

# **South Asian Dance Development Programme**

## **Information Pack**

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## 01 Welcome

**Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance house, with a spirit of creative innovation and artistic collaboration at its heart. A key mission is to fuel the evolution of dance by providing artists with opportunities to experiment, explore, and develop their practice. This summer, we are launching a new Artist Development Programme. In this first iteration, we are launching six targeted programmes all of which will be open or offered by open call to support the artistic community through non-outcome driven initiatives. You can read about the full programme [here](#).**

Last year, Sadler's Wells formed a South Asian Dance Advisory Panel and through these discussions we acknowledged that choreographic developments in this part of the sector have been underserved. In discussion with this panel and our partner Akademi, we have designed a development programme to support choreographers and dance makers whose practice is rooted in South Asian dance in all its forms.

For the first time, we are creating a dedicated space for this community placing them directly in a relationship with Sadler's Wells. We hope that by holding this space for eight artists they will be able to re-examine their approach to choreography and extend their practice. Across this two-year programme we will do this through intensive weekends of creative exchanges, interventions, peer-led learning, mentoring and support.

This programme welcomes artists from any South Asian dance form, and we mean this in the broadest sense, from Kathak, to Odissi, to Bollywood, to Bhangra and beyond. If you are part of this community and are interested in a supported programme to expand your choreographic practice, this is a space for you.

# 02 The Offer

## What is it?

This programme will be delivered over a two-year cycle and is supported by an Artist Support Practitioner. Each year you will receive:

- **Three intensive weekends consisting of workshops, classes, interventions, and talks from industry professionals in the fields of production, community practice, dance psychology, dramaturgy and more (a total of 6 weekends over the two-year cycle). These will be delivered at Sadler's Wells and hosted in partnership with Akademi.**
- **Six mentoring sessions from a mentor of your choice (12 sessions over the two-year cycle). This could be with one person or a range of people.**
- **A personal development bursary of £200 (£400 over the two-year cycle). This could pay for research materials, books, cultural trips to exhibitions or tickets to shows.**
- **Access to a network for peer-led learning, skills sharing, and creative exchanges. We will help you to maintain your connection across each year by providing a digital space to exchange.**
- **Accommodation, travel, and subsistence are provided for the intensive weekends for those that live outside London.**
- **Tickets to performances at Sadler's Wells.**

In addition, to make the session a success for those with supplementary needs, we can offer a bespoke package of access support to suit your requirements.

Please note, this programme will not provide South Asian dance training classes and is designed to complement the training you are already undertaking.

# Who is it for?

We would like to support artists that:

- **Would like to develop as choreographers and dance makers.**
- **Have a practice rooted in any form of South Asian dance.**
- **Have some professional experience of choreography having already created one or two works that have been performed in a public setting.**
- **Are over the age of 18 and not in formal education or training.**
- **Are residents of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands).**

For us, the term artists is used to capture a wide range of individuals including choreographers, makers, dancers, and dance artists all of whom have the desire to create dance works and are committed to a professional pathway as a choreographer.

We acknowledge there are many different pathways in dance and that you might have a wealth of experience performing in other people's work. We ask that your current interest is in developing your own unique choreographic language or style. We mean this in the broadest sense which means you could be interested in creating work for several settings including theatre, outdoor, community, and visual arts contexts.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to support:

- **Individuals who are currently part of a Sadler's Wells programme such as Young Associates or are being commissioned or presented by us.**
- **Individuals who are currently in formal education or training.**
- **Those who reside outside of the United Kingdom and Crown Dependencies (such as Republic of Ireland or other EU countries).**

This is a space for the artistic community and is not a place to propose projects to Sadler's Wells for commissioning or programming.

If you are unsure if this programme is for you and would like to talk to someone, please join us at one of our drop-in information sessions where you can speak to a member of the team and ask any questions you might have. If you need further assistance please contact Ciara Lynch, Assistant Producer. Please find further information and contact details at the end of this pack.

# When is it?

The three intensive weekends for year one will be on the following dates:

**2023**

**Friday 8, Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 September**

**Friday 8, Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 December**

**2024**

**Friday 22, Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 March**

Before you apply, please make sure you are available on these dates.

The schedule for the intensive weekends will look like this:

- **Arrival on Friday evening for a group dinner, show or cultural event.**
- **Two days of workshops, talks, and interventions on Saturday and Sunday.**
- **Travel home after the Sunday afternoon session.**

The Friday evening isn't compulsory, but we are keen for the group to connect socially to form a supportive peer group, so this is a chance to meet and talk outside of the studio in a more informal setting.

Mentoring sessions should be scheduled by you at whatever intervals throughout the year that feel meaningful, but we recommend bi-monthly to have consistent support across the two-years.

# 03 Expression of Interest

To apply, please complete an [Expression of Interest Form](#) on our website.

In this form, we ask:

- 1. Please tell us about your creative practice. What experience do you bring to this programme?**
- 2. What would you like to explore further in your choreographic practice?**
- 3. Why would you benefit from this two-year programme at this time?**

You can submit your responses to the questions above in either of the following formats:

- **Written statements each with a word count of up to 250 words**
- **Audio or video recordings each with a duration of 2-3 minutes**

It's best that you prepare your responses before you click through to complete the form. Once you have prepared your responses, the form should take no more than 10-minutes to complete.

We are mindful of the unpaid labour undertaken for open calls and as such invite you to keep your response to the approximate length requested.

This open call launches on Thursday 29 June and you have until **Thursday 27 July at midnight** to apply. You will receive an automatic response when your expression of interest has been received, if you don't receive an e-mail within 24 hours, please contact us via the details at the end of this pack.

# 04 Selection Process

This programme will be selected by:

**Rob Jones, Associate Artistic Director at Sadler's Wells**  
**Suba Subramaniam, Artistic Director & Joint-CEO at Akademi**  
**Shane Shambhu, Creative Director at Altered Skin**

We are committed to foregrounding under-represented voices and as such, we aim to offer at least five of the eight places to:

- **Artists from systemically marginalised groups including, and not limited to, artists with disabilities, artists from the global majority and LGBTQIA+.**
- **Artists that identify as female or non-binary.**

The timeline for this initiative is as follows:

**Thursday 29 June**

**Open call launches**

**Thursday 27 July**

**Deadline at midnight**

**Thursday 17 August**

**Responses sent to all**

We commit to responding to all who submit an expression of interest by the date above. Should for any reason there be a change to the timeline, we will write to update you.

We anticipate this will be a competitive programme and are regretful that we will receive many more expressions of interest than places we are able to offer. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer feedback.

# 05 Access Requirements

We are committed to being open and inclusive and hope the process is accessible to all but realise that some may still encounter barriers in accessing this offer.

If this resonates with you, please get in touch by phone, text, or e-mail to let us know what additional support you require to make your expression of interest possible. Regrettably, we cannot give advice on your response itself as we will remain impartial in the process.

The large-print, plain text version of this pack is available [here](#). You can also listen to an audio version of this pack [here](#). There is a read aloud function available in the PDF, which is available to download [here](#).

Contact:

**Ciara Lynch, Assistant Producer**  
**E-Mail: [Ciara.Lynch@sadlerswells.com](mailto:Ciara.Lynch@sadlerswells.com)**  
**Phone or Text: +44 (0)7525 803 440**

Ciara is available from Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Please allow two working days for a response.

We can offer additional financial support to help with anything you might need to overcome barriers that would usually make your participation in this kind of initiative prohibitive or challenging. These expenses could be (and are not limited to) your personal access costs, childcare or other caring responsibilities or local transportation for accessibility.

If you are successful, we will discuss these requirements with you and create a bespoke package of access support to suit your needs.

# 06 Frequently Asked Questions

## **Do I have to attend every session?**

We ask that if you accept our invitation to be part of the programme that you are committed to participating for the full two-year cycle. One of the aims of this programme is that the group form a strong bond to support peer-to-peer learning and exchange. We believe this can be achieved through consistency and a willingness to connect with others. We will share dates of the intensive weekends with advance notice to support your planning.

## **How do you define South Asian dance styles?**

We are open to hearing from a range of artists from all kinds of South Asian dance practice, from classical to folk to popular dance. This could include, but is not limited to, Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Manipuri, Bollywood, Bhangra, and more. This programme won't offer training in these dance styles and instead focuses on the development of choreographic practice stemming from these lineages.

## **Can I apply if I am already working with Sadler's Wells?**

If you are already part of a Sadler's Wells programme like Young Associates, or if you are being commissioned or programmed by us you can't apply.

## **Is there access support to help me apply?**

Yes, the materials are available in large-print plain text and audio. If you need further assistance with access, including our support with the understanding of terms used in this document, we can help. Please use the contact details at the end of this pack.

## **Are there age restrictions for this programme?**

You must be aged 18 or over to apply. We acknowledge that everyone's journey is different, therefore there are no specific age specifications.

## **Can I apply if I live outside of the United Kingdom?**

No, this offer is only available to artists with permanent residence in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

## **I am having trouble with the form; please can you help?**

If you experience any IT issues in completing or submitting the expression of interest form, please contact us using the details at the end of this pack.

# 07 Contact

If there is other information that you need or questions you would like to ask, please get in touch with **Ciara Lynch, Assistant Producer** by e-mail at **Ciara.Lynch@sadlerswells.com**. You can also call or text Ciara on **07525 803 440** from Monday to Friday between 10:00-17:00. Please allow two working days for a response.

We will also be hosting remote drop-in information sessions on the following dates and times if you would like to talk to us more about this programme:

## **Wednesday 5 July**

**16:00-17:30 on Zoom**

## **Tuesday 11 July**

**13:00-14:30 on Zoom**

## **Wednesday 19 July**

**10:00-11:30 on Zoom**

Please RSVP to Ciara by e-mail at **Ciara.Lynch@sadlerswells.com** to let us know what day you would like to attend. A reminder will be sent with specific joining instructions the day before.

Read more about the **Artist Development Programme** [here](#).

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With thanks to our partner Akademi and everyone on our South Asian Dance Advisory Panel who has helped inform the creation of this programme.