

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 22 September 2023

STAR DANCER JOINS BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AS COMMUNITIES GET MOVING TO A NEW BEAT



Choreographer Seeta Patel unites with the BSO this autumn

- Star choreographer and dancer Seeta Patel, who is best known for her critically acclaimed Bharatanatyam interpretations, unites with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) to bring workshops celebrating movement and music to Dorset and Hampshire this month.
- Care home residents, sixth form students and community dance groups are among those who will benefit from the events, which will be led by Seeta and music leaders from the Orchestra.
- The workshops will take place in late September, both in the BCP region - in partnership with Bournemouth & Poole College and Pavilion Dance South West - and in Hampshire, in partnership with Anvil Arts, Basingstoke.
- The critically acclaimed production of *The Rite of Spring*, which unites Seeta Patel Dance and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under its Chief Conductor Kirill Karabits, tours the region this November in Poole (15 Nov) and Basingstoke (23 Nov).

Care home residents, sixth form students, and community dance groups will try their hand at the intricate Bharatanatyam dance form this autumn, as leading choreographer Seeta Patel visits Dorset and Hampshire.

Patel, who is a former judge and mentor for BBC TV's Young Dancer competition, has worked in partnership with the BSO to devise the workshops. The events are designed to encourage movement through music and will challenge and inspire both young and old.

In the BCP region the team will work with residents at a care home before visiting **Bournemouth and Poole College** to work with aspiring dancers in partnership with **Pavilion Dance South West**. In Hampshire, Seeta and the BSO will spend time with dancers in partnership with **Anvil Arts, Basingstoke**.

Members of the public will be able to watch Seeta's professional dancers in action when Seeta Patel Dance returns in full to perform *The Rite of Spring* alongside Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in November. The events will take place at **Lighthouse, Poole (15 Nov)** and **The Anvil, Basingstoke (23 Nov)** and follow performances at Sadler's Wells, London this spring, which were hailed a critical success.

Choreographer and dancer Seeta Patel said: *"The ongoing partnership between Seeta Patel Dance and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra has been a creative relationship celebrating east and west. I look forward to sharing this with people in Basingstoke and Poole this month, as we take our workshops out on the road. I'm also excited to be returning to the region – with Seeta Patel Dance – in November when we reunite with the full Orchestra and Kirill Karabits to present The Rite of Spring once more."*

BSO Chief Executive, Dougie Scarfe OBE said: *"Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra exists to bring music into people's lives – and we can't wait to do this in a brand-new way, in partnership with the brilliant Seeta Patel, this autumn. The community events, which will explore movement and music, will reach people both young and old across two days, and we hope they will both stimulate and inspire. Seeta's fresh interpretation of The Rite of Spring – a work that has remained one of music's most outrageous and exciting pieces - was hailed by press as a must-see earlier this year. Bringing it to audiences in Basingstoke and Poole in November, in what will undoubtedly be a memorable experience, marks the pinnacle of the BSO's artistic partnership with Seeta Patel Dance to date. We hope you'll be able to join us."*

Seeta Patel leads workshops in partnership with community musicians from Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra across the BCP region and Basingstoke in late September.

Seeta Patel Dance and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform *The Rite of Spring* with conductor Kirill Karabits, at Lighthouse, Poole (15 Nov, tickets from £8) and The Anvil, Basingstoke (23 Nov, tickets from £14). See bsolive.com – and anvilarts.org.uk – for further details.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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Workshops will take place in the BCP region on Thursday 28 September and in and around Basingstoke on Friday 29 September. Filming access is available on request.

1. High-resolution images [available here](#).
 - a) Seeta Patel Dance in performance at Sadler's Wells with the BSO © Foteini Christofilopoulou
 - b) Kirill Karabits conducts The Rite of Spring with the BSO and Seeta Patel Dance ©Mark Allan
 - c) Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ©Mark Allan
2. **ABOUT BHARATANATYAM DANCE** is a holistic and comprehensive dance form which is very expressive on many levels combining abstract movement and storytelling. Every single element of the body is used.

Originating from the Southern state of Tamil Nadu, this South Indian classical dance form shares two main components: Nritta the pure dance aspect, featuring the movements of the body, footwork, geometry, shapes and patterns. Abhinaya, the second component, is about the storytelling and expression through using face, body and hand gestures alongside its relationship to the poetry and music, which is the throughline across the whole dance form.

3. **ABOUT BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** | bsolive.com | @BSOrchestra
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. Based at Lighthouse, Poole, the Orchestra has residencies in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, Portsmouth, Southampton and Yeovil – it is the largest cultural provider in the South West, 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; its digital performances remain popular around the globe, reaching around 900 regular online viewers for each performance. In 2023/24, the series features guest artists Vadim Gluzman, Alina Ibragimova, Sunwook Kim and Awadagin Pratt alongside a host of the UK's leading music broadcasters. The former winner of the Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians, pianist **Alexander Malofeev** also features, when he becomes the Orchestra's Artist-in-Residence following popular appearances in recent seasons.

Committed to new music, the BSO has presented premiere performances of works by Carmen Ho, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Magnus Lindberg, Anna Korsun, Elizabeth Ogonek and Shirley J. Thompson OBE in recent years.

Challenging barriers to high-quality music for all, the BSO leads hundreds of community-based events each year, from its award-winning work in health and care settings to partnerships with schools and music education hubs –



and in the 2023/24 season the Orchestra will welcome its next community-based **BSO Young Associate musicians**. Following international attention for igniting change, **BSO Resound** – the world’s first professional disabled-led ensemble at the core of a major orchestra, and winner of the 2019 Royal Philharmonic Society’s Impact Award – continues to challenge perceptions.

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

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

4. ABOUT SEETA PATEL

The award-winning choreographer and dancer Seeta Patel was born in London and began her training in Bristol under the guidance of Kiran Ratna in 1990. She has since worked with a range of Bharatanatyam and contemporary dance professionals, and has choreographed, performed and toured internationally with a number of prestigious dance companies such as DV8 Physical Theatre, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, David Hughes Dance Company and Mavin Khoo Dance.

Since 2005, Patel has presented solo and ensemble performances to sold out audiences at renowned venues such as Southbank Centre Purcell Room, Royal Opera House, ROH2, Sadler’s Wells and Edinburgh Fringe. In tandem with her choreographic and performing work Seeta has worked in film, TV and theatre and has received multiple awards and bursaries for her creative and professional development.

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 and produces high quality work which entertains and engages an increasing audience both in the UK and abroad.

Seeta Patel has been a staunch advocate of Indian dance for over nearly 2 decades, and this collaboration not only marks a major step for the Company, but for the future of South Asian Dance in the UK.

ABOUT SEETA PATEL DANCE | seetapateldance.com | [@seetadances](https://www.instagram.com/seetadances)

Seeta Patel Dance contributes something vital, political, beautiful and urgent to the world through dance and performance. Spearheaded by award-winning choreographer and dancer Seeta Patel, the Company creates live stage performances which are rooted in classical Indian and contemporary dance and dance theatre. Performance is supported by Audience Development, Outreach, Advocacy and Talent Development, which is a cornerstone of Seeta Patel Dance’s vision. Seeta Patel Dance is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and enjoys an international presence and a strong reputation within the dance community. The Company plans to continue to extend its reach worldwide and its mission to introduce new audiences to classical and contemporary Indian dance.

