



# AAKASH ODEDRA & LEWIS MAJOR

# LITTLE MURMUR

## THEATRE

 **Studio Theatre,  
Darwin Entertainment Centre**



**Sat 17 Aug**

**5pm**

**Sun 18 Aug**

**1pm**

**Duration**

**40mins**

Photo: Pamela Raith

### NOTE

Contains loud music and strong visual stimuli. Suitable for ages 7+

**DARWIN  
FESTIVAL**  
8-25 AUGUST 2024

AAKASH  
ODEDRA  
COMPANY

LEWIS  
MAJOR  
CHOREOGRAPHY

  
the **spark**  
arts for children

  
Government  
of South Australia  
Arts South Australia

 BRITISH  
COUNCIL

## Darwin Festival Acknowledgement:

Darwin Festival takes place on what has always been Larrakia land. We wish to pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of this Country and to their ancestors. As the Festival welcomes contemporary artists and art from Australia and around the world, we also celebrate the continuing culture of the Larrakia people.

Scroll through to read more about this performance of Little Murmur.

Enjoy the show!

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## PROGRAM NOTES

Based on the true story of one child's struggle with letters and words, *Little Murmur* is about facing challenges and overcoming the odds.

*Little Murmur* was created when Aakash Odedra Company were commissioned by Spark Arts for Children to re-imagine one of their original productions, *Murmur 2.0* for a younger audience.

Diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age, Aakash found school very challenging. Defined by his learning difficulties, not his abilities, dance became his mode of expression. *Little Murmur* explores the warped and exaggerated realities of living in a world you struggle to process by combining visual design and technology with dance and humour.

*Little Murmur* is an ode to the experience of dyslexia through dance and technology. In this piece, the visual technologies developed by Ars Electronica Futurelab (Linz, Austria) are employed during the show to enhance the movement, footwork and gestures of the performer giving an insight into the dyslexic mind.

Allowing the audience to see through a window, a place in the imagination where letters can fly

away from the reader's eyes like a flock of birds, a murmuration. The show presents the challenges of growing up in the conventional education system where words and text feel like an alien language. It involves projection and tornados of paper flying across the stage. This visual quality of bringing stationary objects to life began to reflect what it is like to be dyslexic. The tricks of the projection resemble the changes of what the eye and mind see and how the information is perceived by the brain.

Dyslexia allows Aakash to view the world differently and more creatively. In *Little Murmur*, Aakash has passed his story to a new dancer who now hunts for their own missing 'A'. Jump into a world of dance, technology and illustration to see this heartfelt journey take flight.

## **AAKASH ODEDRA COMPANY**

Based in Leicester, Aakash Odedra Company exists to deliver exceptional creative experiences for audiences and participants and to help create a society that is happier and healthier through dance and the arts. We want to ensure that our dance work reflects excellence, removes barriers to access excellent dance and art and makes art and dance education opportunities more widely available. Our mission is to create

dance works through a synthesis of kathak, bharatanatyam, contemporary and Bollywood-jazz which push boundaries, responding to and drawing inspiration from contemporary issues. Bilingual in classical and contemporary dance, we use the voice of British-Asian experience to translate ancient and contemporary movement languages to tell new stories relevant to today. Our location within Leicester's international communities has allowed us to be more aware of, and pro-active about, the opportunities of plural heritage and the importance of a culture of accessibility, social justice, messaging and making people feel welcome. Aakash Odedra Company is an Associate Company at Curve Leicester and Birmingham Hippodrome, and is a National Partner Organisation of Sadler's Wells and one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations.



# **CREDITS**

**CHOREOGRAPHERS** Aakash Odedra  
& Lewis Major

**PERFORMERS** Subhash Viman Gorania  
& Kallirroi Vratti

**ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** Kesha  
Raithatha

**PRODUCER** Megan Maw

**COMPOSER** Nicki Wells

**MUSICAL SUPERVISOR** Nitin Sawhney

**VISUAL TECHNOLOGY** Ars Electronica  
Futurelab (Austria)

**TOUR PRODUCER** Far and Away  
Productions

**TECHNICIAN** Sheriton Swan

**COMPANY MANAGER** Lee-Anne  
Donnolley

**PHOTOS** Pamela Raith & Angela  
Grabowska

# DARWIN FESTIVAL

Darwin Festival is the centre piece of what makes August in Darwin the best time of year. Loved by locals and adored by visitors, this tropical winter festival invites you to experience the very best in Northern Territory, Australian and international arts and culture. It is full of magical moments that we hope will stay with you for years to come.

**DARWIN FESTIVAL 2024**  
RUNS 8 – 25 AUGUST

Sign up to our e-news for all the latest updates and information.



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