

Akādemi

Presents

Plastic Drastic Fantastic

Relaxed Performance Pack

Originally an Akademi and Polka Theatre Co-Production



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Plastic... is it friend or foe? Remarkable or rubbish? Helpful or harmful?

Plastic Drastic Fantastic is a show that highlights the complex relationship we have with this material; the fantastic usefulness it offers as well as the drastic consequences it causes for the environment. The show will encourage you to see plastics in a new light through our magical, recycled, sustainable set.

Three stunning, highly skilled dancers will weave real life situations through dance, intricate movements, play and audience interaction. They will create new relationships with plastic items, forging hope, positivity, delight and fun.

Akademi works with South Asian dance forms to present shows that have relevance to current themes and society – illuminating issues and inspiring discussion particularly for younger generations.

More information about Akademi and South Asian Dance styles can be found here: <https://akademi.co.uk/south-asian-dance/what-is-south-asian-dance>

Collaborators

Artistic Director & Choreographer: Suba Subramaniam

Set & Costume Designer: Brian Hartley

Assistant Designer: Jesal Patel

Lighting Designers: Aideen Malone & Ben Cowens

Sounds artist & Composer: Kathy Hinde

Sound & Tech Artist: Matt Olden

D/deaf Consultant: Ramesh Meyappan

We hope you enjoy the show!

If you are D/deaf or hard of hearing we have special sensory cushions available for you to hold when you watch the show. These soft objects pulsate to the beat of the music and respond to the sounds in the show. They are made of repurposed fabric with eco-fibre filling which is made of recycled plastic bottles.

This is what they look like:

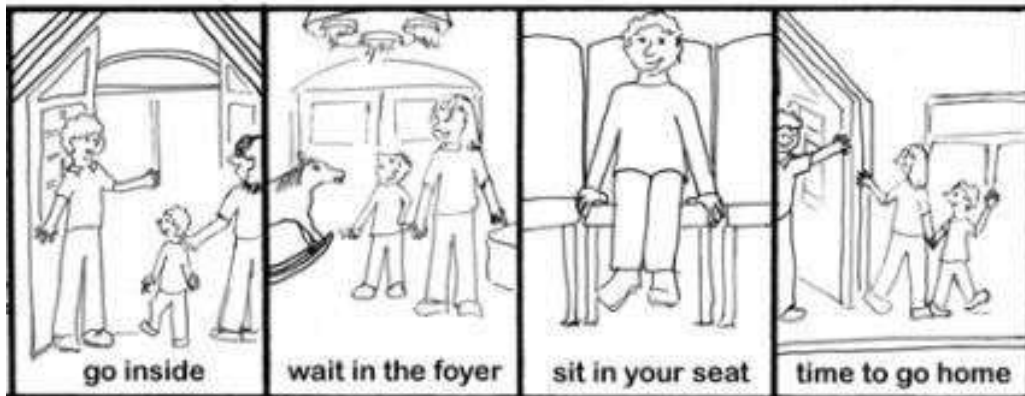


Here's an image of a young person sitting in the audience of the show holding a sensory cushion:



If you would like a sensory cushion to help you enjoy Plastic Drastic Fantastic, please tell someone who works at the theatre, venue or school where you are seeing the show.

Picture information strip - this is what you will do when you go inside the theatre space:



To prepare you for your visit to see Plastic Drastic Fantastic we have put together a synopsis - this is to help you to understand the story that you are about to see and prepare you for what to expect during the performance. The performance will last approximately 45 minutes.

Plastic Drastic Fantastic

The show consists of 3 dancers. The dancers will use lots of plastic materials / props to create different objects and demonstrate the use of plastics around the world and in day-to-day life.

The props are used for storytelling purposes.



During the show, the dancers might interact with you. This show has interactive moments, and you are welcome to respond to the dancers and laugh or smile.



During the show, you might see something that makes you feel sad or scared. You are allowed to feel sad or scared, that is ok.

This is what the dancers look like.

The three dancers wear costumes made from recycled fishing net and draped cotton fabric (called a 'saree') printed with images of plastic bottles and fish. The dancers do not play specific characters or have character names. These are their real names:



Mithun



Anekha



Kirsten

The performance space and the set will look a bit like this as you first see it:

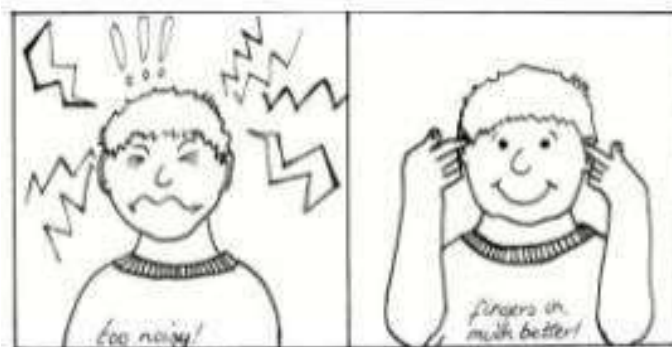


The show is performed end on, which means the set is at one end of the room and the audience seating is in front.

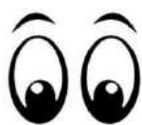
On the left-hand side of the stage you will see a mountain or wall of white plastic bottles.

On the right-hand side of the stage, there is a hanging orange net filled with lots of empty plastic bottles.

There is a long, thin piece of plastic running across the stage which is attached to a blue recycling bin located on the right.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a loud or unexpected noise or movement sequence and you can put your fingers in your ears.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be visual lighting effects, or something visual will be happening on stage, this will aid with the storytelling.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a change in music.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a change in lighting, and you can cover your eyes.



If you see this symbol, it means you will hear a sound effect coming from the speakers.

Plastic Drastic Fantastic is a dance piece and will not include any spoken words. The dancers will use their bodies, expressions and gestural movements to guide you through the performance.

Scene 1. The Plastic Bag.



Air starts to ripple through a thin sheet of plastic lying on the floor. Music begins to play through the speakers and you will hear the sound of gongs. This opening section feels like water and being by the ocean.

The dancers will interact with the plastic sheet and replicate the fluid movements of the sheet with their bodies.

They begin to use a standard everyday plastic bag and explore the movements and sounds it makes. The dancers respond to the exploration of the bag and mimic the movements of the plastic bag through their heads and bodies.





The mountain of bottles behind the dancers begins to light up with different colours



and will flash at times.





Scene 2. Everyday Life.



  *There will be a change in music to signify the change of scene. You will hear the sounds of everyday life including a busy street, people talking and traffic / car sounds.*

In this scene the dancers will demonstrate the different use of plastic materials in daily life. They will act out daily routines, such as standing on the tube and brushing your teeth, as well as using more abstract movements to explore these themes through dance.

  *Throughout this scene the mountain of bottles will change into a variety of colours. The dynamics of the lighting will also change, sometimes flashing fast or slow or getting brighter and dimmer.*




 *The effects of people chatting will become louder in the music. You will then hear the sound of typing on a computer. The dancers will respond to these sounds through their movement.*

 *You will hear video game sound effects through the speakers. The dancers will respond to these sounds through their movement.*


  *The lighting will fade to black and the dancers 'fall asleep' on the floor.*





Scene 3. The Plastic Factory.




 There will be a change in music to signify the change in scene. In this scene the dancers will represent the very early process of making materials. The mountain of bottles will be lit orange and red to represent the hot fire melting and combining the hot molten plastic.

The dancers will use fluid movements to explore this early melting process.


 The scene will progress onto the next stage of creating materials which is the factory. There will be a music change to signify this change in theme.


 The dancers will move in unison, meaning they will dance as one. The music will sound very robotic and mechanical. Their movements represent the machinery in the factory processing and creating new materials and they will use prop plastic bottles to support the storytelling of this scene.


 The movement style will change from soft and fluid to sharp and angular. They will use their bodies and feet to create sounds and rhythms by stamping. *The stamping movements are influenced by a traditional Indian dance style called Bharatanatyam. This section will be quite loud.*



Scene 4. How plastic Can Be Positive.



There will be a change in music to signify the change in scene.

This scene will explore how plastic can be re-used and recycled to create new things.



One of the dancers will reach to put a plastic bottle in the recycling bin, but another dancer will stop her. She will drop the lid of the bin which will create a loud bang.

The dancers will present a simple bottle to the audience, this leads onto a movement sequence demonstrating how plastics are used in many different ways, for example: watering cans, bird feeders, pots to plant new seeds, piggy banks, necklaces, earrings, musical instruments, bowling pins and lights.



The lights in the bottles will consistently change colour throughout this sequence. The colours will often represent what the performers are representing through their movement e.g., a flower will appear when they plant seeds.



You will hear background sounds of birds and water dripping coming through the speakers.



One of the dancers will begin to interact with the orange net filled with bottles. After exploring the net, the dancer will walk towards the audience and she will pull the net towards her. The dancer will then pull the string at the bottom of the net which will release the bottles on the floor. *This will be a loud and unexpected moment and some bottles might come towards the audience.*



Scene 5. The Turtles.



There will be a change in music to signify the change in scene.

You will hear sounds of the ocean.



The lighting will become slightly darker to represent the theme of the scene.

In this scene the dancers will explore the negative effects of plastic on the environment and on sea life.



Each dancer will perform a short sequence representing how sea life is affected by un-recycled plastic in the ocean/environment. *You might find this moment sad as each turtle struggles to survive.*

Turtle 1 - plastic gets stuck in its throat and tummy causing it to choke.

Turtle 2 - the body gets stuck in some plastic material making it unable to move.

Turtle 3 - some plastic gets stuck over its mouth making it harder to breathe.



You will hear the sound effect of seagulls coming from the speakers.

Finally, the dancers will clear the space of the bottles, representing the idea that by keeping the oceans clean and free of litter, we are protecting sea life from unnecessary harm.



The End.



The show has now finished. At the end of the show everyone will clap their hands, which is to show the dancers and production team that they have enjoyed the show

Thank you for coming - we hope you enjoyed **Plastic Drastic Fantastic!**

Presented by

Akādemi

Akademi makes vibrant, fascinating, and meaningful South Asian dance. We use the compelling power of storytelling, rhythm and gestures to create deeper connections with each other and our wider world, one [mudra](#) at a time.

For more information about our work please get in touch:

<https://www.akademi.co.uk/>

Tel: 020 7691 3210

info@akademi.co.uk

