

# Change Maker Award

## Shreya Gejji

In early 2012, Shreya started Prayas Youth Theatre. The youth theatre company formed as a response to a stifled local theatre industry that had little space and opportunity for young ethnic Kiwis to explore their creative interests.

The theatre company was invited by a local NGO 'Shakti' to perform at their annual fundraiser, where Shreya devised, wrote, produced and directed a play on domestic violence, narrating the story of a victim's journey from oppression to emancipation through dialogue and dance.

“Shreya wrote a play in Hindi that was performed by an entirely non-Hindi speaking cast, who she individually taught the language ... thus breaking down barriers and offering young Kiwis access to regional languages through cultural theatrical experiences.”

