

**AAKASH  
ODEDRA  
COMPANY**

*Sarah Trist  
Dance Management Agency*

# #JeSuis

a new production from  
Aakash Odedra



**“#JeSuis isn’t just a stunning piece  
of contemporary dance ....it’s a  
galling political movement”**

**Edinburgh49 ★★★★★**

**“a truly troubling piece of dance theatre which offers the audience a big dose of reality” EdFestMag ★★★★★**

With an international reputation, **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 each new work of his is keenly anticipated.

Odedra’s next production sees him stepping outside his performance role to create a stunning and theatrical full-length dance production for an international cast of eight dancers. Named in response to the solidarity movement which followed horrific murders at the offices of Charlie Hebdo in Paris, **#JeSuis** is an edgy and thought-provoking choreographic work. With dancers from Turkey, Aakash Odedra explores the strangulation of freedom of speech, the rise of xenophobic attitudes and the displacement of people through conflict. As atrocities in European cities trend, **#JeSuis** gives voice to stories in other lands that our media readily forget. Each dancer tells us about the struggle to be who we are in places where we are told to be someone else.

Using the real-life stories of his bonded ensemble as his starting point, Aakash’s collaboration reflects his positive history of dance creation since 2011, with Lou Cope as Dramaturg and Nicki Wells as Composer.



**Press coverage of the preview performances:**

*“hashtag by hashtag, the group find their collective voice.”*  
The List ★★★★★

*“the ensemble dance movement is powerful indeed and leaves you longing for more.”* The Scotsman

*“Captivating and beautiful... the piece is powerful in its delivery of exploring displacement, fear and the power of the collective in a post-truth era.”* Carpe Diem Emmie ★★★★★

*“Even as a work in progress this is a hugely powerful piece of contemporary dance”* Edinburgh49 ★★★★★

*“The piece as it stands shows great potential, and its refusal to shy away from the violence and conflict in the world is as refreshing as it is disturbing”* EdFestMag ★★★★★



## 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 (including support in a development bursary) and Akademi (through a major choreographic bursary). 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. Mumur was featured at TED Global (Rio de Janeiro, 2014) and the online video has been seen 800,000 times.



# Booking Details

Availability:	September/December 2018 and January/June 2019
Touring Company:	8 performers, 12 on the road
Running time:	to be advised
Venue specification:	Minimum performing area 8m depth, 10m width. Day before get in required, with lighting and masking rigged in advance of the company's arrival.
Cost (UK only)	£2300 plus VAT
Education and access:	Workshops available for all ages and experience in Kathak, Contemporary Dance and Bollywood.
Video trailer:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj7_QKGP54I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj7_QKGP54I</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.stdma.com">www.stdma.com</a> <a href="http://www.aakashodra.co.uk">www.aakashodra.co.uk</a>
Work in progress (2017):	10th-12th October Journeys Festival, Manchester 21st October Journeys Festival Portsmouth
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