round-the-clock screening of *When the Gods Came Down to Earth*. *The Gift of Light* runs from June 21-July 5. Visit www.fedsquare.com

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<p>CROWN CROWN ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX SOUTHBANK</p> <p>VMC ADVANCE SCREENING KUNG FU PANDA (PG) WED 6.00PM</p> <p>SPEED RACER</p> <p>(PG) MON 10.40 1.20 4.00 6.40 9.20PM</p> <p>THE INCREDIBLE HULK (M) MON 2.15 4.45 7.15 9.45PM</p> <p>THE HAPPENING (MA15+) MON 12.10 5.30 7.40 9.50PM</p> <p>SEX & THE CITY (MA15+) MON 10.50 11.30 1.00 2.30 4.00 7.00 8.30 10.00PM</p> <p>THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (M) MON 12.30 3.30 6.30 9.30PM</p> <p>INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (M) MON 11.15 1.45 6.45 9.15PM</p> <p>WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (M) MON 10.00 2.30 4.30 6.30PM</p> <p>IRON MAN (M) MON 11.45AM</p> <p>21 (M) MON 10.00AM 4.15PM</p> <p>AIRPORT WEST 8 LOUIS STREET</p> <p>\$36 FAMILY TICKET DEAL (2 Adults & 2 Kids or 1 Adult & 3 Kids) For any (U) or (PG) film</p> <p>VMC ADVANCE SCREENING KUNG FU PANDA (PG) WED 6.00PM</p> <p>SPEED RACER</p> <p>(PG) MON 10.15 1.00 3.45 6.30 9.15PM</p> <p>THE INCREDIBLE HULK (M) MON 10.00 12.15 2.30 4.45 7.00 9.15PM</p> <p>THE HAPPENING (MA15+) MON 10.00 11.50 1.40 3.50 5.50 7.40 9.30PM</p> <p>SEX & THE CITY (MA15+) MON 10.30 1.15 2.30 4.00 5.15 6.45 8.00 9.30PM</p> <p>THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (M) MON 10.00 12.30 1.00 3.20 6.15 8.30 9.15PM</p> <p>INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (M) MON 1.30 4.00 6.30 9.00PM</p> <p>WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (M) MON 10.15AM 12.20PM</p> <p>IRON MAN (M) MON 11.00AM 6.00PM</p> <p>21 (M) MON 10.00AM 3.30PM</p>	<p>RIVOLI CINEMAS 200 CAMBERWELL ROAD</p> <p>SEX AND THE CITY (MA15+) MON 9.40 11.30 12.30 2.30 3.30 5.30 6.30 8.30 9.30PM</p> <p>THE ORPHANAGE (MA15+) MON 2.15 4.45 7.15 9.45PM</p> <p>THE COUNTERFEITERS (MA15+) MON 11.20 1.50 4.20 6.50 9.20PM</p> <p>STONES SCORSESE SHINE A LIGHT (M) MON 2.00 9.30PM</p> <p>THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (M) MON 9.30 12.15 3.15 6.15 9.15PM</p> <p>INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (M) MON 10.20 1.10 3.50 6.40 9.20PM</p> <p>THEN SHE FOUND ME (M) MON 11.00 1.30 6.30PM</p> <p>THE PAINTED VEIL (M) MON 11.30 4.30 7.00PM</p> <p>UN SECRET (M) MON 4.00 9.00PM</p> <p>THE EDGE OF HEAVEN (M) MON 11.45AM</p> <p>CENTURY CITY WALK 285 SPRINGVALE RD GLEN WAVERLEY</p> <p>VMC ADVANCE SCREENING KUNG FU PANDA (PG) WED 6.00PM</p> <p>SPEED RACER</p> <p>(PG) MON 10.15 1.20 4.00 6.40 9.20PM</p> <p>THE INCREDIBLE HULK (M) MON 11.15 1.45 4.15 6.50 9.15PM</p> <p>THE HAPPENING (MA15+) MON 10.00 10.50 12.50 2.50 7.40 9.40PM</p> <p>SEX & THE CITY (MA15+) MON 10.30 1.30 2.00 3.30 5.00 6.30 8.00 9.30PM</p> <p>THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (M) MON 1.30 4.20 7.00 9.45PM</p> <p>WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (M) MON 3.50PM</p> <p>IRON MAN (M) MON 10.45AM 6.00PM</p> <p>21 (M) MON 10.00AM 5.10PM</p>	<p>JAM FACTORY 500 CHAPEL STREET SOUTH YARRA</p> <p>SPEED RACER</p> <p>(PG) MON 10.45 1.30 4.15 7.00 9.45PM</p> <p>THE INCREDIBLE HULK (M) MON 12.00 2.30 5.00 7.30 10.00PM</p> <p>THE HAPPENING (MA15+) MON 10.30 11.30 1.30 3.30 5.30 7.30 9.30PM</p> <p>SEX & THE CITY (MA15+) MON 10.30 11.30 12.30 1.30 2.30 3.30 4.30 5.30 6.30 7.30 8.30 9.30 10.30PM</p> <p>THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (M) MON 11.00 1.00 2.00 4.00 5.00 7.00 8.00 10.00PM</p> <p>OPEN CAPTION SESSIONS WED 10.30AM</p> <p>INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (M) MON 11.20 2.00 4.40 7.30 10.00PM</p> <p>WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (M) MON 10.50 3.20 7.50PM</p> <p>IRON MAN (M) MON 1.15 3.50 9.10PM</p> <p>21 (M) MON 12.50 5.20 9.50PM</p> <p>STONES SCORSESE SHINE A LIGHT (M) MON 11.00AM</p> <p>CINEMA EUROPA JAM FACTORY</p> <p>SEX AND THE CITY (MA15+) MON 10.30 11.30 12.30 1.30 2.30 3.30 4.30 5.30 6.30 7.30 8.30 9.30 10.30PM</p> <p>STONES SCORSESE SHINE A LIGHT (M) MON 11.00AM</p> <p>OPERA - TIX \$25</p> <p>LA RONDINE (E) JUNE 28 & 29, 2.00PM</p> <p>JUNE 2, 10.30PM</p> <p><i>Italy's best operas brought to life on the big screen at Jam Factory, Southland and Rivoli</i></p>	<p>SOUTHLAND 1239 NEPEAN HWY CHELTENHAM</p> <p>max</p> <p>SPEED RACER</p> <p>(PG) MON 10.30* 1.10* 3.50* 6.40 9.20PM</p> <p>*SELECTED SESSIONS IN VMC</p> <p>SEX & THE CITY (MA15+) MON 11.30 12.30* 2.30 3.30* 5.30 6.30* 8.30 9.30PM*</p> <p>*SELECTED SESSIONS IN VMC</p> <p>THE INCREDIBLE HULK (M) MON 11.15 1.50 3.00 4.15 5.40 6.45* 8.10 9.15PM*</p> <p>*SELECTED SESSIONS IN VMC</p> <p>VMC ADVANCE SCREENING KUNG FU PANDA (PG) WED 6.00PM</p> <p>THE HAPPENING (MA15+) MON 9.45 11.45 1.45 3.45 4.30 5.45 7.45 9.45PM</p> <p>THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (M) MON 9.30 10.45 12.20 1.40 3.15 4.45 6.15 7.50 9.10PM</p> <p>INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (M) MON 10.50 1.30 4.15 7.00 9.40PM</p> <p>WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (M) MON 10.00 12.10 2.20 6.40 8.50PM</p> <p>IRON MAN (M) MON 10.30 1.15 4.00 6.30 9.10PM</p> <p>STONES SCORSESE SHINE A LIGHT (M) MON 10.15AM 12.40PM</p> <p>21 (M) MON 11.15 4.15 6.50 9.20PM</p> <p>CINEMA EUROPA SOUTHLAND</p> <p>THE ORPHANAGE (MA15+) MON 1.45 4.30 9.30PM</p> <p>THEN SHE FOUND ME (M) MON 11.30 2.00 7.10PM</p>
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