

**AAKASH
ODEDRA
COMPANY**

Sarah Trist
Dance Management Agency

Echoes / I Imagine

a new double bill



*“a piece to stimulate thought as well as
marvel at what this dancer, poet and
production have achieved”*

British Theatre Guide

“Aakash Odedra is a beautiful dancer” Guardian

With a growing international reputation for solo performance, Aakash Odedra creates original dance work using a distinctive movement style inspired by South Asian classical dance, contemporary dance and collaboration. He was born in Birmingham and originally trained in Kathak and Bharat Natyam with world-renowned choreographers. As a dancer and artist he is widely regarded as a rising star, having been mentored by Akram Khan, and his new work is regularly met with keen anticipation.

Odedra’s latest production is a contrasting solo double bill. **Echoes** is a high-octane Kathak dance experience created for Odedra to perform by Kathak icon Aditi Mangaldas who is renowned for her artistry, energy and for breaking new ground. Odedra performs with ropes of golden bells (ghungroos) cascading from above and strewn on the stage, which are mesmerizing in Fabiana Piccioli’s lighting.

I Imagine is a more immediate and political work; fierce and funny, melancholic and moving, it uses movement, text and a few simple props to explore the immigrant experience.

“award-winning Aakash Odedra always generates a flurry of excitement and expectation, such is his reputation for stunning, innovate dance”
British Theatre Guide



Press coverage for Echoes / I Imagine

“A persuasive artist clearly at home in both kathak and contemporary dance, he shifts between and combines the two with ease. His new double bill totals 70 minutes of solo dance and not for one second do you want to take your eyes off him” Dancing Times

“You get a striking range of experiences and skills in a single programme from Odedra, and it would be worth a ticket just for his exquisite kathak work”
Dance Tabs

“Echoes by Aditi Mangaldas, a classical kathak work, transports the audience into the sublime” Seeing Dance

“His mastery of his chosen art is sublime; his timing is exquisite and his hands are to die for. He has a fluidity and assurance about what he’s doing that’s absolutely captivating to watch. His spins are devastatingly fast but appear unhurried” Dancing Review

“He is an extraordinary dancer, balancing flawless technique with silky lyricism and an infectious vigour” Bachtrack

“Comparisons with Akram Khan are inevitable but fleeting. Odedra is his own man, has his own voice and follows his own star” The Stage

About Aakash Odedra Company

Aakash was born in Birmingham and trained in the classical Indian dance styles of Kathak (Nilima Devi, Leicester and Asha Joglekar, India) and Bharat Natyam (Chitrleka Bolar, Birmingham and Chhaya Kantaveh, India). His early development in the United Kingdom saw support from Sampad and Akademi. In 2009, Aakash performed a solo choreographed by Kumudini Lakhia titled ‘Maati Re’ at the Svapngata Festival at Sadler’s Wells curated by Akram Khan.

Khan followed this with a period of mentorship, allowing Aakash to develop contemporary movement. He took part in the European Network of Performing Arts 2010 ChoreoLab in Serbia through Dance Umbrella. Also in 2010, he performed a duet with Sanjukta Sinha choreographed by Kumudini Lakhia, titled ‘Tatha’. He incorporates that training in a unique synthesis with contemporary dance, both in his choreography and in his creations with other choreographers.

Aakash formed Aakash Odedra Company in 2011 as a vehicle for commissioning solos and for Aakash to develop his own choreographic work. His debut full length solo Rising featured new short works created on him by Khan, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Russell Maliphant. As choreographer he was commissioned to create a piece for James Brown: Get on the Good Foot (Apollo Theater, New York) and the Opera God’s Little Soldier (Theater Freiburg), The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the closing of the London Cultural Olympiad. Aakash has received numerous awards and bursaries: a Danza&Danza award (Italy), a Dora performance award (Canada), Audience Award Dance Week 2013 (Croatia) and a Sky Academy Arts Scholarship. In May 2014 Aakash Odedra Company presented Murmur (with Lewis Major and Ars Electronica Futurelab) and Inked (by Damien Jalet) at International Dance Festival Birmingham. Murmur was featured at TED Global (Rio de Janeiro, 2014) and the online video has been seen 800,000 times.

Booking Details

Availability:	upon request
Touring Company:	1 performer, 4 on the road
Running time:	2 x 35 mins (plus 20 minute interval)
Venue specification:	Minimum performing area 10 x 9m. Day before get in required, with lighting and masking rigged in advance of the company's arrival.
Age suitability	Tech. spec. available with full details suitable for all ages but best experienced by 8+
Cost (UK only)	£2400 per performance + VAT (inclusive of travel and accommodation) (£3400 for two performances)
Video trailer:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQc-e6LNBGA
Education and access:	Workshops available for all ages and experience in Kathak, Contemporary Dance and Bollywood.
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