

Short+Sweet Theatre, Chennai (2014)

About Short+Sweet 2014

Short+Sweet (originally known as Short & Sweet) is a multi-form arts platform presenting festivals in theatre, dance, music-theatre, comedy and cabaret across Australia and Asia. Short+Sweet's vision statement is: a more creative world ten minutes at a time. The flagship festival is Short+Sweet Theatre Sydney, the largest ten-minute play festival in the world.

Short+Sweet Theatre was founded at the Newtown Theatre in Sydney, Australia in January 2002 by Mark Cleary, beginning with the first ever Short+Sweet Theatre festival. Festivals are now held across the globe. Short+Sweet Theatre Sydney is now the largest ten-minute theatre festival in the world, with around 180 new plays being produced every season.

There are many unique elements to this festival, some of which are, a strict time-limit, limit of one play per playwright, one play per director and two plays per actor, people's choice voting and the competitive aspect of the festival where plays are chosen from each week to progress to the Gala Finals.

Short+Sweet South India started as Short+Sweet Chennai in 2011. Since 2014, the festival has opened to entries from the four southern states in India. The jury members for the weeks are not known to the public, and consist of a good mix of connoisseurs from diverse fields.

The festival is presented in association with Blu Lotus Foundation and Alliance Francaise of Madras. The Australian Consulate General Chennai, Chennai Live and Goethe Institut supported this edition of the festival.

As a part of S+S 2014, the inaugural Crash Test Drama was conducted on 2nd May, 2014 at the Goethe Institut. 7 English plays and 2 Tamil plays were performed. Five scripts from the Crash Test made it to S+S Chennai 2014and two of the new directors at the Crash Test directed plays in the festival.

We organized 3 workshops – Play-writing workshop by Ramu Ramanathan, The Actor & Space workshop by V. Balakrishnan and Acting, Voice & Stage-craft by Vinod Anand.

This edition, the festival featured nearly 50 plays. There were so many new artists that the Wild Cards category had to be extended into 2 days and 4 shows, instead of the regular 2 shows. This year again we had theatre groups from other cities – Bangalore, Pune, and Sydney. The audience were bigger and better with Chennai folks embracing the festival and making it their own. The number of local scripts performed in the festival outweighed the international scripts, and there were many Tamil plays also. The winner of this edition was "A Typist with Destiny", directed by Rajiv Rajaram with Naveen George Thomas and Shravan Ramakrishnan in lead roles.



Schedule

Rounds	Date	Tim	ings
Wildcard I	5 th July 2014	3pm - 5pm	7pm - 9 pm
Wildcard II	6 th July 2014	3pm - 5pm	7pm - 9 pm
Top30 Week 1	10 th – 13 th July 2014	7pm ·	- 9 pm
Top30 Week 2	17 ^{th -} 20 th July 2014	7pm ·	- 9 pm
Top30 Week 3	23 rd - 26 th July 2014	7pm -	- 9 pm
Gala Finals	27 st July 2014	3pm - 5pm	7pm - 9 pm

Artiste Profile

1. Mathivanan Rajendran

Mathivanan Rajendran is an Indian Film and Stage Actor and Director and a Media Producer. He is the Founder of Stray Factory a Performance Arts and Digital Media company based out of Chennai. He is known for his work in Mayakkam Enna and Sawaari. He is also the co-founder of Rascalas an online platform for South Indian content. In 2016 he produced one of South India's first web series Black Sheep, a coming of age story of a college drop out.

His plays have been performed at festivals across the globe including National Arts Festival and Hollywood Fringe Festival. His notable plays include My Name is Cine-maa, Who is your Osama and Carpouram and feature his frequent collaborators Pooja Devariya and Venkatesh Harinathan. He studied automobile engineering in Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Chennai and holds a master's degree in Industrial Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Short+Sweet Theatre Festival Chennai 2014: Won Best Director for 'Carpouram'. The play was the runner-up for Best Play Award.

2. Rajiv Rajaram

Rajiv Rajaram, the standup comic, writer and partner at Stray Factory, has done many gigs in well-known comedy clubs across the world. Always the class clown and the entertainer in his family, Rajiv gave stand-up comedy a shot in 2013. Today, he is one of the brains behind Stray Factory's viral YouTube videos, including South of India. He is currently the Creative Director at Culture Machine.



Short+Sweet Theatre Festival Chennai 2014: Won Best Director and Scriptwriter for 'A Typist with Destiny'. The play also won the Mithran Devanesan Award for Best Production.

3. Pooja Devariya

Pooja joined the theatre group Stray Factory and has worked on stage performances and online videos with the company. During the production of the theatre show, Dirty Dancing, she was spotted by Gitanjali Selvaraghavan who recommended her to her husband, and the actress appeared in his Mayakkam Enna (2011) portraying Padmini, a friend in Dhanush's gang. In 2015, she was in production for six films, including roles in Karthik Subbaraj's Iraivi and Manikandan's Kuttrame Thandanai. As a model, she was on the cover of India Today magazine alongside actor Naren Weiss several times. Her directorial debut was also his play Maya from Madurai.

Short+Sweet Theatre Festival Chennai 2014: Won the Best Actor (Female) for 'Carpouram'.

Playing Order

Week-1

1. The Zombie Apocalypse

Director: SathishShanmugam Writers: Michael Towers Actors: Rahul Sridhar (Scientist),Meenu Srinivasan (Assistant),KarthikHariharan (Professor Isenberg),PrasanthSelvarasu (Jackson),Shivani Gupta (Jillian),Namitha Krishnamurthy (Tracey),Karthik (Buisness man),Vishwanath (Alien #1),Praveena (Alien #2)

Synopsis: A comedy about a scientist who travels forward in time, only to discover that humans in the future have become zombie-like slaves to their mobile devices.

2. It's ok to ask

Director: Lakshmi GanapathyMurugesan Writer: Carol Dance Actors: KasturiGoswami (Woman in the wheel chair) Synopsis: A beautiful wheelchair-bound woman implores people not to be afraid of asking her what happened!

3. Rishi Nair's Untitled Production Director: Anand Ram **Writer:** Suhit Kumar **ITC:**Zipper Down Productions



Actors: Suraj Raja (Rishi Nayar), ShyamRenganathan (Shyam), Rohan Iyer (Rohan), Akshya Ravi (Akshya), Karthik Bhatt (Gopala) Synopsis: Running a marathon must be easier than penning a play. Is it? Experience it!!

4. Mr. Politician

Director: Nithya Ramachandran Writer: ShakthiRamani Actors: Juhi Sharma (Naima),Sruti Hari (Radha) Synopsis: Two women. Different motives. One politician. A moment in history.

5. Take Two

Director: CharanSaravana Writer: Chris Shaw Swanson Actors: SmrithiParameswar(Aditi),SrikanthPingali (Rohan) Synopsis: A couple discovers that reconciliation can be tricky - especially when a prenup is involved.

6. The Thing

Director: Shraddha Ja. Venkata Subramanian Writer: Sujatha Rangarajan&AnandRaghav ITC: Shraddha Actors: Anand Ram (Husband),Archana (Wife),Hemanth (Beggar),Vinay Rao (Swamiji) Synopsis: The differences between the rich and poor, the believers and the non believers, the right and wrong, disintegrate as planet Earth faces extinction.

7. Tech-no-logic Progress

Director: Adarsh Satish Writer: Deepak Hariharan ITC:Park-Street Theatre Actors: Deepak Hariharan (Techie),SunainaMudaliar (Woman) Synopsis: The title says it all!

8. Heavenly Baddie

Director: VivekRajagopal Writer: VivekRajagopal ITC: Chennai Drama House Actors: VikramMankal (Politician),SmrithiParameswar (Evaluator),Karthik Bhatt (Man in queue) Synopsis: No sin will go unpunished. Unless...

9. New Year's Eve Director: KasturiGoswami
Writer: David MacGregor
Actors: Lakshmi GanapathyMurugesan (Mr.Ganapathy),Nithya Ramachandran (Ms. Nithya)



Synopsis: It's New Year's eve at the Old is Goldretirement home. The residents have gathered to bring in the New Year at noon, which leaves one of the residents less than pleased.

10. A Typist with destiny

Director: Rajiv Rajaram Writer: Rajiv Rajaram Actors: Naveen George Thomas (Kumar & Mathai),SharavanRamakrishnan (Sridharan) Synopsis: Two bumbling clerks are in the process of gravely re-writing history.Or is it so?

Week-2

 Sahithya Director: Nikhil Sriram Writers: Naren Weiss Actors: Rajiv Rajaram (Rajat Bhatia) Synopsis: Barking snakes never bite.

2. ID

Director: Kalieaswari Srinivasan Writer: Kalieaswari Srinivasan ITC:The Drama Troupe Actors: BrihadishKaushik (Man in Power), R. Karthikeyan (Common Man) Synopsis: A common man. A government official. A public space. A casual act of forgetting. An ordinary errand. A tiny bit of paper and a bit of drama.

3. Oopsy

Director: SmrithiAmarendran Writer: SmrithiAmarendran ITC: Caricatture Productions Actors: Abishek George Joseph (Anjan), NamithaVivek (Hazel), Candice Rozario (Asha), PreethamMangal (Random Guy), MangalSoundaryan (Waiter) Synopsis: If something bad happens, you drink to forget; if something good happens, you drink to celebrate, and if nothing happens you drink to make something happen. An alcohol induced triangle that meanders through failures and realizations.

4. Kichadi Life

Director: Nagarajan Lingam

Writer: Nagarajan Lingam

Actors: ShaliniVijayakumar (Woman 1& 3),ShylajaChetlur (Woman 2),Prithiveeraj (Man 1),Sunil Santanam (Husband), Soundarajan (musician)

Synopsis: A visit from a childhood friend rekindles in a woman the memories of the past. They have moved apart due to the time lapse. A personal space connects them despite time. As she sets out to explore that space, TIME warps!!



5. SaathurSanthipu

Director: Vinodhini Vaidynathan Writer: Vinodhini Vaidynathan Actors: Guru Somasundaram (Chandru),Amjath Khan (Shankar),SanjitKrishnamoorthy (Dead body),Suresh Kumar (TTE),S.Dinakaran (Porter),L.Vinod (Man at the station) Synopsis: Shankar and Chandru travelling on a train encounter a strange co-passenger. Who is he and what is his business with them? Find out at SaathurSanthippu.

6. The Inner Fire

Director: AmrithavarshiniVenkatesh Writer: DushyanthGunashekar ITC:Crea-Shakthi Actors: PrasannaVenkateshRengarajan (boy) Synopsis: There is a story behind every cup of tea.

7. Eternally Yours

Director: MeghnaMudaliar Writer: SunainaMudaliar ITC: a.g.n.i Theatre! Actors: Deepak Hariharan (Prince), SunainaMudaliar (Lady) Synopsis: Tragic endings leave a lot unsaid.

8. The Man Who Was Music

Director: AjitChitturi **Writer:** AishwaryaJha-Mathur **Actors:** Rajeev (Adam),Krishna (Nathaniel),Prakash(Saliero and father),Lahari (Sara and mother)

Synopsis: Adam is an accomplished world-renowned violinist. On the day of his performance, for the last time, he recounts his tale of the person who shaped his life and career.

9. Waiting for Him

Director: JanardhananRaghavan Writer: Balajee G.E. Actors: SainathSaikrishnan (Man),Priyanka Sohoni (Woman),Subhiksha Raman (hot woman), KrishHariharan (hot man) Synopsis: Oh God!

10. Death of Drona

Director: MeeraSitaraman Writer: Janani Narasimhan ITC:Theatre Nisha Actors: BalakrishnanVenkataraman (Drona),NithyaSivashankar(singer) Synopsis: The play is a non-verbal piece which depicts the anguish of Drona, the Kaurava General, on hearing that his only son, Ashwatthama, has been killed in battle by Bheema.



Week - 3

1. Blabber Mouth

Director: Vinod Anand Writers: Cerise de Gelder ITC:Tiny Men Actors: Amit Singh (Gary), Uthara Krishnan (Lisa), Siddharth S.P. (Patrick) Synopsis: Love. Lies. Lives. Lust. Deceit. Betrayal. Murder. Often... A word can be enough... Otherwise you could be labelled a BLABBERMOUTH.

2. Late for School

Director: Vasudev Menon
Writer: Iain Moss
Actors: VaishnaviSundararajan (Lynn)
Synopsis: A young teacher is under intense interrogation for a horrible crime she had no idea she committed. She was only late for school.

3. Maya and Lakshmi

Director: Janani Narasimhan **Writer:** V. Balakrishnan **Actors:** MeeraSitaraman (Lakshmi), Shakti Ramani (Maya), NithyaShivashankar (Lamp) **Synopsis:** A maid and a maiden's conversation can turn tables.

4. How to Drink a Coffee

Director: John Pradeep **Writer:** BalakumaranMurugesan **Actors:** Subiksha Raman (girl), Ashwin Rao (guy), BhargavRamakrishnan (Narrator) **Synopsis:** A guide on deciphering the intricacies of coffee moments and relationships.

5. Carpouram

Director: MathivananRajendran Writer: MathivananRajendran&PoojaBalu ITC:Stray Factory Actors: Krishna Ganapathy (Murugesan), PoojaBalu (Saraswathy) Synopsis: Camphor smell donkey how know?

6. Shofu Slaves

Director: ShakthiRamani Writer: MeeraSitaraman Actors: V.Balakrishnan (Man), SrutiHari(Woman) Synopsis: Where does comfort lie in a war?



7. Dogs and Cats Living Together

Director: Sushant Alexander **Writer:** Lynn-Steven Johanson **Actors:** Sundeep Joseph (Lucky, a male dog), Uthara Krishnan (Miss Kitty, a female cat) **Synopsis:** A dog and a cat's discordant personalities test their abilities to maintain détente.

8. To write my epitaph

Director: VaishnaviSundararajan **Writer:** Robert Armstrong **Actors:** Vasudev Menon (Edgar Allan) **Synopsis:** Edgar Allan – a writer, who speaks in verse. Uncanny, unabashed, unhappy and terse. Is he just a facsimile of Poe's ingenuity?

9. Checkout

Director: Yannick Lawry Writer: Pete Mallicki Actors: Katie Leiss (Corinne) Synopsis: Corinne works for a large supermarket chain. You might think she hates her job, but she's done far worse. This supermarket is the top of the bottom. But she's nothing but a robot being phased out by other robots..

Wildcards - 1

 Mama's Straight Drive Director: Abhishek Karthik
 Writer: Rahul Sridhar
 Actors: Venkatakrishnan Kaushik (Rajath), Rahul Sridhar (Mani)
 Synopsis: A completely fictional piece on how the problems of match fixing in sports & homosexuality collide in a parallel yet ALMOST real universe called Chennai.

2. Will
Director: Sreejith Palliyil
Writer: AmoghJalihal
Actors: SreenathPalliyil (Ajay Kumar), RanjithKakkayur (Executioner)
Synopsis: A dialogue between an executioner and the criminal sentenced to death where motives are questioned, and the concept of free will blurs the line between the good and the bad, of justice and crime.

3. An Oldman's Game
Director: YukendranKamaraj
Writer: SriramGokul C.
Actors: AjitChitturi (An oldman), NagaratnaShyam Prakash (Ex Wife of Oldman), Nikhil (Rick - ex wife's husband), Depali Gupta (Young lady thief)



Synopsis: An old man plays a psychological game over a young lady, who visited old man's home to rob a costly watch.

4. Abhyantha

Director: KatharangaJanardhanChikkanna Writer: MallikarjunDevarmane ITC: Katharanga Actors: MallikarjunDevarmane (Abhyantha) Synopsis: Abhyantha, a strange man leads a lonely life in his own world. But, there is one

obsession, one passion he lives by... silence! Silence leads him to the love of his life... the girl of his dreams! But his love for silence pushes him to do an unimaginable deed. Hear it all from the man, who never wanted to talk... Hear it from the man of silence, Abhyantha...

5. Deniable Plausibility

Director: AnandRavichandran Writer: Toast D'Bechamel Actors: Vigeneshwaran (Jake), Shweta Gupta (Sarah), ArunAthmalingam (Agent Park) Synopsis: A woman working for a secret organisation must persuade a cyber-security analyst to join her agency... or die trying.

6. The Ideal Image

Director: SukanyaUmesh

Writer: SukanyaUmesh

Actors: Bhagirathy S. (Woman), AshwinRavichandran (Chorus Member 1), Siddhanth
Mohan (Chorus Member 2), Pranathi Ram (Chorus Member 3), Shreya Jalan (Chorus Member 4), AkshayVenkatraman (Chorus), Abhishek Thomas (Musician)
Synopsis: The play is a satire on Indian society's obsession with fair skinned, straight haired women, that looks at society as a circus.

7. Milton

Director: SreenathPalliyil Writer: Robert Armstrong Actors: Vivek Raju (Raghuram), Ranjith Kakkayur (Doctor Sadasivam) Synopsis: Can an association between man and monster ever really last?

8. 1, 2, 3 - Ready, Set, Go

Director: Divya Mangwani Writer: Divya Mangwani Actors: Harshitha Krishnan (Oona), ArchanaKariappa (Tina), Shweta Gupta (Trina) Synopsis: Journey of three very different women looking for lasting love through a marriage bureau.

9.Va Van Gogh Director: Bhargav Prasad Writer: Bhargav Prasad



Actors: Kiran Naig (Van Gogh), Nishanti Sudhakar (Van Gogh) Synopsis:Tomatoes. Potatoes. Are they all the same?

Wildcards - 2

1. The door

Director: JagadeeshKanna Writer: JagadeeshKanna ITC: Quid Pro Quo Productions Actors: BhargavRamakrishnan (Scientist& Thief), BalaKumaran (Newsreader), KrishHariharan (Police), Mallika Arjun (Scientist &Thief), MridulaChetlur (Pizza Delivery Girl), Abeneth(Interpol Officer), Janardhan (Interpol Officer) Synopsis: A thief changes into a scientist on entering a magic door. How he utilises to steal more things from the city forms the crux of the story.

2. Yesterday to Tomorrow

Director: Shravan Kartikeyan Writer: Shravan Kartikeyan Actors: Nikhil Venkatesa (Abe), Sundeep Joseph (George), ArchanaKariappa (Joan), SrikanthPingali (Phil), KanchiThangadurai (Girl) Synopsis: As Abe suffers the loss of his wife, his 3 new-found friends from the old age home where he has settled help him move on in life.

3. Where are you, Appa?

Director: PrashanthSelvarasu Writer: PrashanthSelvarasu Actors: Gautham Krishnan (Boy) Synopsis: A boy talking about a dad that he never had.

4. HairaPochu

Director: Shyam Sundar Writer: KarthikeyanChandramohan Actors: Sasi Kumar (Barber), Naveen George Thomas(Chief Minister), Karthikeyan (Secretary) Synopsis: A close encounter becomes a close shave for a man of power

5. Ponnukadhai
Director: Vaishnavi. S
Writer: Varsha Venugopal
Actors: Ritu Philip (The girl), Abhishek Dutta (The boy)
Synopsis: Love. Unsaid...



6. Hello Kitty

Director: Shevaun Da Costa

Writer: VibhaBatra

Actors: Krishna Arcot(Woman 1), Shivani Gupta (Woman 2), Namita Krishnamurthy (Woman3), Stephanie Howie (Woman 4)

Synopsis: Four gorgeous ladies-who-lunch.One scandalous memoir. All hell breaks loose when a socialite decides to wash her dirty linen in public. Her tell-all book wreaks havoc in the lives of fellow kitty members.

7. Black Coffee

Director: Karthik Anantharaman **Writer:** Deanna Ableser **Actors:** KaleshRamanand (Matt), Archana Menon (Alice) **Synopsis:**A man and a woman toy around with the idea of a simple kiss at a coffee shop.

8. To B.E. or not to B.E.

Director: Shyam Renganathan **Writer:** Shyam Renganathan **Actors:** Siddhanth Mohandas(VenkateshRajendran), Roshan Mark(Musician) **Synopsis:** An Army Brat's Rant on Engineering.

9. Statue

Director: PrabuMejel Writer: John Pradeep Actors: Kalieaswari Srinivasan(Kannagi), R. Karthikeyan (Voice) Synopsis: The Kannagi statue in Marina comes alive and talks its experiences as a statue and as Kannagi herself.

Plays Shortlisted for the Gala Finalé:

- 1. Carpouram
- 2. To B.E. or not to B.E.
- 3. Mr. Politician
- 4. Waiting for him
- 5. Checkout
- 6. A typist with destiny
- 7. Saathursanthipu
- 8. Sahithya
- 9. How to drink a coffee
- 10. Death of Drona
- 11. Heavenly baddie
- 12.1,2,3 ready, set, go
- 13. Statue



Press

The Hindu, Chennai, 27 June, 2014 - A minute is long enough http://www.thehindu.com/features/metroplus/a-minute-is-long-enough/article6155332.ece

Indulge, The New Indian Express, Chennai, 27 June, 2014 - Got 10 minutes to spare? Check out Short+Sweet festival <u>http://indulge.newindianexpress.com/got-10-minutes-to-spare-check-out-shortsweet-festival/section/12469</u>

Prizes

Week - 1		
Best Director		
Prize	Director	Play
Winner	Rajiv Rajaram	A Typist with Destiny
Winner	Nithya Ramachandran	Mr. Politician

Best Actor			
Prize	Actor	Play	
	Naveen George Thomas	A Typist with Destiny	
Winner	SharavanRamakrishnan	A Typist with Destiny	
	VikramMankal	Heavenly Baddie	

Best Actress		
Prize	Actress	Play
Winner	KasturiGoswami	It's ok to ask

Best Script		
Prize	Writer	Play
Winner	Rajiv Rajaram	A Typist with Destiny

Week - 2			
Best Director			
Prize	Director	Play	
JAZ:	JanardhananRaghavan	Waiting for Him	
Winner	Nagarajan Lingam	Kichadi Life	



Best Actor		
Prize	Actor	Play
Winner	SainathSaikrishnan	Waiting for Him
winner		

	Best Actress	
Prize	Actress	Play
Winner	ShylajaChetlur	Kichadi Life
	SunainaMudaliar	Eternally Yours

Best Script		
Prize	Writer	Play
Winner	Vinodhini Vaidynathan	SaathurSanthipu
	Nagarajan Lingam	Kichadi Life

Week - 3		
Best Director		
Prize	Director	Play
Winner	MathivananRajendran	Carpouram

Best Actor		
Prize	Actor	Play
Winner	Vasudev Menon	To write my epitaph
winner		

	Best Actress	
Prize	Actress	Play
Winner	Katie Leiss	Checkout

Best Script		
Prize	Writer	Play
	V. Balakrishnan	Maya and Lakshmi
Winner	MeeraSitaraman	Shofu Slaves
	BalakumaranMurugesan	How to drink a coffee

Wildcard 1		
Best Director		
Prize	Director	Play
Winner	SukanyaUmesh	The Ideal Image
	DivyaMangwani	1, 2, 3 – Ready, Set, Go



Best Actor		
Prize	Actor	Play
Winner	MallikarjunDevarmane	Abhyantha

Best Actress		
Prize	Actress	Play
Winner	NishantiSudhakar	Va Van Gogh
	Shweta Gupta	Deniable Plausibility

Best Script		
Prize	Writer	Play
Winner	DivyaMangwani	1, 2, 3 – Ready, Set, Go
	Bhargav Prasad	Va Van Gogh

Wildcard 2		
Best Director		
Prize	Director	Play
Winner	JagadeeshKanna	The Door

Best Actor		
Prize	Actor	Play
Winner	Naveen George Thomas	HairaPochu
	Siddhanth Mohandas	To B.E. or not to B.E.

Best Actress			
Prize	Actress	Play	
Winner	Kalieaswari Srinivasan	Statue	
	Best Scrip	t	
Prize	Writer	Play	
Winner	Shyam Renganathan	To B.E. or not to B.E.	
	John Pradeep	Statue	



Gala Finals Prizes Best Play		
Winner	A Typist with Destiny	Rajiv Rajaram
Runner- up	Carpouram	Mathivanan Rajendran

Best Actor		
Prize	Actor	Play
Winner	Naveen George Thomas	A Typist with Destiny
	SharavanRamakrishnan	A Typist with Destiny
	SainathSaikrishnan	Waiting for Him

Best Actress		
Prize	Actress	Play
Winner	Kalieaswari Srinivasan	Statue
	Katie Leiss	Checkout
	PoojaBalu	Carpouram

Best Director		
Prize	Director	Play
Winner	Rajiv Rajaram	A Typist with Destiny
	Mathivanan Rajendran	Carpouram

Best Script		
Prize	Writer	Play
Winner	Rajiv Rajaram	A Typist with Destiny

