



Akademi
South Asian Dance UK

Inspiring through
our heritage

Call Out for Dance Artist: Oral History Project at Krishna Avanti Primary School

Akademi is excited to be partnering with Krishna Avanti Primary School, Harrow, to deliver a multi-layered Creative Dance & Oral History Project for KS2 pupils. The project will consist of a 10-week course co-facilitated by a dance artist and an oral historian. This forms a key strand of Akademi's Heritage Project, which is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Pupils will be trained in Oral History skills and be supported to gather oral testimonies from elderly members of family by the historian. They will be guided by the dance artist to respond to this experience through creative movement and share their learnings with their school community at the end of the project.

The Role

Akademi is seeking a dance artist with a traditional South Asian dance practice to lead the creative expression part of this project. The dance artist will be responsible for the following:

- Designing a 10-session course for KS2 pupils of mixed abilities.
- Liaising closely with the oral historian to plan content that is coherent across both the oral history and dance strands of the project.
- Taking an active interest in oral history and finding innovative ways of bringing alive family and community history through dance +movement.
- Delivering creative movement sessions that prioritise expression over dance technique and working towards a sharing in the final week.

Timeline and Availability

Sessions will be 2 hours long from 2.45pm - 4.45pm. They will run on consecutive Thursdays from November - December, and then January - March:

- Thursday 3rd November - Thursday 3rd December: These sessions will be run by the oral historian on Zoom, and the Akademi dance artist will be expected to attend + observe remotely.
- Thursday 7th Jan - Thursday 11th Feb and then Thursday 25th Feb - March 18th: These sessions will be run by the Akademi dance artist, at the school itself. The dance artist will need to arrive at the school by 2.30pm and expect to leave by 5pm.

Fees

Fees will total to £2000 for the following work:

- Planning and delivery of 9 creative movement sessions + 1 sharing.
- Observation of the 5 oral history sessions – totalling 10 remote hours on Zoom.
- Administration and evaluation time – totalling 1.5 days maximum.

Health and Safety in the time of Covid-19

In light of current circumstances, this project has been carefully considered and re-designed. The creative dance sessions will be held in the school's main hall and student numbers will be limited in order to maintain social distancing. The dance artist will be asked to wash hands upon entry and exit, wear a mask where required and be extra aware of any symptoms that may put others at risk. A separate detailed risk assessment and safeguarding document will be designed specifically for this setting and discussed with the Dance Artist prior to beginning the workshops. Akademi and Krishna Avanti Primary School are committed to the health, safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and artists and will endeavour to take every precaution necessary to protect all.

Selection criteria

Akademi is seeking a dance artist who:

- Has a minimum of 5 years training in a traditional South Asian dance genre.
- Is versatile and willing to adapt material and teaching approach to a number of situations, ensuring a positive experience for participants.
- Has experience of teaching dance in an educational, clinical or community setting.
- Has knowledge and experience of safeguarding requirements and procedures.
- Can communicate with participants with varying communication needs, including non-verbal.
- Is committed to inclusive dance practices.
- Has the right to work in the UK and can travel to the school: Camrose Avenue, Edgware, HA8 6ES.
- Is enthusiastic about both teamwork (working together with the historian) and independent leadership (planning and delivering sessions).
- Is looking to expand their artistic practice through the possibilities offered by Heritage and Oral History work
- Is punctual, reliable and organised, with excellent communication skills.
- A teaching qualification is not essential but will be advantageous.
- Holds a current enhanced DBS check (or is willing to procure one with the help of Akademi if required).

Selection Procedure

Please email info@akademi.co.uk with the subject heading 'APPLICATION - Oral History Dance Artist' and attach the following:

- A simple CV (max 2 pages) outlining teaching and/or workshop-leading experience.
- A short paragraph (max 200 words) outlining why you would like to take up this role.
- A short paragraph (max 200 words) about your approach to the 10 sessions.
- A completed Equal Opportunities Form (downloadable from the same webpage as this document). This will be removed from your application before processing.

Deadline: Wednesday 30th September 5pm

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a phone or Zoom interview on Monday 5th October. Prompts and questions will be emailed to interviewees in advance. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application.

About Akademi and The Heritage Project

Akademi creates and nurtures classical, contemporary, popular and participatory South Asian dance in the UK and this year celebrates 40 years of its heritage. The Heritage Project is recording memories through archiving, digitising and oral history to celebrate Akademi's vital contribution to South Asian Dance in the UK. Akademi is looking for volunteers to get involved with the Heritage Project. More information on this and Akademi's wider activities can be found at www.akademi.co.uk/heritage-project.

Akademi is committed to be an Equal Opportunities employer. Akademi recognises the importance and advantages of diverse workplaces and communities and thus particularly welcomes applicants from underrepresented groups. Should you need this information in another format, or require reasonable adjustment, please let us know.

Information in the form of personal data will be used to process the application for recruitment purposes. Unsuccessful applications will be destroyed after one year. The personal data on successful applicants will be needed to administer the employment and further information on how this will be used will be available during the induction period.

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