STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AKRAM KHAN COMPANY Thihra:
Night of Remembering By Akram Khan ARTIST'S REPRESENTATIVES david lieberman & Manal AlDowayan وادي الفن Wadi AlFann

World Premiere: Montpellier, 22-24 June 2025

STUDIO

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Artist Statements

If time is like a river, then the clock is simply a mechanical pretender. So, let's use this feeling of suspension that whispers to me as I stand in the middle of this vast, magnificent space of AlUla, as a moment to remind ourselves that perhaps we have lost our way as we travel on this river of time.

And so, let's find new ways, or perhaps re-discover ancient ways, of how to move again, alone and together, so we don't become a mechanical pretender of being human. I have always felt that the way we think about our future has a past. And throughout our history of human civilisation, every culture has had its own idea of the future. Hence, as I stand humbled within the vastness of this epic desert known as AlUla, I feel the urge to unearth the many cultures that have passed through here. I can only imagine the cacophony of voices, myriad of languages, multiplicity of movements, and a variety of smells that have come through and contributed to this special place.

I am keen to explore a movement with the voices of many female dancers, to celebrate the power of nature living within this environment, and at the same time I would like to give recognition to the maternal qualities of our perpetually transforming civilisations, that have shaped our past and will continue to shape our future.

-Akram Khan

In the past few years, a new history has been unveiled to me. A history of humanity, a history of a people that had inhabited the same place I thought I knew, a place I thought was mine. These archeological discoveries in my homeland of Saudi Arabia, have thrust me into a pendular state of mind, swinging between the past and the present.

When I look into the infinite layers of these abandoned ruins they resemble the eyes of the past staring back at me, forcing me to pick up and continue their narrative, digest them and make them mine.

Through my collaboration with Akram Khan and his exceptional team, I eagerly anticipate delving into the exploration of these profound themes within the realm of theatre production.

-Manal AlDowayan

The Story

Thikra, meaning 'memory', 'recollection', 'thoughts of the past', 'remembrance' in Arabic, is a performance that evokes, through contemporary dance, the idea that "without a past, there is no future."

The choreography and the dancers will embody the concepts of ancestral knowledge, forgetting, and collective learning and healing.

The performance will depict an imagined annual gathering performed to connect with ancestral knowledge.

For one night, the present and past unite and embrace.

Marketing Copy

In Akram Khan Company's latest production, Thikra: Night of Remembering, the past and present converge in a journey through tradition to honour our ancestors, deeply rooted in the power of rituals.

Khan draws profound inspiration from diverse cultures that engage in these sacred practices, paying homage to those who came before us. With scenography and costume design by award-winning visual artist Manal AlDowayan, the piece delves into our contemporary existence and identity, affirming the presence of our ancestral spirits.

Featuring an original music composition by Aditya Prakash, sound design by Gareth Fry, lighting design by Zeynep Kepekli, dramaturgy by Blue Pieta, and an all-female international cast of Contemporary and Bharatanatyam dancers, Thikra weaves a universal yet deeply personal narrative.

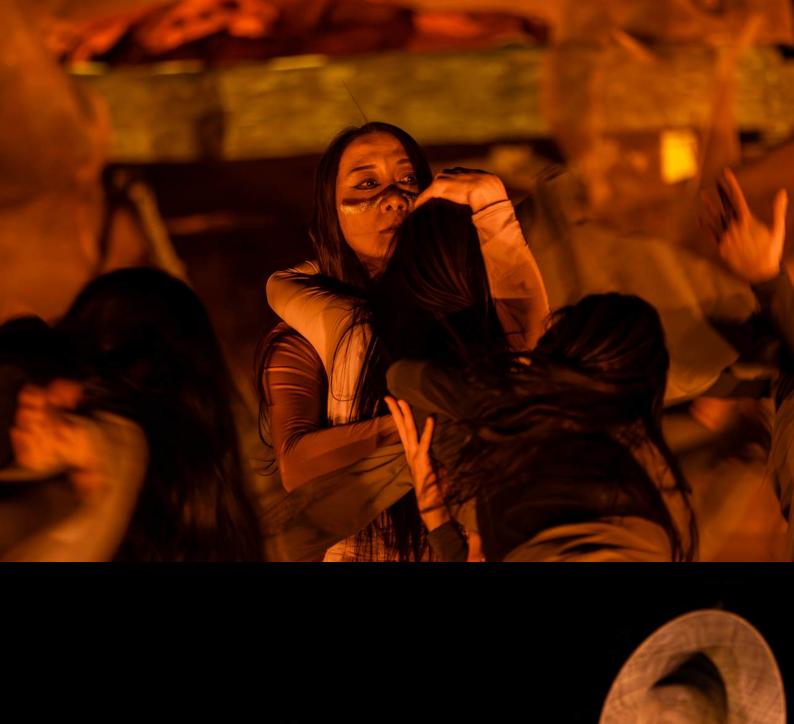
Together, these creative voices invite us to reflect on our own heritage and the rituals that have shaped our shared humanity.

The Choreography

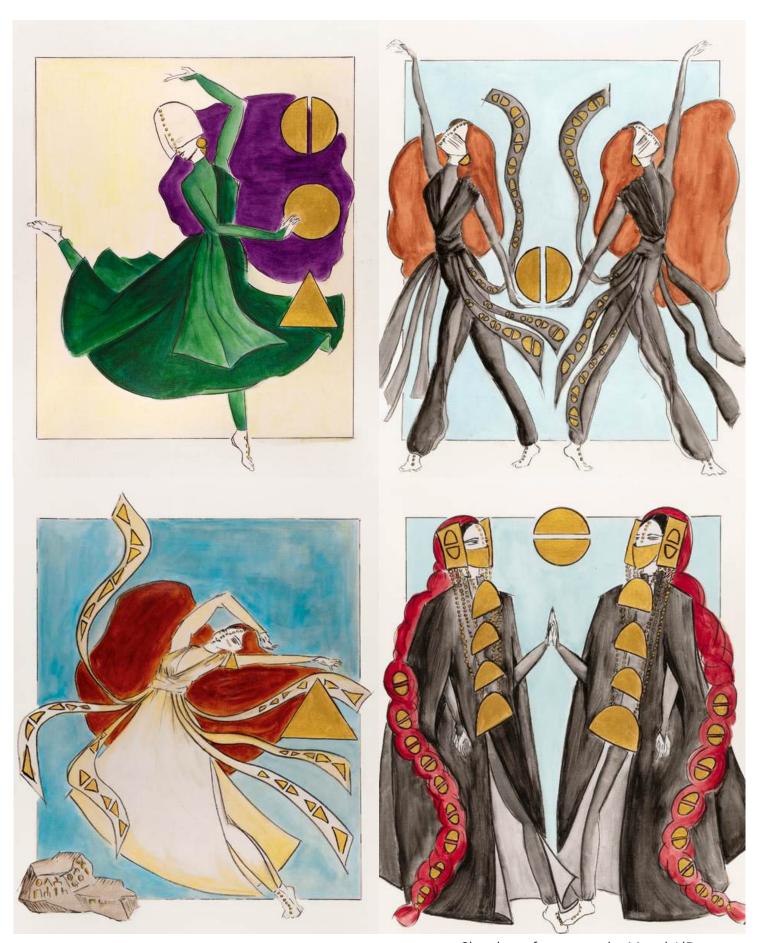
Thikra incorporates Bharatanatyam and Western Contemporary dancers; bridging a confluence of hybrid cultures, traditions and perspectives. The work is not an exploration of different styles nor is it a commentary on east meets west connections.

The choreography aims to employ the inherent traditions and rituals embodied within the Bharatanatyam dancers through a creative lens of dance making in collaboration with the Contemporary dancers.

The collective voices of the empowered female ensemble will be reflective of a coming together that transcends the specificity of the two styles inherent in the work, bringing an emphasis on the Experiential.







Sketches of costumes by Manal AlDowayan



The scenography takes inspiration from the site-specific stage design by Manal AlDowayan

Artistic Team & Credits

Director / Choreographer Akram Khan
Visual Director / Costume and Scenography Manal AlDowayan
Narrative Concept Manal AlDowayan & Akram Khan
Composer Aditya Prakash
Sound Design Gareth Fry
Lighting Design Zeynep Kepekli
Creative Associate / Coach Mavin Khoo
Dramaturge Blue Pieta

Rehearsal Directors Charlotte Pook, Angela Towler, Chris Tudor

Musicians (in recorded composition) Aditya Prakash, Loulwa Al Sharif, Sushma Soma, Ananya Ashok, Melanie Pappenheim, Sohini Alam, London Bulgarian Choir, Zafer Tawil, M Vijay, N Rajan, N. Deepan, Dimitris Menexopoulos, Amal Waqar, Zafer Tawil, Naseem Alatrash, Layth Sidiqi, Megan Shung, Guhan Venkataraman, Jay Julio, Megan Shung, Isaac Alderson, V. Prakash Ilayaraja, Ayesh Hodayban Alkhamaaly AlEnezi, Maged Ahmed ElAtiek, Tarek Saleh ElAtiek, Sultan Gaber El Alawi and Haitham Ahmed Mohamed, Sumesh Narayanan

Dancers Pallavi Anand, Ching-Ying Chien, Kavya Ganesh, Nikita Goile, Samantha Hines, Jyotsna Jagannathan, Mythili Prakash, Azusa Seyama Prioville, Divya Ravi, Aishwarya Raut, Mei Fei Soo, Harshini Sukumaran, Shreema Upadhyaya, Jin Young Won, Kimberly Yap, Hsin-Hsuan Yu, Jin Young Won

Producing Director Farooq Chaudhry
Executive Director Isabel Tamen
Technical Manager Michael Cunningham
Production of Visual Direction Carla Giachello
Video Artist Maxime Dos

Company Manager Emma Cameron Technical Stage Manager Harry Abbott Touring Production Manager Anthony Forrester Sound Engineer Enrico Aurigemma Lighting Engineer Imogen Clarke Lighting Supervisor Stephane Dejours Wardrobe Supervisor Anne Marie Bigby Set Builder Tin Shed

Commissioned by Wadi AlFann, Valley of the Arts, AlUla

Indoor adaptation co-produced by Berliner Festspiele, Brown University, Montpellier Danse, Pina Bausch Zentrum, Sadler's Wells, Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Théâtre de la Ville Paris

With support from Bagri Foundation

Supported by Arts Council England

Special thanks to Light Contrast, Peggy Housse, Mrs Khan, Yuko, Sayuri, Kenzo and Ayana Khan.

Akram Khan

Director/ Choreographer

Akram Khan is one of the most celebrated and respected dance artists of today. In almost 25 years he has created a body of work that has contributed significantly to the arts in the UK and abroad. His reputation has been built on the success of imaginative, highly accessible and relevant productions such as Jungle Book reimagined, Outwitting the Devil, XENOS, Until the Lions, Kaash, iTMOi, DESH, Vertical Road, Gnosis and zero degrees.

As an instinctive and natural collaborator, Khan has been a magnet to world-class artists from other cultures and disciplines. His previous collaborators include the National Ballet of China, actress Juliette Binoche, ballerina Sylvie Guillem, choreographers/dancers Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Israel Galván, singer Kylie Minogue, indie rock band Florence and the Machine, visual artists Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley and Tim Yip, writer Hanif Kureishi and composers Steve Reich, Nitin Sawhney, Jocelyn Pook and Ben Frost.

Khan's work is recognised as being profoundly moving, in which his intelligently crafted storytelling is effortlessly intimate and epic. Described by the Financial Times as an artist "who speaks tremendously of tremendous things", a highlight of his career was the creation of a section of the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony that was received with unanimous acclaim. As a choreographer, Khan has developed a close collaboration with English National Ballet. He created the short piece Dust, part of the Lest We Forget programme, which led to an invitation to create his own critically acclaimed version of the iconic romantic ballet Giselle. Creature is Khan's latest work for English National Ballet.

Khan has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout his career including the Laurence Olivier Award, the Bessie Award (New York Dance and Performance Award), the prestigious ISPA Distinguished Artist Award, the Fred and Adele Astaire Award, the Herald Archangel Award at the Edinburgh International Festival, the South Bank Sky Arts Award and ten Critics' Circle National Dance Awards for his Company, AKC. Khan was awarded an MBE for services to dance in 2005. In 2022, he was announced as the new Chancellor of De Montfort University, and he is also an Honorary Graduate of Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, University of London as well as Roehampton and De Montfort Universities, and an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Laban and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Khan is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells and Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, London as well as Curve.

Manal AlDowayan

Visual Director / Costume and Scenography

Embracing diverse media, Manal AlDowayan's work encompasses black and white photography, sculpture, video, sound, neon and large-scale participatory installations. Her artistic practice revolves around themes of invisibility, active forgetting, archives, and collective memory, with a large focus on the status of women and their representation. In the past 20 years of her career she has been awarded several commissions that produced engaging work that both question the status of society and at the same time it tells its stories.

Manal holds a Master's Degree in Contemporary Art Practice in Public Spheres from the Royal College of Art, London and her works can be found in the collections of the British Museum, London; Centre Pompidou collection in Paris, Guggenheim Collection in New York and Abu Dhabi, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humle-baek, Denmark and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha. In 2024, AlDowayan represented Saudi Arabia at the 60th Venice Biennale.

Aditya Prakash

Music Composer and Soundscape Designer

Aditya Prakash, an award-winning singer and composer known for his powerful and expressive voice, is one of the foremost young practitioners of Carnatic music. At 16, Aditya became one of the youngest musicians ever to tour and perform with sitar maestro Ravi Shankar. He has collaborated with a diverse range of artists, including sitarist Anoushka Shankar, Jazz pianist Tigran Hamasyan, electronic experimental artist Karsh Kale, and acclaimed dancer and choreographer Akram Khan. He is mentored by two prolific Karnatik artists: T.M. Krishna and R.K. Shriramkumar. Aditya's current focus in composition is pushing boundaries within the classical tradition. In his latest solo album, ISOLASHUN, he explores the weight of privilege and the boundaries of tradition in an entirely new creative form. He is currently composing the music for three evening-length dance productions by Akram Khan as well as touring his own solo gig-theatre production ROOM-i-Nation, which explores themes of identity, migration and tradition.

Gareth Fry

Sound Designer

Gareth Fry is a multi-award-winning sound designer, best known for his cutting-edge work in theatre. His dance credits include The Language of Kindness (Wayward), Stones of Venice, Invisible Cities (MIF, 59 Productions & Rambert), Othello (Frantic Assembly), John (DV8). Other production credits include Harry Potter and the Cursed Child; Complicité's The Encounter; Bedknobs & Broomsticks, and the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games. He is the author of Sound Design for the Stage. His awards for best sound design include three Olivier Awards, two Tony Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, two Helpmann Awards and an Evening Standard award.

Zeynep Kepekli

Lighting Designer

Zeynep Kepekli is a London-based lighting designer whose work spans dance, theatre, opera, ballet, and site-specific projects and installations worldwide. With a background in art and design, her creations are deeply influenced by nature, architecture, and the interplay of bodies in space, often exploring themes of geography, belonging, and the relationship between natural light and landscapes. Recent credits include The Little Mermaid (Miranda Cromwell), Gigenis: The generation of the Earth (Akram Khan), Festival of New Choreography (The Royal Ballet), California Connections (Yorke Dance Project), The Meaning of Zong (Tom Morris), and Common Grounds (Pina Bausch Foundation).

Mavin Khoo

Creative Associate / Coach

Mavin Khoo is internationally recognised as a dance artist, teacher, choreographer and artist scholar. Khoo is considered one of the few Bharatanatyam male soloists to have carved a niche for himself as an international touring solo artist, whilst still regularly dancing at all major venues in India. As a contemporary dance artist he has worked with Wayne McGregor, Akram Khan, Shobana Jeyasingh, Ivan Perez Aviles and others. In his role as Creative Associate at Akram Khan Company, he acts as lead rehearsal director and stager for Akram Khan's repertory. He also acts as repetiteur to Akram Khan's work with ballet companies, coaching and staging productions such as Dust, Giselle and Creature.

Blue Pieta

Dramaturge

Blue Pieta is a dramaturge and dance-theatre director, writer, choreographer and dancer and performer. Their practice is informed by their research on ritual sacrifice, ancient mythology and embodied poetics. They studied Fine Art at Central Saint Martins and the History of Art at Cambridge University and underwent performance training at: Sadler's Wells, Impulstanz Vienna, Siobhan Davies and the National Youth Theatre. Their first play VOID debuted at the Royal Court Theatre, followed by a regional tour. They are the artistic director of the dance-theatre company Wringing Metamorphosis. Blue regularly collaborates with T. S Elliot Prize Winning poet Bhanu Kapil and was dramaturge for the music-theatre piece Nine Songs, directed by Farooq Chaudhry, in artistic collaboration with Jocelyn Pook and Rui Fu.

Charlotte Pook

Rehearsal Director

Originally from Brighton and Hove, Charlotte graduated with a Masters Degree in Dance Performance, before beginning her career as a Dance Practitioner, performing and teaching in multiple companies and settings. Charlotte has been working as a Rehearsal Director since 2015 working with companies, Akram Khan Company, BalletBoyz, Alexander Whitley, Jack Philp Dance and National Dance Company Wales where she has restaged and rehearsed productions for both UK and International touring, including works by, Maxine Doyle, Xie Xin, Ivan Perez, Russel Maliphant, Christopher Wheeldon, Fernando Melo, Holly Blakey, Vidya Patel, Edd Arnold and Caroline Finn. Charlotte began developing her technique practice, teaching professionals, students and the wider community for the past ten years, delving into the body's functionality and using her yoga and somatic training to influence her practice. Charlotte was appointed Dance Captain for the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony in Birmingham 2022 and was awarded the 'Biennale de Danse' Choreographic Award for the Seychelles festival in 2016.

Angela Towler

Rehearsal Director

Angela has had a long professional career dancing with Richard Alston Dance Company and Rambert. She has worked with internationally celebrated choreographers including: Christopher Bruce, Wayne McGregor, Mats Ek, Jiří Kylián to name a few. She was nominated for a TMA award for Achievement in Dance and the Critics' Circle National Dance Award for Outstanding Female Performance. She has choreographed many works for Rambert and for BBC, ITV and live events. She is working with The Royal Ballet School, English National Ballet School teaching contemporary technique and also continues to work with leading companies.

Chris Tudor

Rehearsal Director

In his early career Chris danced with the legendary London Contemporary Dance Theatre, and was a founder member of Richard Alston Dance Company. He has worked with many distinguished choreographers, among them Richard Alston, Kim Brandstrup and Mark Morris. He has choreographic and teaching credits at some of the UKs leading professional dance organisations, including Rambert Company and School, Royal Ballet School, English National Ballet Company and School, London Contemporary Dance School and National Dance Company Wales. He has restaged a number of works for Alston. Chris has directed and choreographed several operas, which include Imago (Glyndebourne Opera), Fairy Queen (Brighton Music Festival), Tolomeo (St John's Smith Square), and has choreographed and presented programmes for the BBC. Chris was a Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader for the dance programmes at Middlesex University, he holds a Master's Degree with Distinction in Contemporary Dance from the University of Kent.

Farooq Chaudhry

Producing Director

Farooq Chaudhry was born in Pakistan and has enjoyed an international professional dance career. After retiring from dancing in 1999, he completed an MA in Arts Management from City University. A year later he teamed up with Akram Khan and co-founded Akram Khan Company. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs acknowledged him in a list of the world's top hundred cultural actors and entrepreneurs. He is also on the advisory board of Global Future, an independent think tank campaigning for Britain to be a vibrant and open nation that reaches out to the world. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from De Montfort University in 2014, and In 2019, an OBE; both for his services to dance. He is now also a board member for Tate.

Pallavi Anand

Dancer

Pallavi began training in Bharatanatyam with her mother Shalini Shivashankar (Director of Upahaar School of Dance, London) at the age of 5 and continued to complete her Arangetram in 2008 in Bangalore, India. She received further guidance in Chennai from teachers at Bharata Kalanjali School of Natya, founded by the Dhananjayans as well as with Bragha Bessel for Abhinaya. She also recently attended and completed phase 1 of Venu. G's Navarasa Sadhana Koodiyattam actor training module. Pallavi has also explored Mohiniattam briefly, as well as Mri-dangam and Nattuvangam, aiding her sense of rhythm and musicality within dance. She has presented a variety of solo, duet and group recitals in the UK, India and abroad and was recently touring globally as one of the principal dancers in Akram Khan Company's Outwitting the Devil. Pallavi continues to train and find her voice under the guidance of Mavin Khoo.

Ching-Ying Chien

Dancer

Ching-Ying was born in Taiwan and is a graduate of National Taiwan University of Arts' Department of Dance. She began working with AKC in 2013, as a dancer in iTMOi, followed by Until the Lions and Outwitting the Devil. Her performance in Until the Lions won the Outstanding Female Performance (Modern) at the 2016 National Dance Awards (UK). She also acts as a rehearsal director and regularly teaches workshops for the Company. Outside of theatre, she was the dancer and choreographer for musician Plan B's Stranger music video and a few videos for British electronic band The Chemical Brothers. Together with Akram Khan, she co-created a duet for Can We Live with Robots, a TV documentary commissioned by Channel 4. In 2020, she started working with James Thierrée-Compagnie du Hanneton in the creation of MO's and ROOM. Her latest choreography piece is Vulture, supported by LMF Dance Fund, National Culture and Arts Foundation (Taiwan) and Akram Khan Company, which has performed in Lilian Baylis Studio of Sadler's Wells and Weiwuying National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts. Vulture has also been selected as one of twenty pieces in Aerowaves 2023.

Kavya Ganesh

Dancer

Kavya Ganesh is a Bharatanatyam dancer and trains under leading artist, Rama Vaidyanathan. At 21 she has performed across India, USA and Europe doing both solo performances as well as group works with her teacher's ensemble. Some of her notable performances include the NMACC Mumbai, Esplanade Singapore, SWEAT Festival Hong Kong, Erasing Borders NYC and many more. She was awarded the Begin Again grant by the World Dance Alliance and gave a Tedx talk titled Decoding Bharatanatyam: Bringing Bharatanatyam Closer to Home. She is the founder-curator of 'Shambhavi Soirées', an experimental dance initiative, and was trained in the Conservatory for Actors drama program at Yale University. She has always dreamed big and hopes to create global work that is an amalgamation of dance, theatre and literature as well as expand Bharatanatyam's reach among audiences.

Nikita Goile

Dancer

Originally from Reunion Island, Nikita trained at the National Superior Conservatory of Paris. After some time in Israel, she joined the National Companies of Malta and Wales for several years where she performs the work of a dozen choreographers. It soon became clear she wanted to explore her own artistic voice after being commissioned by the National Dance Company of Wales. She then freelanced with Joy Alpuerto Ritter, and Jose Agudo in London, as well as Eric Languet in Réunion. She was also invited to choreograph for the English National Ballet in London for their Emerging Dancer 2021. The following year she joined Castafiore Système, Hani Dance Company, and Yasaman company. More recently, she performed for Damien Jalet, JR, and the collective Circle of Live in London.

Samantha Hines

Dancer

Samantha Hines was born in Sydney, Australia where she trained at Ev and Bow, before attending New Zealand School of Dance. In her final year, she was hired by Australian Dance Theater under the directorship of Garry Stewart. She performed and toured extensively with the company both nationally and internationally with works such as G, Proximity, and Be Yourself. In 2016, she went on to work with Lucy Guerin and Gideon Obarzanek, premiering their work Attractor and Stephanie Lake for Pile of Bones. Between 2017-2021, she joined Dancenorth full time, touring to America, Europe, Mexico and Asia. In the following years, she performed in the world premieres of; Grey Rhino by Cass Mortimer Eipper and Charmene Yap, Manifesto and Monsters by Stephanie Lake, Double Beat by Sara Black, How to Be Us and New Retro by Lucy Guerin Inc. Samantha was nominated for the Helpmann award in 2017, the Greenroom Award in 2017 and a New York Bessie award in 2019.

Jyotsna Jagannathan

Dancer

Jyotsna Jagannathan is a gifted Bharatanatyam dancer who brings commitment, passion and intelligence in her execution of the form. She has trained under eminent teachers and is currently under the mentorship of celebrated Bharatanatyam icon Malavika Sarukkai. A solo performer with a career spanning over 15 years, Jyotsna has performed at prestigious festivals across India. She is the recipient of the Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar award 2016 from the Sangeet Natak Akademi in India. She is the winner of the Best Dancer Award from the Madras Music Academy in 2020 and 2024. Jyotsna also toured with Malavika Sarukkai Dance Ensemble for two years.

Mythili Prakash

Dancer

Mythili Prakash is one of the most celebrated and respected young Bharatanatyam dancers/choreographers today. Raised in Los Angeles, she trained with her mother dancer Viji Prakash, and is currently mentored by iconic artists Malavika Sarukkai and Akram Khan. Mythili began her performing career with her solo debut in India at the age of eight and has since performed internationally. She has toured her own solo work in the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe, India, Singapore, the United States and Mexico. Nominated by celebrated dancer/choreographer Akram Khan as "choreographer of the future" for Dance Umbrella's Four by four commissions, Mythili premiered her solo work HERE and NOW at their 2019 Festival (UK). She toured in Akram Khan Company's Outwitting the Devil (2019). A 2024 United States Artists Fellow, Mythili is a recipient of the National Dance Project touring Grant for her work She's Auspicious. Her work AR|DHA was commissioned and presented by Jacob's Pillow and furthered developed into One|All through Sky Art's Artists Fellowship in collaboration with Akram Khan Company.

Azusa Seyama Proville

Dancer

Azusa Seyama Proville was born and studied ballet in Japan, as well as at the North Carolina School of the Arts in the United States. She danced with Ballet Austin and several dance companies in the United States as well as in Japan. She continued her studies at Folkwang University in Germany, and joined the Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch in 2000, having created pieces with Pina Bausch and performed in repertoire pieces such as Café Müller. Azusa also became a rehearsal director for Pina Bausch's repertoires, and has danced and worked as a rehearsal director with Fabien Prioville Dance Company. In 2014, Azusa choreographed a piece for Gold Theater in Saitama Japan. She participates in a transmission project by the Pina Bausch Foundation as rehearsal director for restaging of Pina Bausch's piece to such as Bavarian State Ballet's and Royal Ballet of Flanders. She danced in Pedro Almodóvar's film Talk To Her (2002) and in Wim Wenders' documentary PINA (2011).

Divya Ravi

Dancer

Divya Ravi is a Bharatanatyam practitioner, performing artist, choreographer and educator. Holding a degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering and MBA in Marketing, Divya navigated a career in branding and communications, while evolving as a sensitive, thinking artist. Today, she is recognised among the most prominent young soloists in the South Asian dance arena. Her sensitive and immersive performances are marked by conviction and ownership of the movement vocabulary, choreography that pushes the boundaries of the form, finesse and fluidity in expressions, innate musicality, and a commanding stage presence. These have taken her to coveted stages in India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Hong Kong, UK and China.

Aiswarya Raut

Dancer

Aishwarya Raut is a dance artist from Mumbai with a Master's degree in Professional Dance Performance. Formerly a dancer with Rambert in London from 2018-2024, she worked with leading contemporary choreographers and performed internationally across theatre, film, as well as site-specific works. As a freelancer, Aishwarya has continued to collaborate with various artists and companies, expanding her creative practice in diverse settings. Her work has been featured in Dance Magazine and Nowness. She was nominated for Best Female Dancer at the UK National Dance Awards in 2024 and a was also named one of Bachtrack's 10 Rising Stars in Dance and Choreography for 2024/2025. Her choreographed works include What About the Rain? (2024) for Resolution Festival featured in Pulse Magazine, Tension Funfair (2024) for Rambert X National Theatre Riverstage, Nadī (2024), for Thames Water Festival, supported by The Place and Rambert, Tutto Fumo (2024) for company Equilibrio Dinamico Ensemble in Italy.

Mei Fei Soo

Dancer

Mei Fei is a Singaporean artist and dancer. She began her journey in dance as part of the Indian Dance team at National Junior College, under Mrs Vijaya Nadesan. She then pursued her Bharatanatyam training at Apsaras Arts Academy, under the guidance of the late Smt. Neila Sathyalingam, and subsequently Sri. Mohanapriyan Thavarajah, under whom she presented her Arangetram in 2021. She is presently under the tutelage of Ms. Gayathri Chachithanandar, and additional training under Sri. Mavin Khoo. She has been part of ensemble works with Apsaras Arts Dance Company, as well as Kasi, under Kalpavriksha Fine Arts. Mei Fei has also briefly trained in Odissi under Smt. Soumee De, and currently undergoes training in Nattuvangam under Dr. G.V. Guru Bharadwaaj. She is also a Fine Arts graduate from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore.

Harshini Sukumaran

Dancer

Harshini Sukumaran is a professionally trained Indian classical dancer with 23 years of experience. She trained at The Temple of Fine Arts Kuala Lumpur in which she completed her Arangetram in 2009 and started teaching at the institution thereafter. Harshini is also a well-versed dancer who performs other dance styles such as Odissi, Kathak, Contemporary, Folk and Bollywood. As a dancer/performing artist she has travelled to various different countries and has been a part of many prestigious events. She started her journey as a solo Bharatanatyam performer in 2018 and has performed in Malaysia and Bangalore. Currently, she is also affiliated with Aswara as a Bharatanatyam dance teacher for diploma students. She has been involved in numerous projects including music video Forevermore by Yuna, commercials for Eco World, and a choreographer for the MAH SING group of companies.

Shreema Upadhyaya

Dancer

Shreema Upadhyaya is Bharatanatyam artist from Bengaluru, India. Her natural flair for the art form has been nurtured by her Guru Sri Praveen Kumar for close to two decades. Currently training as a solo performing artist under her Guru, she is known for her exceptional Nritta technique and eloquent Abhinaya. A graded artist of the Bangalore Doordarshan, she holds the Scholarship for Young Artists by the Government of India. Shreema has performed extensively as a soloist in India, and her performances in prestigious platforms such as the Music Academy, Madras, Narada Gana Sabha and many more have won her accolades and much praise. She has had the privilege of working with Padmasri Malavika Sarukkai as part of her ensemble work Thari-The Loom (2017) which toured across the world, and Gurus Kiran Subramaniam and Sandhya Kiran in their work Maanini (2019).

Kimberly Yap

Dancer

Kimberly Yap earned her Bachelor's degree in Dance, specialising in Bharatanatyam, from the National Academy of Arts Culture and Heritage (ASWARA) in Malaysia. She completed her Arangetram under the Temple of Fine Arts Kuala Lumpur in 2017. Kimberly has showcased her talents at prestigious events such as WE Dance in the West Kowloon Cultural District, Hong Kong, and the Asia Pacific Dance Festival 2019 in Hawaii. She has performed in Ask Dance Company's productions, including Becoming King, 3 Faces, Menempa Tari Tradisi, and Menyemai Seni, Menjunjung Langit, both in Malaysia and abroad. Her international performances include appearances at Bhaskareeyam 2022 in Singapore, INTERFACE 2022 in Kolkata, the International Khajuraho Dance Festival 2023, and the Gwangju Fringe Festival 2023 in South Korea. Kimberly currently serves as a dedicated dancer with Ask Dance Company in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Hsin-Hsuan Yu

Dancer

Hsin-Hsuan Yu was born in Taiwan and is working as a freelance dancer. In 2023, Hsin-Hsuan joined the Genio Dance Company to perform Broadway musicals. In 2022, she was invited to perform at MASDANZA in Spain. In 2021, she created a piece that was performed at the Stray Birds Dance Platform. Hsin-Hsuan has worked with other numerous renowned choreographers including Leigh Warren, Francesco D'Astici, Lee Chen-Wei, Yang Min Long, Chang Chien-Ming, Zhang Xiao-Xiong and Cheng Tsung-Lung.

Jin Young Won

Dancer

Jin Young Won is from Seoul, Korea. Her professional career launched when she joined NDT2 as an apprentice where she went on to perform with renowned companies such as Ballett Basel, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet and Saarländische Staatstheater. Jin then transitioned to a freelance career based in Berlin for six years. Recently, she rejoined Ballett Basel under new direction for two seasons. Throughout her career, she has danced and worked with esteemed choreographers, including Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, Saburo Teshigawara, Johan Inger, Alexander Ekman, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Crystal Pite, Hofesh Shechter, Jo Strømgren, Emanuel Gat, among others In addition to performing, she frequently conducts workshops all over the world with a focus on body-mind connection, movement awareness, and improvisation.



Marketing Information

In this pack is all the information for Thikra, including text, credits and biographies. You can access videos, images and other assets from our Google Drive folder.

Please note, this folder is updated on a regular basis and is accessible to a number of venues and collaborators.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dxxTjlhmk6F-Bd74yqE6iT1HVCYZ3plM?usp=sharing

Please note this is a Wadi AlFann, Valley of the Arts, AlUla commission. Where possible, AKC are contractually obliged to incorporate the Wadi AlFann logo on all printed marketing collateral for the production, including a dedicated page in the programme for Royal Commission for AlUla (RCU).

Please credit our photographers Camilla Greenwell and/or Maxime Dos where appropriate.

Note that all marketing and publicity materials must be submitted for approval with a **minimum of five days' notice** to:

Chelsea Robinson and Nico Motezuma / marketing@akramkhancompany.net.

Farooq Chaudhry OBE

Producing Director

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