

**AAKASH  
ODEDRA  
COMPANY**

Sarah Trist  
Dance Management Agency

# Murmur 2.0 & Inked

a solo double bill performed by Aakash Odedra



***“Odedra’s grit as a performer and strength of vision as a creator are both extremely impressive” Artsdesk.com***

*“a powerful stage presence... his dancing is a pleasure”*  
Artsdesk.com

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. Long regarded as a dancer and performer of outstanding ability; as an artist he is increasingly seen as a unique and interesting creative voice.

Created in 2014 as his second full length production, **Murmur 2.0** and **Inked** is a double bill of personally-inspired solo work. **Inked**, the first piece of the evening, choreographed by French/Belgian choreographer Damien Jalet, takes as its starting point the practice of scarification and tattoos as marks of identity in his grandmother’s Rajput caste. Not sparing himself at all physically, Odedra gives us dance as a series of transformations, whirling on the floor on his knees, inking two eyes on his shoulder blades and standing on his head to create an alien creature and finally becoming a human spirograph creating patterns in ink on the white paper floor. The effect is mesmerizing and intensely expressive.



**Murmur 2.0**, made in collaboration with Australian choreographer Lewis Major and Ars Electronica Futurelab, is a response to Aakash's experience of dyslexia, a condition severe enough for him not to recognise the correct spelling of his own name (with its double Aa) until the age of 20. His response to his alienation from written language was to become a dancer. We can only be grateful considering this is the result, a work where misconceptions about dyslexia are revealed through a complex fusion of visual design, light, sound and movement. Dyslexic audiences have responded extremely positively to **Murmur 2.0**, with its rejection of societal norms in favour of artistic expression. Aakash has become an Ambassador for national charity Dyslexia Action, and gives inspiring workshops and talks to dyslexic pupils in mainstream schools and special education in association with this programme.



## 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 Swapngata 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). With Aakash Odedra Company's latest work, #JeSuis, a group piece for 7 dancers, Aakash steps out of his performing role to focus on choreography for the first time. #JeSuis is also touring in 2019.

# Booking Details

Availability:

Touring Company: 1 performer, 5 on the road  
Running time: 100 minutes  
Venue specification: Minimum performing area 10 depth, 9m width.  
Day before get-in required.  
Company supplements technical equipment within the venue with hired-in projectors and lighting as necessary.

Age suitability: suitable for all ages but best experienced by 8+  
Cost (UK only): £2000 plus VAT.  
Education and access: Workshops available for all ages and experience in Kathak, Contemporary Dance and Bollywood. Work with dyslexic students of particular relevance.

Video trailers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AB80ji4NBE> (Mumur 2.0)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkWqYZe3TbQ> (Inked)

Full-length performance: <https://vimeo.com/141231934> p/w - murmurtheplace  
<https://vimeo.com/98377916> p/w - inkedbirmingham

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