

PRESS RELEASE SAMPLE DAREDEVAS BEFORE EVENT

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Akademi in partnership with the Southbank Centre presents

DAREDEVAS 2009 – 6 Dancers, 5 styles, 4 countries

The brightest young talents in contemporary Indian dance

Akademi return to the Southbank Centre Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 November 2009 for a fourth year to present this remarkable platform for up and coming South Asian dancers.

British-based with international roots, these artists provide a fresh take on traditional Indian dance styles, showing a mix of bold and original choreographies.

This year, six artists – Mukti Shri (Kathak), Sooraj Subramaniam (Bharatanatyam), Shreya Kumar (Bharatanatyam), Khavita Kaur (Odissi), Arunima Kumar (Kuchipudi) and Devika Rao (Yakshagana) – will collectively perform five different dance styles in six pieces of work. With their origins spanning four countries, each artist is free to present one traditional and one innovative piece, offering a taster of their extraordinary skill in one spectacular night.

"For the past 30 years Akademi has been a springboard for introducing new talent to the world of dance in the UK. This year's ensemble is exceptionally talented and will delight audiences for a long time." **Mira Kaushik, Artistic director, Akademi**

This cast of dancers is influenced by and uses styles ranging from Bharatanatyam and the folk theatre style of Yakshagana to classical ballet, storytelling and contemporary dance.

Previous Daredevas have included Yamuna Devi (now working with Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company), Shamita Ray (her most recent choreography was staged at Edinburgh Festival and at The Place, London), Seema Patel (recently showed work at ROH2), Saju Hari (currently dancing with Akram Khan Dance Company) and Shane Shambhu.

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