



photo credit Simon Richardson

# Akādemi

ARTIST COMMISSIONS 2024



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

**DANCE  
EAST**  
MOVE | BE MOVED

*Akademi is partnering with DanceEast, to offer 4 commissions to individual artists or collectives working with South Asian dance at the core of their practice. One of these commissions shall specifically be awarded to an artist working at the intersection of South Asian dance and creative technology.*



photo credit Simon Richardson



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These commissions aim to expand opportunities, foster collaborations, nurture talent, and develop rigorous practices in the South Asian dance world. Selected artists will have the opportunity to use the fund to explore new ideas that are bold, relevant, and exciting, and that align with Akademi's vision and work. This opportunity aims to build upon our ethos of care, which underpins our approach to working with artists and choreographers. Through our Artist Surgeries, we have engaged with and listened to dance practitioners, recognising that this timely, bespoke support is crucial for the ongoing evolution of our artistic community.

# Key Details

## Themes:

Akademi would like artists to explore the following themes that align with our mission and vision for this commission:

- **Sustainability**
- **Environment**
- **Climate Change**
- **Climate-driven migration**
- **Health and well-being**

While other themes can be a part of the work, the central theme/idea should be inspired by at least one of the above.

## Outcomes:

The programme will culminate with 2 co-curated events (venues TBC) where the commissioned artists can share their choreographic processes and engage in discussion with invited guests.

Artists will be required to contribute to a digital scrapbook hosted online on Akademi's website. This could be in the form of blogs, photos or videos. This will also be used for social media and evaluation.

**Funding:** Each of the 4 artists or collectives will be offered **£5000** including VAT if applicable

**Duration: 12 months**

This can be extended based on the project. A clear and defined timeframe will be agreed on between Akademi and the artist(s) along with the terms of the commission.

## Additional bespoke support for each artist/collective:

- 2 weeks of studio space in 2025 at DanceEast, Ipswich
- Contribution towards travel and accommodation costs to support the studio weeks at DanceEast
- Mentoring/advice from Akademi and DanceEast
- Sharing opportunities with local communities and audiences (to be decided between Akademi, DanceEast and the commissioned artists)
- Additional support will be made available for access requirements (to be discussed with the concerned individual(s) based on their needs)

The **tech commission artist** will be offered:

- Use of the [Digital Suite at DanceEast](#) for 1-2 weeks
- A place at the [ART // TECH // PLAY - Collusion](#) workshop in Spring 2025 at DanceEast

# Who is this for?

*These commissions will support artists that...*

- Would like to develop as choreographers and dance makers
- Have a practice rooted in any form of South Asian dance
- Have some professional experience of choreography having already created one or two works that have been performed in a public setting
- Are over the age of 18 and not in formal education or training
- Are residents of the United Kingdom
- Can propose ideas that address one or more of the central themes suggested





# Artist Responsibilities And Obligations

■ The artist is responsible for the following (if applicable):

- Contracting and paying other collaborators (musicians, producers, dancers etc.) as appropriate.
- Their own personal tax and National Insurance contributions.

■ The artist will be required to attend a day organised by Akademi, that brings together all the commissioned artists, to share and exchange ideas and experiences through the process.

■ The artist(s) will be expected to document their process at regular intervals (agreed in mutual collaboration) to help with social media and evaluation purposes. The disbursement of the last £500 of the allocated fund shall be subject to the artist providing relevant and regular updates and an evaluation reflecting on their progress and outcomes upon request.

# To Apply

■ Please fill in this [Application Form](#).

■ If you prefer to complete a word version of the application form or are facing any other technical difficulties completing this application, please email [kavya@akademi.co.uk](mailto:kavya@akademi.co.uk).

■ Please also fill out this [Equal Opportunities Form](#) while sending in your application. This is purely confidential and accessed only by key staff at Akademi, for collective reporting purposes only. The form will not be attached to your application or used in a standalone manner.

■ If you prefer to answer the application form questions verbally or in video format, please record an audio/video file and upload it on the relevant section in the form. Please cover all the questions in the form (CV and supporting documents included) in no longer than 15 minutes.

*All submissions will be reviewed by a panel that will comprise of Akademi's Joint-CEOs, Suba Subramaniam and Kirsten Burrows, and Brendan Keaney from DanceEast and two other professionals from the wider dance and arts sector.*

We will endeavour to give feedback to those who request it.

For more clarity about the application process and to answer any questions you may have about the commission, please join us on either of these online information sessions on Zoom:

- **Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October at 1PM.** Register here: <https://bit.ly/3XX3Az9>
- **Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 5:30PM** Register here: <https://bit.ly/3ZHaY2S>

Closing date for applications  
**31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

Notification of shortlisted candidates  
**11<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Interviews for shortlisted candidates  
**19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
**(On Zoom)**

Announcement of final selection  
**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

# FAQs

## How do you define South Asian dance styles?

We are open to hearing from a range of artists from all kinds of South Asian dance practice, from classical to folk to popular dance. This could include, but is not limited to, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Bollywood, Bhangra, and more.

## Could I use the commission to further explore/tour a pre-existing work?

No, we would like this commission to give opportunities to artists to explore new ideas.

## Is there access support to help me apply?

Yes, the materials are available in large-print plain text and audio formats. Please contact us at [info@akademi.co.uk](mailto:info@akademi.co.uk) if you need any of these versions.

If you need further assistance with access, including understanding any terms used in this document, please contact Kavya via email on [kavya@akademi.co.uk](mailto:kavya@akademi.co.uk) or via telephone on **020 7691 3210**. Our working hours are 10am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Please note that we follow a hybrid working model and may not be in office every day.

## Can I apply if I live outside of the UK?

No, unfortunately this offer is only available to artists with permanent residence or right to work in the UK.

## I am having trouble with the form; please can you help?

If you experience any IT issues in completing or submitting the expression of interest form, please contact us at [info@akademi.co.uk](mailto:info@akademi.co.uk).

## If successful, could I use the commission to match fund another application (such as an Arts Council England Project Grant)?

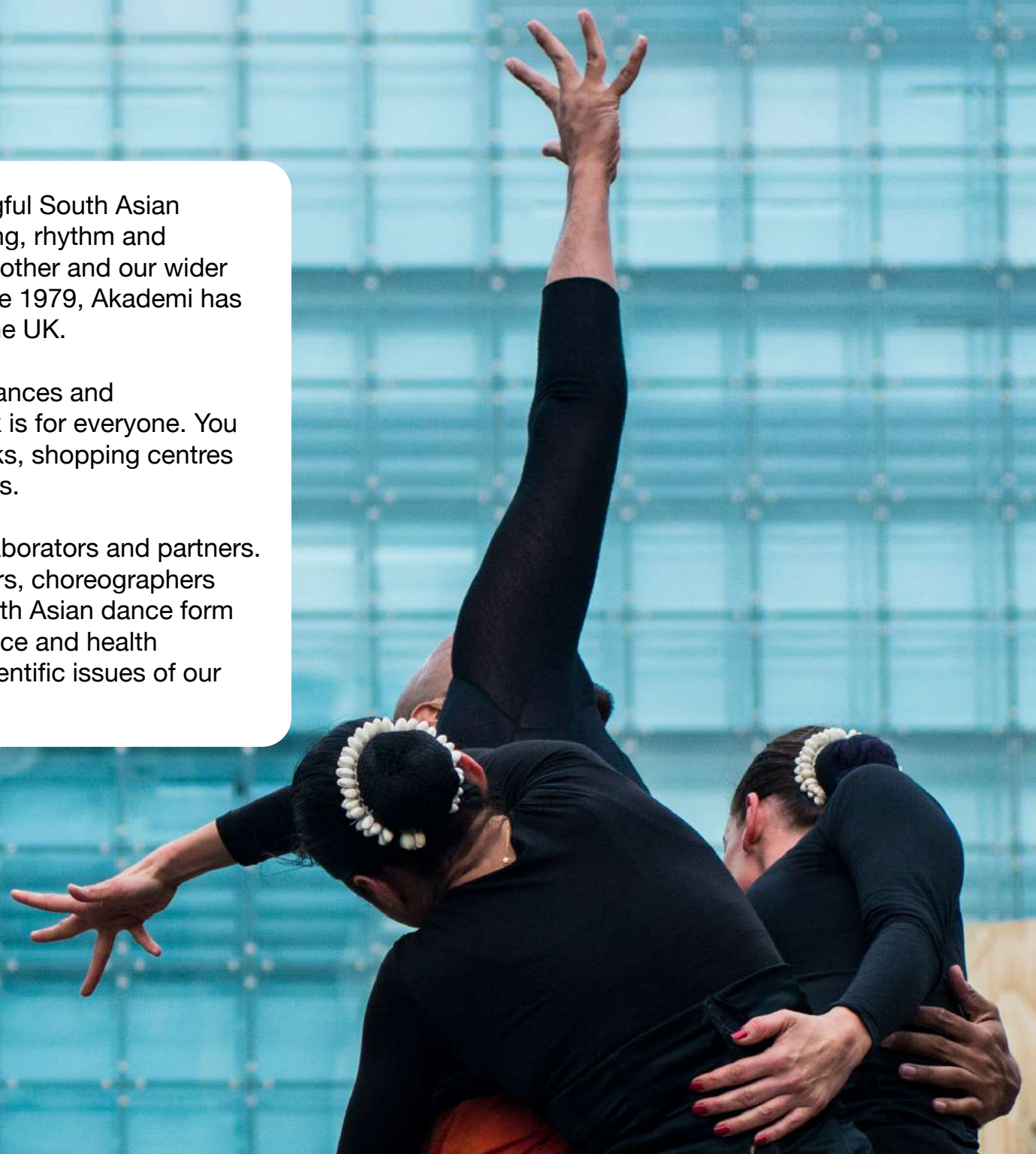
Yes, if the timeframe allows and if you can still explore your project sufficiently in case of only being successful with the Akademi commission and not receiving any other additional funding.

# Akademi

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. Care is at the centre of all that we do. Since 1979, Akademi has been the beating heart of South Asian dance in the UK.

We are known for our world-class dance performances and groundbreaking wellbeing programmes. Our work is for everyone. You can find us in everyday places from theatres, parks, shopping centres and festivals to hospitals, care homes and schools.

The artistic community we work with are our collaborators and partners. We engage with internationally recognised dancers, choreographers and artists to nurture the future generation of South Asian dance form leaders. We collaborate with environmental, science and health specialists to share stories of the societal and scientific issues of our world today.







# DanceEast

DanceEast is one of the UK's leading dance organisations, and the home of dance in the East of England. Our vision is a world where everyone can benefit from the vital and life-enhancing power of dance. Based at the purpose-built Jerwood DanceHouse on the Ipswich waterfront, and delivering dance activity across the region, our impact is felt locally, regionally, and nationally.

Each year more than 22,000 people attend our dance activities, projects, and performances. We also invest in the future of dance, from supporting artists to developing new technologies; we are a national leader in digital dance innovation.

DanceEast is a registered charity, funded by Arts Council England, Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, and donations from individuals, businesses, trusts, and foundations.

To find out more information, visit <https://www.danceeast.co.uk/>

# Get in Touch

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A photograph of a man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a dark, textured shirt. He is holding a single glowing lightbulb in his right hand, which is raised. The background is dark, and the light from the bulb illuminates his face and arm. The word 'Akādemi' is overlaid in large white letters across the bottom of the image.

# Akādemi

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photo credit Vipul Sangoi