

Akshay Sharma



AKSHAY SHARMA

ARTIST

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EMOTIONALLY RESONATE RIGOUROUS INTERDISCIPLINARY

ABOUT

Akshay Sharma is an independent choreographer and performer. Born and raised in India and now based in London. His relationship to the Indian form is through classical music. Here he creatively informs the dramaturgy of his work, using specific musical structures, rhythms and textures from the highly complex and emotive Dhrupad Hindustani tradition alongside new contemporary scores.

"I was fortunate to explore my love for artistic creation from a young age by exploring poetry, debates, theatre, dance and mime in India where I was born and raised. I continued by receiving professional training in ballet, jazz and contemporary dance while completing a bachelors and a masters degree in Economics in New Delhi. I moved to the UK in 2014 to further train in contemporary dance at Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Leeds. As a maker, themes of migration, colonisation, the value of emotions and the need for a personal vocabulary of movement became key, often using improvisation as a tool. The methodology around improvisation has been dominated by a very white western aesthetic and I had a desire to depart from this.

I turned to my training in Indian classical music, which is improvisational in nature, to help me understand that there are more ways to be in the artistic creative process and to approach improvisation and composition. I utilise this process to approach improvisation and composition, using the structures of the Indian classical system in my work, without making the work about classicism nor do I use any of the Indian classical dance languages. As I delve into my experience and ground it in the personal, I'm able to notice the experience of the global majority reflected in my work."

Akshay Sharma.

His choreographic work has been supported by London Contemporary Dance School, Arts Council England, Dance Umbrella, Akram Khan Company, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Yorkshire Dance, Kala Sangam, Dance City and Chandigarh Sangeet Natak Akademi.

WORK

Can this Place be a temple?

Commissioned by The Place, funded by Arts Council England.

Premiere – The Place (October 2023), Kalasangam, (October 2023) and Dancecity (February 2024)

No. of Performers: 1 performer **Duration:** 55mins | **Touring:** Available for touring | **Space:** End on performance black box theatre. **Audience:** Ages 10+

What Did the Fire Burn? – Working title

Supported by Kalasangam Commission to premiere Bradford City of Culture 2025, Choreodrome residency 2024.

No. of Performers: 5 Performers. **Duration:** 60 mins. | **Touring:** Available from August 2025 | Current – R&D phase, Looking for residency opportunities, partners and funding.