



my grandmother is the silence of scéine and the song of amergin*

her curious madness for the sound of faraway sea in old Irish is a journey that begins in India, in the lost songs of her grandmother, her naani, and the love and loss of Urdu poetry. Then in Iveragh, she meets Eimear Reidy whose keen improvisations deepen the dance for the imagined sea, the silence of Scéine, and the song of her husband, Amergin. **featuring an Urdu translation of The Amergin Step (Paddy Bushe's English version of the poem).* The heart of this piece is the concept of "Faraway is Close," dissolving the borders that keep us from our connection to land, story and each other.

meri naani, khamoshi aur amergin

*the husband of Scéine and according to Leabhar Gabhála, The Book of Invasions, the speaker of Ireland's oldest poem

dance & poetry: Shebana Coelho | cello: Eimear Reidy

a movement and cello piece interwoven with original poetry | duration: 45 minutes

video teasers

[Teaser 1 - video](#)



[Teaser 2 - graphics](#)



PROJECT INFO

co-creator/performer - Shebana Coelho

I'm a dancer/performance artist/writer originally from India, studying flamenco in Spain.

What took me to Kerry for the second time is "**the body becomes the poem**," ([made possible by a Mobility Grant of the Creative Europe EU program](#)). The project is to develop small performances made of dance and poetry on the land in response to the ancient Irish landscape myth, the Song of Amergin.

The dances I dance have something to do with dances I study: the body movements of flamenco and hand mudras/gestures of Indian dance (bharatanatyam) but because I started dance quite late in life, I am more inclined to call it movement and even more inclined to call it freedom. Because the deep heart of my work is about colonization - excavating and liberating it in the body.

The truest thing I've done is a solo play made of dance and poetry called [The Good Manners of Colonized Subjects](#), both about the British colonization of India and art and fear. It has been performed at the Pan Asian Rep Theater's NuWorks festival in New York city, at the Univ of Sevilla, and Cádiz, among others. More info [here](#).

On a fall 2023 trip to Ireland, at a residency at [Cill Rialaig](#), what has developed is a new cello and movement piece with cellist, Eimear Reidy, invoking Scéine, the wife of Amergin and her curious connection to my grandmother, Parveen who loved the sea and who liked to make waves with her hands

I perform it barefoot and imagine my movements as inspired by listening to the land, sensing the sea, the movements taking shape somewhere between India and Ireland.



Disclaimer: This work was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

ABOUT US

[SHEBANA COELHO - BIO](#)

[EIMEAR REIDY - BIO](#)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Shebana Coelho writing

- [My grandmother is calling me Blog Post](#)
- [Previous Performance Clip - Pani es Gaon](#)
- [About the Song of Amergin](#)
- [Clip with flamenco singer, Coral de Los Reyes: Fear and Tea](#)
- [Of Stones and Dance, my first experience of dance](#)
- [Encounters with Flamenco in Spain](#) and other writing

Eimear Reidy Albums

[Things That Happened At Sea: A Short Story in Several Parts](#)

[She Came Through the Window to Stand by the Door](#)

Natalia Beylis and Eimear Reidy

[Review: The Quietus](#)