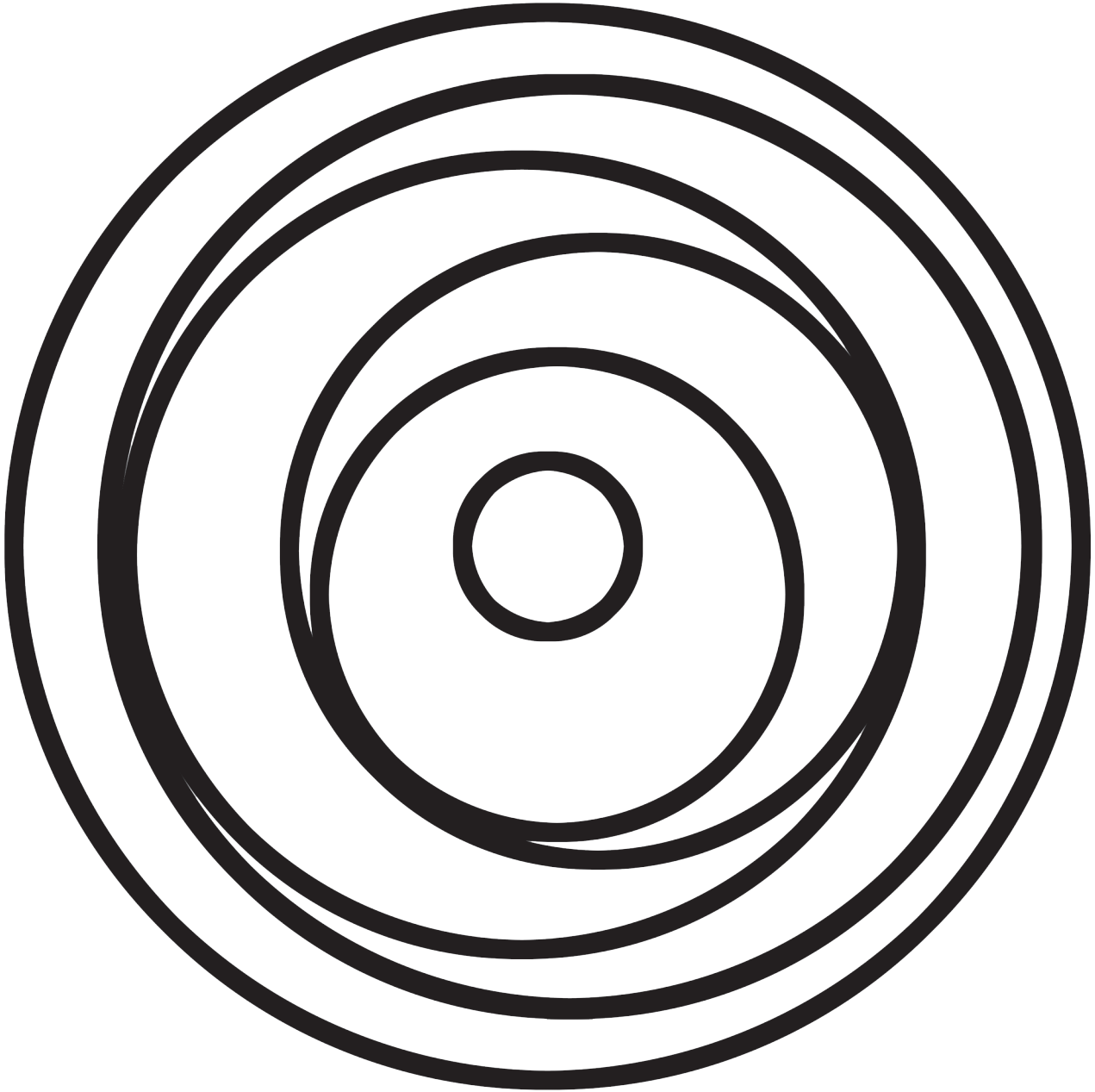


“I have been to Paradise
and this is what I saw...”

Akādemi



“Turn your gaze heavenward and
leave this restless world behind.”

Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*

PARADISO

man's enduring search for perfection

'No fixed place is set for us:
I am allowed to go up and round:
I act as guide'

Dante Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*.

PROGRAMME NOTE

Paradiso: Man's Enduring Search for Perfection brings together an international creative team and a diverse cast to produce a sensual, solar choreography.

Inspired by the final part of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*, this dance production shares Dante's journey through Paradise. He takes passage through the heavenly cosmos and finds answers to the obstacles of vanity, ambition, aggression and desire. Led by Beatrice, these common human struggles are conquered through his ascension to an energetic celebration of enlightenment.

AKADEMI

Established 40 years ago, Akademi is the leading outdoor British South Asian dance organisation. Our mission is to inspire audiences and change lives by creating and nurturing excellence in classical, contemporary, popular and participatory South Asian dance.

We are delighted to introduce this performance of *Paradiso: Man's Enduring Search for Perfection* which demonstrates Akademi's commitment to investigating new ways of choreographing, integrating contemporary British and Indian dance practices. We want to illustrate how British Indian dance is integral to the UK dance scene and to promote it while challenging stereotypes and expectations of what Indian dance is/should be.

Just as Dante composed *The Divine Comedy* in Italian (the common language, rather than Latin) so it could be enjoyed by the masses, we will take this show on a tour of London, performing on the streets reaching as diverse an audience as possible, on their ground.

DANTE ALIGHIERI (1265-1321)

Poet, activist, man of the people.

The Divine Comedy is a poem written in three parts - Hell, Purgatory and Paradise - and is a literary masterpiece of the Middle Ages in which Dante, the author and protagonist of this work, challenges the corruptions and politics of his time.

In the poem, to find enlightenment Dante must pass through the Inferno (Hell), Purgatory (Limbo), and Paradiso (Paradise). Dante uses his poem to promote the need for a moral life and the difficulties in obtaining this.

CREATIVE TEAM

Direction & Choreography	Jose Agudo
Original Score	Bernhard Schimpelsberger
Consultant Dramaturg	Lou Cope
Producer	Nina Head
Costume	Martina Trottmann
Rehearsal Director	Claire Cunningham
Sound Mix and Mastering	Nick Atkins
Graphic Designer	Rohanne Udall (Akademi)
Cast	Archita Kumar, Carmine De Amicis Edward Arnold Ellen Yilma Francesco Migliaccio Kamala Devam
Original Direction	Hilary Westlake

JOSE AGUDO

Jose began his career as a Flamenco dancer and later went on to study contemporary dance, performing with Charleroi/Danses, Ballet de Marseille, T.R.A.S.H. and Shobana Jeyasingh Dance. He was Artist in Residence at Deda UK, where he created the piece 4m2 which toured internationally and was selected by the National Dance Network to tour with Dance3, as one of the 'next generation of dance makers' in the UK. Jose has worked for Akram Khan Company since 2011 and collaborated with them as a movement assistant and dancer for the 2012 London Olympic Games opening ceremony.

BERNHARD SCHIMPELSBERGER

Bernhard plays percussion, composes genre defying music and travels the world collecting new sounds. He grew up in Austria deeply rooted in Jazz and Western classical music but it was his years of studying in India, that shaped his unique approach to music, with Pandit Suresh Talwarkar. Bernhard immersed himself in the Indian rhythmic system and incorporated its poetry and intricacy into his western music. His music has been performed at London's top venues such as the Royal Festival Hall, Royal Opera House, Sadlers Wells Theatre, and internationally at Cite de la Musique in Paris, Singapore Arts Festival and Taipei Town Hall.

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