

# Akādemi South Asian Dance UK presents **DAREDEVAS**

11.30am AUG 17-25, 2008 – INVASIAN FESTIVAL – EDINBURGH FRINGE

## SLOKAM

This piece describes the charismatic persona of Krishna, the blue bodied Hindu Deity.

Performer: Shrikant Subramaniam      Composer: Venkata Subbarayar  
Choreographer: Anusha Subramanyam      Vocalist: Aruna Sairam

## RAISING THE WIND

The song is based on an ancient Finnish prayer to Dark One - the God of the Wind. He is asked to raise a storm to chase away the evil. The choreography is a contemporary interpretation of the song, inspired by Kathak.

Performer: Hanna Mannila      Composer: Sanna Kurki-Suonio  
Choreographer: Päivi Mero

## RAGA MALIKA JATISWARAM

This classical Bharatanatyam piece focuses on the Nritya or technical aspect of the dance form. Prominence is given to body movements which, structured to specific rhythmic patterns and time cycles, demonstrate complex intricacies. Through this, the dancer expresses the spiritual joy and exhilaration of dancing the purity of the form.

Performer: Archana Ballal      Composer: Tanjore Quartet  
Choreographer: Rukmini Devi      Vocalist: K. Saisankar

## BANDISH IN RAAG SUR MALHAAR

This bandish (musical composition) describes the magic of the monsoon season. It combines both the speed of the technical aspect of Kathak, as well as the expressional aspect (abhinaya).

Performer: Archita Kumar      Composer: Geetanjali Lal  
Choreographer: Geetanjali Lal      Vocalist: K. Saisankar

## TANJORE RAP

This is a dance composition in the Tillana genre of Bharatanatyam which showcases rhythmic complexity and intricate percussive footwork. The lyrics are uniquely used as spoken text and are interspersed between passages of recited rhythms. The choreography describes the dance of God Krishna subduing the multiple headed serpent, Kaliya.

Performer: Shrikant Subramaniam      Composer: Venkata Subbarayar  
Choreographer: Anusha Subramanyam      Vocalist: Aruna Sairam

## TARANA

Tarana is a genre of North Indian classical music with strong Mughal influence. It is usually fast paced and sung or danced towards the end of a recital. The dancer tries to capture the mood of the chosen Rag (musical mode), in this case the vibrant and romantic midnight raga Kalavati (literally 'lady who is skilled in arts').

Performer: Hanna Mannila      Composer: Pt Birju Maharaj  
Choreographer: Abhay Shankar Mishra

## A FORK IN THE ROAD

A journey through discovery and excitement, on the way to maturity. The movement comes from a very personal place, reflecting the dancer's many influences and movement experiences.

Performer & Choreographer: Archana Ballal                      Composer: Alexandre Desplat  
Music: Colony Club, Kitty's Theme (The Painted Veil soundtrack)

## PARMESHWARI

Parameshwari is one of the names given to the Hindu goddess Durga. The Sanskrit verse used in this piece describes Durga as omnipresent and as an entity who can manifest herself in an infinite number of ways. She represents supreme and boundless energy.

Performer: Archita Kumar    Composer: Ashit Desai  
Choreographer: Urja Desai Thakore

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Archana Ballal** is an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer having trained from a young age with Chitrалека Bolar and more recently on a professional level with Stella Subbiah. A recent graduate of London Contemporary Dance School, Archana is interested in exploring a new movement area in her choreography; combining her experience of Bharatanatyam with her training in Contemporary techniques and Improvisation. She has a vast amount of performance experience and is also a keen teacher and gifted choreographer.

**Archita Kumar** belongs to the new generation of British-born South Asian dancers, being recently featured as a soloist in Akademi's 'Daredevas 2008' at the Southbank Centre, London. She studied Kathak under Jayashree Acharya and Abhay Shankar Mishra at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, London and is also a gifted musician. Archita believes in maintaining the purity of the Indian Classical performing arts, and as a performer, exhibits an excellent command over both the rhythmic and expressional aspects of Kathak. She also has a BSc in Biomedical Sciences from University College London.

**Hanna Mannila** is a London based dance artist. She was first trained in ballet and jazz dance in Finland, and later in Kathak at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan with Sushmita Ghosh and Abhay Shankar Mishra, finishing her Diploma course with Distinction in 2001. She did her solo debut in Kathak in 2006 after intensive training in India with Sushmita Ghosh. She also holds a Master's degree in South Asian Studies. Recent performances have taken her to Denmark, Germany, India and the U.S.

**Shrikant Subramaniam** completed his BFA and MFA from Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya, topping all the examinations conducted in dance by the University of Mumbai. He has performed extensively in India and abroad, and is the recipient of several scholarships and awards from the Department of Culture, India and the Nehru Centre, Mumbai. Shrikant received a scholarship to pursue a research based MA in South Asian Dance at the University of Roehampton (UK). He is currently furthering his training in Bharatanatyam under the guidance of Anusha Subramanyam.

## MORE FROM AKADEMI

**INITIUM (where dreams begin), Aug 30 at 4pm**, Ocean Kitchen, Edinburgh Mela  
**BELLS, Aug 30 at 3pm**, Watch This Space riverside festival, National Theatre, London

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**Akademi South Asian Dance UK, 213 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4QP Tel 020 7691 3210**

Akademi is a cutting-edge, progressive organisation with an international outlook, based in the heart of London. It works to enhance the practice, understanding and appreciation of South Asian dance across the UK within a contemporary artistic, social and educational context. Its work is modern and holistic, informed by the traditions and rich heritage of South Asian dance and driven by the needs of South Asian dance artists in the UK.

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