

Akademi

South Asian Dance UK

Parallel Spaces – Funded by Department for International Development.

Parallel Spaces is a three-year education project devised by Akademi (a South Asian Dance Organisation) which aims to increase understanding of global issues in young people using dance, music and storytelling.

Using stories, dance, music and images the children have been introduced to issues and themes such as the day in the life of a child in India and compared this to their day and the use of water as compared to the use of and access to water in other parts of the world.

Using stories, slides and cultural objects from India the children are introduced to these themes, which they respond to through the use of South Asian dance movements and music and through the use of stories and poetry.

There are many different ways to respond creatively to a starting point, creating movements, vocalising rhythms, creative story writing and presentation. **The children then perform and show the work they have created.**

Akademi has organised an artist training day prior to the workshops which has been followed up by training and Insets for teachers.

The project serves as a strong affirmation and celebration of cultural diversity and is broadening the children's awareness of life in other countries. It is creating links between participants from different cultures enabling them to develop a sense of pride in their work. In all the schools the young people are given a chance to make informed choices about what they want to do - leading to a sense of empowerment.

Links have been created with schools in India which have enabled the schools and children to gain a greater awareness of life in other countries. This project will run for another year finishing in March 2007.

For more information about this project or any of the other projects Akademi is involved in please contact Akademi – 020 7691 3210 – education@akademi.co.uk