

Feb 2017 – For Immediate release

## NAVADAL National South Asian Youth Dance Competition 2017

Akademi is delighted to announce a new **partnership with One Dance UK to bring NAVADAL - The National South Asian Youth Dance Competition – to U.Dance 2017** at Birmingham Hippodrome on Thursday 13 July 2017. The competition is for artists between the ages of 11 to 25 in both solo and group categories.

**NAVADAL** – meaning new shoots in Hindi– is a platform for the **best young classical South Asian dancers** to compete on a national stage, in the presence of prestigious judges who are expert practitioners in the field. Importantly, this year Akademi and One Dance UK are providing participants with the chance to take part in a three-day residency, including workshops, performances, and round table discussions. Akademi has also teamed up with **Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD)** who will award prizes to solo ISTD students who participate in NAVADAL, based on the technical ability presented in their competition performance.

NAVADAL is an important part of Akademi's work established to develop professional pathways for South Asian dancers and to create more links with progression opportunities in the wider dance sector. This exciting youth platform is a significant step towards recognising and promoting the importance of South Asian styles in the artistic landscape of the UK. Participants of our previous youth dance competitions such as **Vidya Patel, Parbati Chaudhury, Santosh Nair and Raheem Mir** have since progressed into Akademi's other artist development programmes and productions.

*"It was a great opportunity to challenge myself to enter another competition after the BBC Young Dancer 2015 award. To perform for judges who consisted of prominent classical South Asian dance artists and from major dance organisations was a huge opportunity and it very motivating to receive feedback from them. I would definitely recommend those training in South Asian dance to get involved, challenge yourself and perform!" - Vidya Patel, BBC Young Dancer 2015 finalist*

*"I know that I can always turn to Akademi for anything related to my dance career and that I would receive honest, comprehensive guidance." - Parbati Chaudhury, Kathak artist*

*"It is character-building in an environment like this. At the same time, what's good about it is that it is not only for professional artists but also for upcoming artists, so at least you are given the opportunity to show yourself and give it a shot." - Jaina Modasia, Kathak artist and shortlisted for BBC Young Dancer 2016.*

With opportunities to perform at **Southbank Centre's Alchemy Festival, trophies, Southasiandance.org.uk membership**, and additional **ISTD prizes**, this year's competition promises to be a helpful stepping stone in furthering the careers of young South Asian dance talent.

The online application form is available at [akademi.co.uk/navadal](http://akademi.co.uk/navadal). Deadline: Friday 31 March.

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**Further information:**

<http://akademi.co.uk/navadal>

<http://akademi.co.uk>

<https://twitter.com/akademi>

<https://www.facebook.com/Akademi.southasian.dance>

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Akademi**

Founded in 1979, Akademi is a progressive arts organisation with an international outlook. It works to enhance the practice, understanding and appreciation of South Asian dance 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. A pioneer in its field, Akademi is known for its achievements in training, education and community work. It strives towards relevance, accessibility and excellence in all its initiatives through an energetic and varied programme of innovative projects that nurture the individual artist and encourage the diversity of South Asian dance forms.

**U.Dance**

U.Dance is a national scheme to increase the number of dance performance opportunities for children and young people. Since it began in 2009, over 120,000 young people have taken part in U.Dance performances and the national U.Dance festivals, which form the pinnacle of the scheme, continue to attract applications from hundreds youth dance groups from across the UK.

**One Dance UK**

One Dance UK is the 'go-to' industry body, advocating for and championing dance in all its diverse forms throughout the UK. One Dance UK nurtures and develops talent, delivers excellence in education, dance for Children and Young People, dance of the African diaspora, health and well-being, performance, management and leadership and career development. Over 40,000 people working in the UK dance workforce benefit from its activities through the provision of a single voice for dance and a centralised knowledge hub for industry intelligence.