

13 & 14 March

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Music score by  
Igor Stravinsky

Seeta Patel Dance

# The Rite of Spring

Featuring  
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

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**Sadler's Wells**  
Theatre

SEETA PATEL  
DANCE

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## ABOUT The Rite of Spring

Seeta Patel marries Indian classical dance and Western classical music in her *The Rite of Spring*, in a London premiere. Taking the South Indian classical dance form of bharatanatyam, with its intricate rhythmic footwork, geometric and dynamic movements and expressive prowess, Seeta Patel has created a compelling interpretation of the iconic *The Rite of Spring*.

Unusually, this version subverts tradition by choosing a male as The Chosen One, elevating him to a deity to whom all sacrifice themselves. This is a spiritual exploration of a work through an Eastern philosophical lens.

This is a rare chance to see bharatanatyam performed in an ensemble piece. As an added feature, Seeta Patel will open the evening's show with a solo performance accompanied by South Indian musicians, entitled *Shree*. The piece shows bharatanatyam as it is often presented in a solo format, and will take us on the journey of Mother Earth from birth to destruction, preparing us for Her deliverance through *The Rite of Spring*.

With Stravinsky's iconic score performed live by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and conductor Kirill Karabits, this is a Rite of Spring, but not as you know it.

## ABOUT Bharatanatyam

BHARATANATYAM is a holistic and comprehensive dance form which is very expressive on many levels combining abstract movement and storytelling. Every single element of the body is used.

Originating from the Southern state of Tamil Nadu, this South Indian classical dance form shares two main components; Nritta the pure dance aspect, featuring the movements of the body, footwork, geometry, shapes and patterns. Abhinaya, the second component, is about the storytelling and expression through using face, body and hand gestures alongside its relationship to the poetry and music, which is the throughline across the whole dance form.



## Choreographer's Note

Stepping into the world of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* is like walking into a calm, shallow, sun kissed pool, but feeling that there is something much bigger than anything you've ever known about to consume you. This brings anticipation, excitement and a strange sense of foreboding.

For me the first part of the work is like a game, no-one knows who the chaser is or who is being chased. But the excitement is palpable, the dancers still youthful and full of hope, being pushed and pulled by the energy around them. The music guides the pathways and patterns, be it as frantic searching, joyful play or reverent submission to a higher force. This part is mercurial, changing at every turn. Unexpected, never allowing you to rest in one place, and it is the same for the dancers. They give themselves to the violent yet energising ebb and flow of the music, mere servants to the power of nature.

I have chosen to split the two halves of the music with a short interlude that takes the form of an ethereal dream. A moment of calm that draws us for a fleeting breath into the mind of the Chosen One. A gentle, nurturing place that welcomes the Chosen One with warmth and love and strains of a magical voice. But we

soon realise that the hope of the Chosen One that their fate will be kind is just a dream. As Stravinsky's score enters the space again, we realise these hopes cannot be fulfilled.

As we follow the journey the Chosen One must take, there is a sense of fate and duty, an inevitability that the burden placed upon their shoulders must be fulfilled. The Chosen One, forbidden to choose, yet who must prove that they are worthy. The Sacrificed becomes the Divine unto whom we must all submit. The Mother, the Earth, the Goddess: Nature herself.

Stravinsky's score is a visceral, pulsating heart filled with the life force of the Earth and all who reside within her. It has been a humbling and exhausting experience creating this work, and it is my hope that with the power of Bharatanatyam coursing through mine and my dancers' veins has taken this iconic work to a new place with honesty and respect.

I dedicate this performance in loving memory of my late father Sureshbhai Rambhai Patel, and my late music teacher Bhagvatulu Seetarama Sharma Sir.

Seeta Patel

# Production credits

## Shree:

**Choreographer and performer:** Seeta Patel

**Musicians:** Samyukta Ranganathan (vocals),  
Prathap Ramachandran (percussion), Vijay Venkat (flute)

**Rehearsal Directors:** Kamala Devam, Swati Seshadri,  
Sooraj Subramaniam

**Set Designer:** Rachana Jadhav

**Projectionist:** Wayne Sables

**Costume Designer:** Sandhya Raman

## The Rite of Spring:

**Choreography and Direction:** Seeta Patel

**Music Score:** Igor Stravinsky

**Vocals:** Roopa Mahadevan (featured between Acts 1 and  
2 of Stravinsky's score as part of a 4-minute interlude.

Composed by vocalist solely for this choreography.

Edited by Julien Kottukapally

**Music played by:** Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

**Chief Conductor:** Kirill Karabits

**Cast:** Kamala Devam, Sarveshan Gangen, Sarah Gasser,  
Aishani Ghosh, Kieran Herall, Nidhaga Karunad,  
Kishore Kuman Krishnan, Indu Bhageloe Panday, Shree Savani,  
Adhya Shastry, Moritz Zavan Stoeckle, Sooraj Subramaniam

**Rehearsal Director:** Avatāra Ayuso

**Costumes:** Anshu and Jason (smallshop, Bangalore)

## Both works:

**Executive Producer:** Grace Okereke (Uprise Rebel)

**Project Manager:** Nassy Konan

**Co-Producer:** Sarah Shead (spin-arts)

**Marketing Manager:** Georgia Gerson

**PR Consultant:** Fourth Wall PR

**Technical Director:** Helen Mugridge

**Lighting Designer:** Warren Letton

**Assistant Lighting Designer:** Bethany Gupwell

**Sound Engineer:** Adam Bonser

**Collaborator:** Julien Kottukapally

**Re-lighting:** Ryan Day

Commissioned by Sadler's Wells with support from Arts Council  
England and the Cockayne Foundation. The performances of  
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to everyone that has helped along the way to bring this work to  
fruition.



## ABOUT Seeta Patel Dance

Seeta Patel Dance contributes something vital, political, beautiful and urgent to the world through dance and performance.

Spearheaded by award-winning choreographer and dancer Seeta Patel, the Company creates live stage performances which focus on classical Indian and contemporary dance and dance theatre. The Company's choreographic output is deeply influenced by Patel's roots and training in Bharatanatyam, with each production mining its rhythms, musicality and expression in a unique way.

Live dance theatre productions are supported by Audience Development, Outreach, Advocacy and Talent Development, which is a cornerstone of Seeta Patel Dance's vision. The Company prides itself on providing an aspirational environment where young people in the dance sector can see the true value of the art form and its place in the world, supporting artists through workshops, masterclasses, mentoring and apprenticeship programmes. By exposing them to a professional practice, giving them better

tools to support their personal and professional development and showing them the possibilities within the sector, Seeta Patel Dance commits to improving the richness of the dance landscape.

The Company is currently in the creation and presentation phase of *The Rite of Spring*, a reimagining of Igor Stravinsky's iconic ballet in the Bharatanatyam dance style. After a critically successful tour from 2019-2022, the work has been developed with an extended cast and full orchestra for a performance run at Sadler's Wells in 2023, and will tour later in the year across the South West and North of England.

Seeta Patel Dance is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, and enjoys an international presence and a strong reputation within the dance community. The Company plans to continue to extend its reach worldwide and its mission to introduce new audiences to classical and contemporary Indian dance.

[seetapateldance.com](http://seetapateldance.com) | [@seetadances](https://www.instagram.com/seetadances)

# ABOUT Seeta Patel



The award-winning choreographer and dancer Seeta Patel was born in London and began her training under the guidance of Kiran Ratna in 1990. She has since worked with a range of Bharatanatyam and contemporary dance

professionals including Mavin Khoo, Padma Shri Adyar K Lakshman, Pushkala Gopal and Darshan Singh Bhuller. She has also performed and toured with a number of companies such as DV8 Physical Theatre, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, David Hughes Dance Company and Mavin Khoo Dance.

Seeta has presented solo and ensemble works at the Southbank Centre Purcell Room, Royal Opera House, ROH2 and Sadler's Wells such as: *Cycle of Change* (2005), *She Was Still* (2005-6), *Alter Ego* (2007), *Shringara* (2009), *Last One Standing* (2010) and *First Light* (2014). Her solo classical London debut, *Shringara: Journey of Desire*, was performed to a capacity audience at The Clore Upstairs, Royal Opera House (June 2009), and then toured around the UK in 2010/11. She subsequently presented solo classical works *Dancing My Siva* and *Something Then, Something Now* to sold out audiences at Sadler's Wells and the Purcell Room (Darbar Festival).

Over the past 20 years, Patel has received numerous awards and bursaries for her creative and professional development. She was awarded the Lisa Ullmann Travel Scholarship to study in India (2005) and at the New York Film Academy (2013). In 2017, she received the Washington S&R Award for her work championing Bharatanatyam in the diaspora.

Seeta worked as a choreographic collaborator with the world renowned contemporary circus company, Gandini Juggling, for their production *Sigma* which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2017 before touring in 2020 and subsequently won the Archangel Award, Total Theatre Award, and Asian Arts Award.

In tandem with her choreographic and performing work Seeta has worked in film, TV and theatre. She produced a multi award-winning short dance film, *The Art of Defining Me* in 2013, which gained national and international acclaim. She was a judge, mentor and advisor for the inaugural BBC TV Young Dancer Competition and in 2016 choreographed a new play at the Theatre Royal Stratford East entitled *The House of In Between*.

Seeta's contemporary work in collaboration with the Australian choreographer and performer Lina Limosani is the one-woman show, *Not Today's Yesterday* which takes a dramatic look at the whitewashing of history around the world. The show was a recipient of the Adelaide Artist Fringe Fund and premiered successfully at the Adelaide Fringe Festival in 2018 where it won Best Dance, and the Peace Foundation Award. The production toured around the UK in 2018 and 2019, including the Edinburgh Fringe as part of the British Council showcase. During the tour Seeta curated a series of lively and interesting post-show talks in association with a range of activists, historians and artists. The work went on to tour internationally including Australia, India, Italy and Egypt.

Most recently, Seeta Patel's critically acclaimed Bharatanatyam version of the iconic ballet, *The Rite of Spring*, toured the UK through 2019-2021, winning the 2020 Eastern Eye Arts, Culture and Theatre Award in the Dance Category and being nominated for best stage production by the Asian Media Group in 2019. The work is currently being developed with an extended cast and full orchestra for a performance run throughout 2023.

The constantly evolving world of South Asian Dance is developing as an integral part of the international dance landscape and Seeta Patel is a vital part of this growing business; she mentors and supports up-and-coming dancers and produces high quality work which entertains and engages an increasing audience both in the UK and abroad.

# ABOUT Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra



© Mark Allan

Championing the role of culture in people's lives

Chief Conductor	Kirill Karabits
Artist-in-Residence	Felix Klieser
Principal Guest Conductor	Mark Wigglesworth
Associate Guest Conductor	David Hill
Conductor Emeritus	Marin Alsop
Conductor Laureate	Andrew Litton
Assistant Conductor	Tom Fetherstonhaugh

One of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a professional ensemble known for championing the role of culture in people's lives. Based at Lighthouse, Poole, the Orchestra has residencies in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth and Yeovil – it is the largest cultural provider in the South West, serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions in the UK.

The Orchestra, under its Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits, is known for pushing artistic boundaries, and its ongoing series of music from former Soviet states, *Voices from the East*, continues to gain praise. Boasting an enviable list of principal conductors, including Marin Alsop, the first female principal conductor of a major UK orchestra, the BSO has given memorable performances worldwide and with regular live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

The Orchestra's livestreamed broadcasts have cemented its reputation for presenting live symphonic music of the highest quality, and remain popular around the globe following its inaugural season in 2020. In 2022/23, the series features artists Dame Sarah Connolly, James

Ehnes, Laura van der Heijden, and a host of the UK's leading music broadcasters. Described by *The Times* as "one of the most inspiring figures on the concert scene today", Horn player Felix Klieser also returns – as the Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence – following a memorable UK concerto debut with the BSO in 2021.

Committed to new music, the BSO has presented premiere performances of works by Carmen Ho, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Magnus Lindberg, Elizabeth Ogonek and Shirley J. Thompson OBE in recent years. It celebrates the work of composer Anna Korsun, who becomes its Composer-in-Residence in 2023.

The Orchestra also marks a landmark moment when inclusive ensembles BSO Resound and RNS Moves join forces for a new commission by Kate Whitley, with performances in Poole and Gateshead in early 2023. Winner of the 2019 Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award, BSO Resound – the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra – continues to receive international attention for igniting change.

Challenging barriers to high-quality music for all, the BSO leads hundreds of events each year, from award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs, and in 2022, the Orchestra welcomed its first community-based Young Associate musicians.

**[bsolive.com](https://www.bsolive.com)**

# ABOUT Kirill Karabits (Chief Conductor)

© Konrad Cwik



Kirill Karabits has been Chief Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for 14 years and their relationship has been celebrated worldwide. Together they have made many critically acclaimed recordings, performed regularly at the BBC Proms and appeared together at London's Barbican Centre as part of the Beethoven celebrations in the 19-20 season.

Karabits has worked with many of the leading ensembles of Europe, Asia and North America, including the Cleveland, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Chicago Symphony orchestras, Munich Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, Philharmonia Orchestra, Wiener Symphoniker, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Filarmonica del Teatro La Fenice and the BBC Symphony Orchestra – including a concertante version of *Bluebeard's Castle* at the Barbican Centre.

Recent highlights include Kirill's debuts with the Dallas Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, and the Prague Radio Symphony, as well as return visits to the Minnesota Orchestra, Bamberger Symphoniker, Orchestre National Capitole de Toulouse, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, and the Opéra Montpellier for a production of *Pelléas*, as well as the BBC Proms with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Kirill has also recently enjoyed conducting at the Edinburgh Festival and joining Mikhail Pletnev on

extensive European and North American tours which included his New York debut at the Lincoln Center. Highlights of the 2022-23 season include Kirill's return to the English National Opera for a production of *Die tote Stadt*, to Opernhaus Zürich for *La Bohème*, and to The Grange Festival for *Così fan tutte*. This season sees Kirill perform with Opéra National de Bordeaux, Orchestre National de Montpellier, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice, and embark on an extensive Korean Tour conducting the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

A prolific opera conductor, Karabits has worked with the Deutsche Oper, Opernhaus Zürich (Boris Godunov) and Oper Stuttgart (*Death in Venice*), Glyndebourne Festival Opera (*La bohème* and *Eugene Onegin*), Staatsoper Hamburg (*Madama Butterfly*), English National Opera (*Don Giovanni*), Bolshoi Theatre and he conducted a performance of *Der fliegende Holländer* at the Wagner Geneva Festival in celebration of the composer's anniversary.

Music Director of the Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar from 2016-19, Karabits conducted acclaimed productions of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Tannhäuser* as well as Mozart's *Da Ponte Cycle* (*Le nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte*).

Working with the next generation of bright musicians is of great importance to Karabits and as Artistic Director of I, CULTURE Orchestra he conducted them on their European tour in August 2015 with Lisa Batiashvili as soloist and a summer festivals tour in 2018, including concerts at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Montpellier Festival. In 2012 and 2014 he conducted the televised finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Award (working with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra), and has recently debuted with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain on a UK tour including a sold out and critically acclaimed performance at the Barbican. Kirill was named Conductor of the Year at the 2013 Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards.

# CAST

## Kamala Devam



© Simon Richardson

Kamala Devam is a multi-lingual dance artist, choreographing, performing & teaching in the UK & USA. She trained in bharatanatyam in Northern California & received her B.A. in Choreography

& Performance at San Francisco State University in 2001. She has toured internationally with companies such as Shobana Jeyasingh Dance, Akram Khan Company, ENO, Akademi, Neon Dance, KalpanArts, and independent choreographers including Jose Agudo, Luca Silvestrini, Merav Israel and Stephanie Shoeber.

Kamala collaborated with choreographer/dancer Seeta Patel on their multi award-winning dance film *The Art of Defining Me* (2013) and toured in Europe & the US with duet and solo works.

She is an Associate Lecturer at the University of East London and an internationally-commissioned choreographer for youth/university dance companies. Recently, she choreographed for the original opera *Sophie* by Helen Caddick.

Kamala formed Kamala Devam Company in January 2016. Her company productions and education works are supported by Arts Council England and UK dance organisations.

## Sarveshan Gangen



K Sarveshan is a South African Bharatanatyam artiste of Indian Origin. His performance practice rigorously explores the complexities of his diasporic cultural heritage and his

embodied experience. Sarveshan's distinct understanding of Bharatanatyam is derived from his initial training with Savitri Naidoo, student of the formidable Pandanallur Srinivasa Pillai and Indira Rajan, and his expert training received from Natyaacharya Shanta and V.P Dhananjayan. Even though Sarveshan

is a seasoned Bharatanatyam performer, he continues to explore dance research and scholarship, with a first-class BA Honours in Performance Studies from The University of Cape Town (2021).

In 2018, The Madras Music Academy awarded Sarveshan the "Gutty Vasu Endowment Prize" for being the "Best Performer" at the Spirit of Youth Festival 2017. Other titles that have been conferred on him are "Natya Purna" from Bharata Kalanjali, "Natya Bhaarithi" from Visakha Art & Dance Association & "Yuva Kalaa Bhaarithi" from Bhaarat Kalaachaar. He is the 2021-2022 recipient of The Kalaavahini Junior Fellowship for which he created and premiered his recent work *KailāsaKrishna*.

# Sarah Sangeether Gasser



Sarah Sangeetha is a professional dancer trained in Bharatanatyam, Western Contemporary Dance, Ballet and Martial Arts from Switzerland.

During several years of intense studies in India, Sarah completed her Master of Arts in Bharatanatyam at KSGH Music & Performing Arts University Mysore,

followed by Nrityasali, post graduate studies of Natyashastra and its Karanas under the guidance of Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam in Chennai. She refined her skills under the guidance of Smt. Indira Kadambi, Sri Bhagavatulu Seetharam Sharma & Renjith & Vijna.

Holding a Bachelor of Arts diploma in Music & Movement of Music University Zurich, Sarah had intense training in Western Classical Music & Composing, as well as in contemporary dance.

# Aishani Ghosh



Aishani started her training in Bharatanatyam under the guidance of Smt Chitraleka Bolar, she then went on to join the Yuva Gati CAT scheme. During her final 3 years she was the first dancer to train in both the

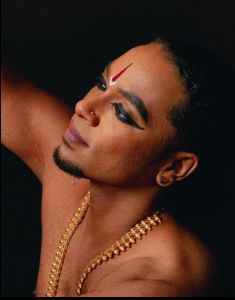
Bharatanatyam and Contemporary strand, working with choreographers such as Shobana Jeyasingh company, Kerry Nichols and Lea

Anderson. In her final year, she was the winner of Navadalu competition at Southbank.

In 2022, Aishani completed a BA Hons Degree at London Contemporary Dance School, graduating with a first and the Principal's Award. During her time there she worked with a variety of choreographers such as Liam Francis, Anthony Matsena, and also performed in James Cousins' We Are as Gods at Battersea Arts Centre. Since graduating she has worked with choreographers such as Dickson MBI, Vidya Patel and Seeta Patel.

# Kieran Herallal

© Jancie Baskaran



K.H. Kanna underwent extensive training in Bharatanatyam in Vancouver and Toronto under gurus Smt. Monica Rameshkanth, Smt. Venency George, and Smt. Malini Pararajasingham.

He is currently continuing his training under the guidance of Sri. Sheejith Krishna of The Sahrdaya Foundation, Chennai. Performance credits include Vancouver 2010 Olympics, *Sanctuary Season 2*, *Karl Wolfe*, a short movie

with choreographer Jae Blaze, the productions *Ganga* and *Kaal – Time* by the Janak Khendry Dance Company (Kuwait, Oman, India), the 2017 Toronto International Dance Festival, the 2017 Kalanidhi Festival, *Howzat!* by Sampradaya Dance Creations, Ms. Leela Samson's *Nadi* with Spanda Dance Company, Seeta Patel's *The Rite of Spring* (UK), and the movie *New Monuments* by Director X.

Under the able guidance of his gurus, Kanna strives to deepen his understanding of this rich art form and spread awareness among the diaspora, and to his students of Prabhāvali Arts (Toronto).

# Nidhaga Karunad



Nidhaga Karunad B M is a captivating performer who has won the hearts of audiences around the nation. The initial training in YAKSHAGANA under Guru Sri Srinivasa Sastan of Karnataka

Kala Darshini, Bangalore and several performances of that theatrical art sparked him to pursue the complex dance art of Bharatanatyam. Thus began his training under Karnataka Kalashree Guru Smt Dr. Suparna Venkatesh at Sai Arts International, Bangalore. Nidhaga rapidly within a span of five years, understood the nuances of the

South Indian Dance form and readied himself to professionally perform, principally for the spiritual elation one gets during dancing and then to share that bliss with the prekshaka. Nidhaga's performances across the country and his presentations in China and Nepal have been appreciated and applauded. His Portrayal of characters in Dance features of reputed choreographers and producers is highly prized especially in productions of Sai Arts International, Articulate India, Abhinava Dance Company and Punyah Dance Company. Nidhaga is an Empanelled artist of ICCR in Bharatanatyam, he is a Graded artist at Doordarshan in Bharatanatyam and Kathak, Scholarship holder from Karnataka Sangeeta Nritya Academy.

# Kishore Kuman Krishnan



Kishore started dancing Bharatanatyam at the Temple of Fine Arts since the age of 4 under his Mother Shrimathi Bhanumathi Krishnan and subsequently continuing and still learning under

Shrimathi Vasuki Sivanesan. Before dance, he was a professional soccer player and a national athlete.

He ventured into ballet and contemporary dance late at the age of 21 under Umesh Shetty who is the reason he fell in love with dance. After graduating in 2013 with a Diploma in dance

he debuted himself as a solo Bharatanatyam dancer at the Temple of Fine Arts International under the guidance of Shankar Kandasamy.

He has performed extensively in Australia and Europe. His recent productions include *Ravana* choreographed by Mavin Khoo at the Darbar Festival, Sadler Wells Theatre, London (2019) and Shantanand Festival of the Arts at the Temple of Fine Arts Kuala Lumpur (2022). Currently an artist with InnerSpace Dance Company, a part-time lecturer at ASWARA, and a teacher at Temple of Fine Arts Kuala Lumpur, Kishore is in constant search of movement and is developing his own way of moving through the accumulation of his learning experiences. He loves the contrast between speed, breath, stillness and animalistic movements.

# Indu Bhageloe Panday



Indu Panday is one of the few professional Indian dancers in the Netherlands.

Indu started her education in Bharatanatyam in the Netherlands at a young age which she

continued in India under renowned gurus. Under guru Sri Satish Myre-Makhan she finished her course traditionally by giving a solo performance accompanied by live music

(arangetram). Indu's passion for the classical arts brought her to Kathak in 2013, when she started training under her gurus Sri Hari and Smt. Chethana Hari from Bangalore, India.

Indu has collaborated with several internationally acclaimed dancers and choreographers. In the past years she has performed in both classical and contemporary Indian dance productions, led by different choreographers, such as Kalpana Raghuraman, Sri Hari and Smt. Chethana Hari, Seeta Patel, Subhatra Subramaniam, Kenzo Kusuda. Indu has toured nationally and internationally with these productions.

# Shree Savani



Shree is a 24 year old Bharatanatyam dancer and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist. Her passion for dance, engaging with people artistically and her interest in physical movement drive her enthusiasm

for both dance and physiotherapy. Her love for many forms of dance was nurtured by Nupur Arts Dance Academy, having been given the opportunity to explore and present a range

of different styles from tap and modern to Bollywood. Her love for the disciplined ancient art form, Bharatanatyam, has been nourished by her Guru, Bhagya Lakshmi. Her success in BBC Young Dancer 2019, being the first Bharatanatyam dancer to win the South Asian category and dance in the Grand Final, has fueled her ambition to develop as a dancer.

Since then, she has gone on to perform and represent South Asian Classical Dance to a wide range of audiences on different platforms, including the world renowned dance theatre, Sadlers Wells, and recent tour of Seeta Patel's *The Rite of Spring*.

# Adhya Shastry



Adhya Shastry is an 18 year old dancer currently based in Reading. She has been dancing Bharatanatyam since she was 9 years old with Kalakunj performing arts group, and has also trained in

contemporary and ballet in The Place's CAT scheme in London, UK. Adhya is currently in her

final year of school, finishing A Levels whilst also auditioning for dance schools.

In 2022, she won the prestigious BBC Young Dancer competition and was described as 'an inspiration' to young dancers. Adhya was also part of the National Youth Dance Company from 2021-2022 and performed in *Quartier Paradis* lead by artistic director, Alessandra Seutin.

# Moritz Zavan Stoeckle



Moritz Zavan Stoeckle began his Bharatanatyam training in 1995 with Savitry Nair. In 2007 he started his career as a lighting designer in Venice at Teatro Fondamente Nuove. In 2010 he started training in

contemporary dance. In 2012, he won the audience prize of the GD'A Veneto competition.

In 2013 his Bharatanatyam solo debut was presented by Mavin Khoo in Venice, and the same year he performed in India under the

guidance of Seetharama Sharma. Since then, he has performed several solo shows in India and Europe. In 2012 and 2013 he was invited to be a guest lecturer by the Theatre Department of the University of Malta, to teach a lighting design course. In 2018 he obtained an MA in 'Performing Arts - Dance' with a dissertation on multi-genre choreographies that merge Indian classical dance and contemporary dance.

Currently he is working as a freelancer with theatre and dance companies in Malta, Italy, and the UK both as a dancer and lighting designer, while also working as assistant lecturer at Mcast, Institute for the Creative Arts in Malta.

# Sooraj Subramaniam



Sooraj Subramaniam is an Australian-Belgian dance artist of Malaysian-Indian heritage. He trained in Indian classical dance in Malaysia, and later graduated from the Western Australian Academy for Performing

Arts. In the UK he has toured with SRISHTI, Akademi, Balbir Singh Dance Company and

Shobana Jeyasingh Dance. Since moving to Belgium in 2012 he has worked with independent choreographers Nicole Kohler, Kalpana Raghuraman, Seeta Patel and the Maghenta Collective.

His own work is situated in hyphenated identities, drawing on poetic styles and choreographic templates from Indian traditions. He currently lives in Belgium.

## Samyukta Ranganathan Vocals



Samyukta is an award-winning singer of Indian Classical music. She began training at age 8 under Sangita Kala Acharya Bombay S. Ramachandran and began singing in the South Indian

number of historic venues across the region. Since then, her experience as a classical Indian singer has been bolstered by an active performance career that included several cities in South Africa and the United States. She continues to enjoy an active performance and teaching career in New York City.

music circuit by age 13. Just a few years later she was invited to perform solo concerts at a

## Pratham Ramachandran Percussion



Prathap Ramachandra is an Internationally acclaimed South Indian Percussionist specialising in playing Mridangam, Ghatam, Khanjira and also rendering Konnakool (rendering

percussion syllables orally). Over the last two decades his musical journey has consisted of

accompanying world-renowned artists from India and abroad, his cross-cultural collaborations in music and dance have allowed him to craft interesting approaches to Indian rhythms. Prathap has performed in some of the biggest venues across the globe, including Sydney Opera House, The Royal Albert Hall, Taipei National Theatre, and he also performed in Qatar representing diverse British music at the FIFA World Cup in 2022.

## Vijay Venkat Flute



Vijay Venkat is a well known multi instrumentalist/ vocalist, multi-genre performer/composer specialising in the violin, viola, flute, vichitra veena (an ancient Indian fret-less slide instrument) in the South Indian

Classical (Carnatic) music style. Vijay has performed in major musical festivals and

organisations in India and abroad as a soloist, whilst also performing regularly in bands and concerts. He is an instrumentalist much in demand for solo performances, music ensembles, dance performances, story-telling events and theatre productions as he is a versatile performer and composer.



© Fotini Christofilopoulou




Seeta Patel Dance's *The Rite of Spring* tours later in the year across the South West including Basingstoke and Poole, and The Lowry in Manchester.

To find out more about upcoming shows, visit our website using the QR code above and make sure to sign up to the Seeta Patel Dance mailing list.

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