

AAKASH
ODEDRA
COMPANY



Sarah Trist
Dance Management Agency

Samsara

A new duet choreographed and performed by
Aakash Odedra and Shenyuan Hu



Made in association with the Bagri Foundation

Aakash Odedra is a British contemporary choreographer and performer whose distinctive movement language is inspired by South Asian classical and contemporary dance. His artistic collaborations create relatable stories on stage inspired by human experience. Aakash is known internationally for his solo productions and ensemble work. In 2019 he will collaborate for the first time to create a duet with **Hu Shenyan** from Shanghai.

One of the outstanding performers of his generation, **Hu Shenyan** has danced for big name Chinese choreographers Yavin Wang and Yang Liping. Supported by Yang Liping Art Foundation, he began his choreographic career, winning awards in competitions in Beijing, Seoul and Rome.

The starting point for the dance duet **Samsara** is 16th century Chinese text Journey to the West which describes how original Buddhist philosophy was sought by Tang Sanzang through an arduous journey to India and brought to China. This story of cultural exchange echoes the common philosophy and shared language of the artists involved. They do not speak one another's language and rely on interpreters to communicate verbally, but their connection through movement is undeniably fast track.

Samsara's themes will include the changing Buddhist iconography from India to China; the age-old idea of sharing cultures and searching for knowledge; the arduous journey to truth and the natural physical barrier between the Indian and Chinese civilisations. The duo aims to make a piece of movement work which is touching, beautiful and readable by audiences of all cultures.

Aakash's long-standing collaborator Nicki Wells is composing for **Samsara** for live ensemble with a live music ensemble. Lou Cope will join the production as Dramaturg following Aakash and Lou's successful collaboration on the award winning **#JeSuis**.

On Aakash Odedra: *'...an exceptionally agile dancer who, it appears, has no trouble slipping between styles, effortlessly multilingual.'* New York Times



On Hu Shenyan: *'Hu Shenyan is outstanding as the self-sacrificial concubine Yu Ling. He moves with an eerie suppleness, the delicate, voluptuous coils of his body evoking a rare hot-house beauty. His farewell duet with his defeated lover is infinitely, exquisitely sad.'* The Guardian



Photos by Nirvair Singh

Booking Details

Availability:	upon request
Touring Company:	2 dancers, 3 musicians (optional), 3 technicians
Venue specification:	Minimum performing area 12m x 10m Day before get-in required, with lighting and masking rigged in advance of the company's arrival. Tech. spec. not yet available.
Age suitability	suitable for all ages but best experienced by 8+
Cost (UK only)	£4500 + VAT per performance (£2400 + VAT with recorded music). Prices include accommodation and travel (Shenyuan's international travel may need to be considered depending on shape of tour)
Video trailer:	www.vimeo.com/aakashodetra/akhu
Education and access:	Workshops available for all ages and experience in Kathak, Contemporary Dance and Bollywood.
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