

# PRESS RELEASE



## The Flynn Presents Sunny Jain's *Wild Wild East* on January 22, Fresh from Under the Radar Festival in NYC

BURLINGTON, VT- The Flynn presents **Sunny Jain's Wild Wild East** on **Wednesday, January 22** on the Flynn Main Stage, bringing the genre-defying composer, drummer, and dhol player to Burlington just days after his appearance at **Under the Radar**, New York City's premier festival of experimental and boundary-pushing performance. A fiery and politically charged musical experience, *Wild Wild East* reimagines American identity through the lens of the immigrant experience, blending global sounds into a bold, immersive live performance.

**Tickets on sale now. Purchase tickets only at [www.flynnvt.org](http://www.flynnvt.org).**

Hailed by *Songlines Magazine* as "**one of the leading figures in North America's burgeoning Asian music scene**" and praised by *The New Yorker* for his "**unrepentant maximalism**," Jain has built an international reputation for music that is as intellectually rigorous as it is viscerally powerful. His Flynn performance comes shortly after the world premiere of his new theatrical work *Love Force* at Under the Radar in NYC, placing Burlington audiences at the forefront of Jain's evolving artistic moment.

Released by Smithsonian Folkways, *Wild Wild East* interrogates the mythology of the American West, reframing the cowboy as a metaphor for the modern immigrant. Drawing on Jain's background as the son of Indian immigrants and his deep roots in jazz, bhangra, rock, and South Asian folk traditions, the work fuses surging dhol rhythms, howling saxophone, cinematic guitar, and explosive brass into what *Pitchfork* described as "**shimmering walls of sound**." *PopMatters* called the album "**a perfect storm... an understanding of the stories he tells here is liable to change hearts and minds for the better**."

On stage, Jain leads his five-piece band through music that is raucous, jubilant, and unflinching in its examination of identity, power, and belonging. The performance reflects Jain's ongoing artistic mission to challenge inherited narratives and create space for new, more inclusive visions of what it means to be American.

Jain's career spans collaborations with Ed Sheeran, Jovanotti, Mira Nair, Mickey Hart, and Zakir Hussain, as well as appearances at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. He is also the founder and bandleader of Red Baraat, which appeared at the first ever **Playing Fields** hosted by the Flynn in 2021. In addition to his performance career, Jain is a sought-after educator and cultural thought leader, with recent appointments including a 2023–24 Visiting Scholar and Artist-in-Residence position at Wesleyan University.

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**Sunny Jain's Wild Wild East takes place **January 22 at the Flynn. Tickets on sale now. Purchase tickets only at [www.flynnvt.org](http://www.flynnvt.org).****



## About Sunny Jain



Sunny Jain is a composer, drummer, dhol player, and global music innovator whose work celebrates cultural diaspora and the interconnectedness of musical traditions. Known as the “Hendrix of dhol,” Jain is widely recognized for founding the pioneering band Red Baraat and for his genre-defying solo work. His music and story have been featured in museum exhibitions at the Museum of the City of New York, the Wing Luke Museum, and The Go-Go Museum, and his albums have received critical acclaim from *Pitchfork*, *The New Yorker*, *Songlines*, and NPR.

## About the Flynn

The Flynn has been at the center of Vermont's cultural landscape for 90 years. Each year, 200,000 people attend performances on the Main Stage and in Flynn Space, with 8,000 students participating in the Flynn Student Matinee Series. Thousands more discover their creative selves in classes and camps. The Flynn also supports artists through residencies, commissions, and performance development, and is recognized internationally for its artistic, educational, and community impact. The Flynn partnered with In Situ in 2021 with the mission to expand the Flynn beyond its 4-walled theater. Since joining, the Flynn has produced a handful of collaborative projects with artists from all over the world.

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