

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 22 November 2022

**SEETA PATEL DANCE UNITES WITH BOURNEMOUTH
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN FRESH REALISATION OF
STRAVINSKY'S ICONIC *THE RITE OF SPRING***

Seeta Patel Dance join forces with Kirill Karabits and the BSO at Sadler's Wells
[Images: Foteini Christofilopoulou; Konrad Cwik]

- New partnership between **Seeta Patel Dance** and **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** under its Chief Conductor **Kirill Karabits** to present Stravinsky's iconic *The Rite of Spring*.
- Patel's new realisation for **12 Bharatanatyam dancers and full orchestra** follows her smaller-scale 2019 production, described as "*an evocative, visceral interpretation*" by The Stage.
- Having championed lesser-known music from Eastern Europe through his 'Voices from the East' BSO series, Karabits brings a fresh perspective to Stravinsky's masterpiece as dancers and musicians unite.
- Performances take place at **Sadler's Wells** on **Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 March 2023**
- **Tickets from £15-£55**

Seeta Patel has created a compelling interpretation of Stravinsky's iconic *The Rite of Spring*, with the classical South Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam performed by a cast of 12 dancers in an ensemble piece, with the power and impact of the full Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) under its Chief Conductor, Kirill Karabits.

Unusually, this version subverts tradition by choosing a male as The Chosen One, elevating him to a deity to whom all sacrifice themselves.

Normally seen in solo presentations, **Bharatanatyam** is an incredibly rich art form that is being recognised more and more globally within a wider dance landscape. The performances — for 12 dancers and full orchestra — present an expanded full version of Patel's acclaimed 2019 production for the form.

Kirill Karabits is known for championing undiscovered symphonic works from former Soviet countries through his acclaimed series, *Voices from the East*. Together with the BSO he has brought attention to works that fuse Eastern influences with the traditional symphony orchestra.

***The Rite of Spring* is co-commissioned by Sadler's Wells.**

British Sign Language Interpreted Post-Show Talk on Monday 13 March.

Seeta Patel Dance and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra present *The Rite of Spring* at Sadler's Wells on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 March 2023. Ticket Office: 020 7863 8000 or www.sadlerswells.com

[ENDS]

Notes to Editors:

Press Night: Monday 13 March at 7:30 pm

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Press images can be downloaded from <http://media.sadlerswells.com> – please sign up to log in.

Listings information:

Show dates: Monday 13 & Tuesday 14 March

Press Night: Monday 13 March at 7:30 pm

No under 5's.

Live music by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, conductor Kirill Karabits

About Seeta Patel Dance

Seeta Patel Dance - contributing something vital, political, beautiful and urgent to the world with dance and performance.

Seeta Patel Dance creates live stage performances focusing on classical Indian and contemporary dance and dance theatre. Live performance is supported by Audience Development (post show talks), Outreach (workshops), Advocacy (female leadership programs/talks) and crucially Talent Development.

Supporting young talent is a cornerstone of the Seeta Patel Dance's vision. The Company prides itself in providing an aspirational environment where young people in this sector can see the true value of the art form and its place in the world, supporting artists through workshops, masterclasses, mentoring and apprenticeship programmes.

By exposing them to a professional practice, giving them better tools to support their personal and professional development and showing them the possibilities within the sector, Seeta Patel Dance commits to improving the richness of the dance landscape.

Seeta Patel Dance already has an international presence and reputation and plans to extend its reach and appeal to even more audiences worldwide.

About Seeta Patel

The award-winning choreographer/dancer Seeta Patel was born in London and began her training under the guidance of Kiran Ratna in 1990. She since worked with a range of Bharatanatyam and contemporary dance professionals including Mavin Khoo, Padma Shri Adyar K Lakshman, Pushkala Gopal, Darshan Singh Bhuller, and more. Seeta has performed and toured with a number of companies including DV8 Physical Theatre, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, David Hughes Dance Company and Mavin Khoo Dance.

She has presented solo and ensemble works at the Southbank Centre Purcell Room, Royal Opera House: ROH2 and Sadler's Wells: Cycle of Change (2005), She Was Still (2005-6), Alter Ego (2007), Shringara (2009), Last One Standing (2010) and First Light (2014).

She presented her solo classical London debut, Shringara: Journey of Desire, to a capacity audience at The Clore Upstairs, Royal Opera House (June 2009), and toured the work around the UK in 2010/11. She has subsequently presented solo classical works Dancing My Siva and Something Then, Something Now to sold out audiences at Sadler's Wells and the Purcell Room (Darbar Festival).

Over the past 12 years, Patel has received numerous awards and bursaries for her creative and professional development. She was awarded the Lisa Ullmann Travel Scholarship to study in India (2005) and at the New York Film Academy (2013). In 2017 she received the Washington S&R Award for her work championing Bharatanatyam in the diaspora.

Seeta worked as a choreographic collaborator with the world renowned contemporary circus company, Gandini Juggling, for their production Sigma which premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2017 and subsequently won the Archangel Award, Total Theatre Award, and Asian Arts Award. The show is touring nationally and internationally during 2020.

In tandem with her choreographic and performing work Seeta has worked in film, TV and theatre. She produced a multi award-winning short dance film, The Art of Defining Me in 2013, which gained national and international acclaim. She was a judge, mentor and advisor for the inaugural BBC TV Young Dancer Competition and in 2016 choreographed a new play at the Theatre Royal Stratford East called The House of In Between.

Seeta's recent contemporary work in collaboration with the Australian choreographer and performer Lina Limosani is the one-woman show, Not Today's Yesterday which takes a dramatic look at the whitewashing of history around the world. The show was a recipient of the Adelaide Artist Fringe Fund and premiered successfully at the Adelaide Fringe Festival in 2018 where it won Best Dance, and the Peace Foundation Award.

Seeta toured Not Today's Yesterday around the UK in 2018 and 2019, including the Edinburgh Fringe as part of the British Council showcase. During the tour she curated a series of lively and interesting post-show talks in association with a range of activists, historians and artists. The work went on to tour internationally including Australia, India, Italy and Egypt.

Seeta's critically acclaimed Bharatanatyam version of the iconic ballet, The Rite of Spring, toured the UK in 2019 and will be touring in 2020/21 and again in 2022/23 when it will be performed at Sadler's Wells with an extended cast and full orchestra. The constantly evolving world of South Asian Dance is developing as an integral part of the international dance landscape and Seeta Patel is a vital part of this growing business; she mentors and supports up-and-coming dancers, she produces high quality work which entertains and engages an increasing audience both in the UK and abroad.

About Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

www.bsolive.com | @BSOrchestra

Chief Conductor – Kirill Karabits | Artist-in-Residence – Felix Klier

Principal Guest Conductor – Mark Wigglesworth | Associate Guest Conductor – David Hill

Conductor Emeritus – Marin Alsop | Conductor Laureate – Andrew Litton

Assistant Conductor – Tom Fetherstonhaugh

One of the UK's best-loved orchestras, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is a professional ensemble known for championing the role of culture in people's lives. With residencies in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, Poole, Portsmouth and Yeovil, it is the largest cultural provider in the South West of England, serving one of the biggest and most diverse regions in the UK.

The Orchestra, under its **Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits**, is known for pushing artistic boundaries, and its ongoing series of music from former Soviet states, **Voices from the East**, continues to gain praise. Boasting an enviable list of principal conductors, including Marin Alsop, the first female principal conductor of a major UK orchestra, the BSO has given memorable performances worldwide and with regular live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM.

The Orchestra's livestreamed broadcasts have cemented its reputation for presenting live symphonic music of the highest quality, and remain popular around the globe following its inaugural season in 2020.

In 2022/23, the series features artists Dame Sarah Connolly, James Ehnes, Laura van der Heijden, and a host of the UK's leading music broadcasters. Described by The Times as "one of the most inspiring figures on the concert scene today", **Horn player Felix Klier also returns – as the Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence** – following a memorable UK concerto debut with the BSO in 2021.

Committed to new music, the BSO has presented premiere performances of works by Carmen Ho, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Magnus Lindberg, Elizabeth Ogonek and Shirley J. Thompson OBE in recent years. It celebrates the work of composer **Anna Korsun**, who becomes its Composer-in-Residence, in 2023.

The Orchestra also marks a landmark moment when inclusive ensembles BSO Resound and RNS Moves join forces for a new commission by Kate Whitley, with performances in Poole and Gateshead in early 2023. Winner of the 2019 Royal Philharmonic Society's Impact Award, BSO Resound — the world's first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra — continues to receive international attention for igniting change.

Challenging barriers to high-quality music for all, the BSO leads hundreds of events each year, from award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs, and in 2022, the Orchestra welcomed its first community-based Young Associate musicians.

The BSO's Principal Broadcast Partner is **BBC Radio 3**

The BSO is **Classic FM**'s Orchestra in the South of England.

About Sadler's Wells

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance organisation. We strive to make and share dance that inspires us all. Our acclaimed year-round programme spans dance of every kind, from contemporary to flamenco, Bollywood to ballet, salsa to street dance and tango to tap. We commission, produce and present more dance than any other organisation in the world. Since 2005, we have helped to bring close to 200 new dance works to the stage, embracing both the popular and the unknown.

Each year, over half a million people visit our three London theatres - Sadler's Wells Theatre, Lilian Baylis Studio and Peacock Theatre. Millions more attend our touring productions nationally and internationally or explore our digital platforms, including Sadler's Wells Digital Stage. In 2023 we're opening a fourth London venue in Stratford's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Sadler's Wells East will house a 550-seat mid-scale theatre, as well as facilities for the Choreographic School and Hip Hop Theatre Academy.

Supporting artists is at the heart of our work. We have associate artists and companies, which nurture some of the most exciting talent working in dance today. We host the National Youth Dance Company, which draws together some of the brightest young dancers from across the country. Sadler's Wells Breakin' Convention runs professional development programmes to champion and develop the world's best hip hop artists, as well as producing, programming and touring groundbreaking hip hop performances.

Around 30,000 people take part in our learning and engagement programmes every year. We support schools local to our theatres in Islington and Stratford, designing experiences for children and young people to watch, explore and critically engage with the arts. We also run Company of Elders, a resident performance company of dancers aged over 60 who rehearse with renowned artists to make new work for public performances locally, nationally and internationally.

Sadler's Wells is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation | www.sadlerswells.com

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