

Friday 15 July 2016, 7.30pm, Rich Mix, London

Akādemi
**STAYCATION
/VACATION**

An evening in with three course performance of South Asian Contemporary dance.

Ashtapadi - Lalita Lavang from Gita Govind written by Sanskrit poet Jayadeva. It depicts the divine love of Krishna and Radha, and the role of the Sakhi as the direct mediator between the two. This piece is described through the eyes of the Sakhi (who represents utopia) admiring her surroundings that are brimming with life. In contrast, Radha characterizes the pain (dystopia) caused by the pangs of love, she pines for Krishna but her pride stops her from going in search of him. The Sakhi attempts to show Radha that Krishna is present, embracing the burgeoning spring; stealing gopika's clothes while they bathe in the river, and playing Holi. The gopikas completely surrender to the lord whilst Radha maintains her melancholy state. Although, not commonly performed in the style of Kathak, late Dr. Maya Rao was very interested to implement the Ashtapadi in to Kathak.

Performer: Kesha Raithatha

Choreography: Smt. Nirupama Rajendra (**Original:** Late Dr. Maya Rao)

Vocals: Suparna **Re-orchestrated** by Praveen D. Rao

As Small as a World and as Large as Alone is a glance into the world of a woman living with anxiety and agoraphobia, as she plans a holiday. We follow her as she prepares to leave the house; experiencing the fear, anxiety, frustration, sadness and elation as she takes a step on this momentous journey.

Performer and Choreographer: Archana Ballal

Dramaturgy: Chris Fogg

Music: *This Foundry (Regis Version)* Raime, *Atmospheres* Rudy Adrian, *Pharaoh's Dance* Miles Davis, *Leaf Ishq, All the Things You Are* Baden Powell

Voice-over: Nick House

Edited by: Chris Thompson

Thanks to Anwar Russell

Two by Two is a piece especially commissioned for the Edinburgh Mela, choreographed by Canada based choreographer Hari Krishnan. It explores Kathak in a contemporary way bringing together two styles, two cultures and two dancers. It reflects the way two British born dancers have embraced the classical Indian dance form whilst still being very much British in their everyday lives. It also portrays how the two individuals are brought together by a common ground, in this case Kathak, yet show diversity between them.

Performers: Jaina Modasia and Vidya Patel

Choreography/Music Composition/Rhythmic Vocals: Hari Krishnan

Percussion (Mridangam and Kanjira): Kajan Pararasasegaram

Melodic Vocals: Vaaraki Wijayaraj

Sound Engineer: S.V. Varman

TRACES (working title) journeys through Kesha's impressions of living, travelling and journaling throughout the Indian sub-continent for her first self-choreographed work. Taking on an abstract form, the division of people from each other and themselves is expressed through the contrast within retrospective memory and emotions. Drawing from personal incidents and nomadic by nature, the body is used as a vehicle of data, persistently trying to weave and thread together memories through physical exploration. Kesha reflects on the constant changes we all experience from the dichotomy of physical and metaphysical space.

Concept and Choreography: Kesha Raithatha

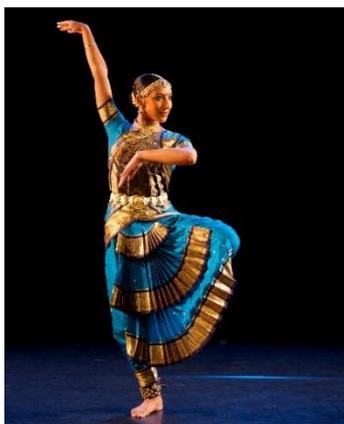
Choreographic Mentor: Eva Recacha

Lighting Design: Andy Hamer

Sound Design: Huun Huur Tu - Prayer, found sounds foley by Kesha Raithatha manipulated by Khaled Kwaider & Michael Tedstone (Manike Music)

Akademi presents **STAYCATION/ VACATION**, a showcase of innovative choreography and new dance. The evening features solo works by **Kesha Raithatha** and **Archana Ballal** and a duet performed by **Jaina Modasia** and **Vidya Patel**.

The Artists



Archana Ballal is a Bharatanatyam and Contemporary dancer. Since graduating from London Contemporary Dance School in 2008, she has toured nationally and internationally with companies including ATMA Dance, Pagrav, Sadhana Dance and performed with companies such as Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company; as well as undertaking her own choreographic projects and teaching. Archana is currently dancing in an immersive theatre project under the directorship of Alex Mermikides, and has recently completed an MA in Dance Movement Psychotherapy.

Photo credit: Simon Richardson



Kesha Raithatha is a British Asian dancer primarily trained in Kathak. Since 2009, She has been Pursuing further dance training between India and the UK. In 2015 Kesha was awarded Akademi's choreographic commission CHOREOGATA, and is now developing her first solo repertoire. In 2016 she was awarded her first ACE grant for the same. Academically, Kesha is an honors graduate of Graphic Design from Nottingham Trent University.

Photo credit: Harshit Thaker



Jaina Modasia and Vidya Patel are upcoming Kathak dancers both training under the tutelage of Guru Sujata Banerjee. They both took part in the first ever BBC Young Dancer 2015 competition both reaching the South Asian Category Finals which was broadcasted on BBC 4. Recently, with Sujata Banerjee Dance Academy they performed at Royal Albert Hall for the BBC Dance Proms.

Photo credit: Bob Collins

Artist Development & Productions:

Production and Stage Manager:

Nina Head

Beth Hoare-Barnes

Akademi Team: Mira Kaushik, Tim Foxon, Monique Deletant Bell, Antareepa Thakur, Christina Christou, Nina Head, Amelia Hart, Claire Farmer, Frances Moulton, Rohanne Udall, Holly Morris, Sydney Rae, Catherine Ibbotson and Anita Srivastava.

Akademi would like to thank the following organisations for their kind support of this event, without which STAYCATION/ VACATION could not have taken place:



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



**RICH MIX
EASTEND**

Akademi is a pioneering, progressive arts organisation that exists to enhance the practice, understanding and appreciation of South Asian dance in the UK. Since 1979, Akademi has been taking South Asian dance into unconventional spaces, re-defining the parameters of the art form itself. For more information about Akademi, please visit:

www.akademi.co.uk | [@akademi](https://twitter.com/akademi) | [facebook/Akademi.SouthAsian.Dance](https://facebook.com/Akademi.SouthAsian.Dance)