

DAKSHINA

A unique billing of Bharatanatyam & Odissi

Akademi's DAKSHINA packs a punch with breathtaking performances from two leading classical Indian dancers in the UK, Elena Catalano and Kamala Devam, accompanied by live musicians.

Running Order

Performances by Elena Catalano

Hansadwani (Pallavi)
Patacharide (Abhinaya)

Interval, 15 mins

Performances by Kamala Devam

Natyanjali
Theruvil Varano (Padam)
Jati-Swara-Leela

Performances by Elena Catalano

Hansadwani – Pallavi

Choreographer: Guru Kelucharan
Mohapatra
Composer: Bhubaneswar Mishra
Raga: Hansadwani
Tala: Ektali

Patacharide - Oriya Abhinaya

Choreographer: Guru Kelucharan
Mohapatra
Composer: Bhubaneswar Mishra
Raga: Saveri
Tala: Ektali

Musicians: Parvati Rajmani (manjiras), Deepa Nair Rasiya (vocals), Gurdain Rayatt (mardala) and May Robertson (violin)

Special thanks to Guru Sujata Mohapatra for sharing her knowledge with me and making of me the dancer I am today; to Milap for awarding me a Dance Fellowship to receive advanced training with my guru in India, to Kingston University for offering support in kind, to Maryam Shakiba for helping backstage and offering peer-feedback, to my family for being present despite the distance.

Dr Elena Catalano is the founder and artistic director of Bhumi, establishing herself as one of the most impressive and influential Odissi dancers in the UK. Following her PhD at Durham University researching Odissi Training and associated embodiment, she lectures at Kingston University where she teaches Odissi, yoga and dance anthropology. Elena has distinguished herself as a dancer and a scholar for her understanding of Odissi aesthetics and cultural symbolism. Elena is a core member of the Odissi Ensemble and Nritya Yuva Award Winner 2017.

Performances by Kamala Devam

Natyanjali

Composer: Thuraiyur Rajagopala Sarma
Choreography: Sri V.P. Dhananjayan, 1968
Tutelage: Dr. Jyoti Argade
Ragamalika
Talamalika

Padam: Theruvil Varano

Composer: Muttu Tandavar
Sancharis originally set by Rama Vaidyanathan
Tutelage: Nadhi Thekkek
Ragam: Kamas
Talam: Adi

Musicians: Pushkala Gopal (nattuvangam), Vamshikrishna Vishnudas (vocals), Jalatharan Sithamparanathan (violin), Senthuran Premakumar (percussion)

Jati-Swara-Leela

Choreography: Kamala Devam
Choreographic Mentor and Musical Director: Pushkala Gopal
Musician/Composers: Pushkala Gopal (nattuvangam), Danny Keane (cello), Senthuran Premakumar (percussion), Prathap Ramachandra (jati composition)

Costume Design: Martina Trottman

Many thanks to Mira Kaushik OBE, Akademi, Nina Head, Pushkala Gopal, Benjamin Henry Edwards, Seeta Patel, Swati Seshadri, Sonia Bhatt, Dr. Jyoti Argade, Nadhi Thekkek and my Gurus Katherine and K.P. Kunhircaman.

Kamala Devam is a dance artist and choreographer and Artistic Director of Kamala Devam Company. She trained in Bharatanatyam for thirteen years under Katherine and K.P. Kunhircaman in northern California and received her BA in Contemporary Dance at San Francisco State University. In the UK, Kamala has performed for Akram Khan Company and toured internationally with Shobana Jeyasingh Dance. Kamala Devam Company will embark on its first UK tour in Autumn 2018.

kalasangam



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Acknowledgements and Staff

Producer | Nina Head
Stage Manager |
Lighting Designer | Jai Morjaria

Akademi is the UK's leading producer of South Asian dance, capturing imaginations through inspiring storytelling and unique spectacle. Creating vital talent pathways for the next generation of dance artists, Akademi also takes dance to the heart of the community, offering life-affirming experiences for those who are disadvantaged, disengaged or isolated.

Akademi Team | Mira Kaushik OBE, Tim Foxon, Antareepa Thakur, Christina Christou, Sydney Rae, Joe West, Claire Farmer, Pia Zicchi, Rohanne Udall, Holly Morris and Catherine Ibbotson.

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