



SEETA PATEL DANCE (UK) INTERNATIONAL TOURING



Image credit: Foteini Christofilopoulou

Alt text: Several smiling dancers twist on one foot with a blue background.

Production: The Rite of Spring
www.seetapateldance.com

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WELCOME

Seeta Patel Dance is excited to attend the 2026 editions of HKPAX, PAMS and China SPAF for the first time; it offers us a chance to meet, connect with and deepen relationships with many international peers and partners in Asia. As a UK based company, our experienced Executive Director (Rae Lee) and Chief Operations Consultant (Ian Abbott) are available to offer insights and connections into the UK classical Indian dance scene, can share an overview of the wider trends in the UK dance ecology and talk about the upcoming plans, productions and projects that the company are working on.

Seeta Patel Dance 很榮幸能首次參與2026年的香港演藝博覽會 (HKPAX)、首爾表演藝術博覽會 (PAMS) 以及中國上海國際藝術節演出交易會 (China SPAF)，期待藉此與亞洲及國際同業夥伴見面，建立連結並深化合作。作為立足英國的舞團，我們經驗豐富的行政總監Rae Lee與首席營運顧問Ian Abbott屆時將在場提供有關英國古典印度舞界別的市場與產業機遇，亦非常樂意分享英國舞蹈生態的最新趨勢，誠邀各界與我們就著舞團即將推出的製作、計劃與合作項目，作出交流。

Image credit: Karol Wyszynski

Alt text: Six dancers from Seeta Patel Dance perform outdoors in flowing costumes, posed dynamically against a cloudy sky and historic building backdrop.



ABOUT US

Seeta Patel Dance (SPD) creates pioneering work rooted in Bharatanatyam, are committed to the values of integrity, courage and responsibility and centre diverse perspectives across the organisation.

Artistically led by Seeta Patel, SPD has built an international reputation for innovative classical and contemporary dance across our productions, choreographic development and community work. We use dance and culture as a driver for social change and explore solidarity, belonging and colonial histories to build equitable futures and new pathways for artists and sector leaders from South Asian backgrounds.

Our impact has been recognised with the Adelaide Fringe Best Dance Award, the Eastern Eye Culture and Theatre Award, and an Olivier nomination. Seeta Patel is an Associate at Sadler's Wells and Seeta Patel Dance is an Associate Company of Bristol Old Vic.

Image credit: Dhaenens Johan

Alt text: 6 dancers in colourful costuming are clapping in mid air, on an outside stage.



SEETA PATEL

**Artistic Director, Choreographer,
Dancer, Educator**

Spearheaded by award-winning choreographer, dancer and educator Seeta Patel, SPD creates live stage performances which focus on classical Indian dance, contemporary dance and dance theatre.

Seeta started her Bharatanatyam journey at the age of 10 and by 23 had transitioned to becoming a full time professional dancer. As an independent artist, she has been privileged to work with many talented choreographers, companies and collaborators including: DV8 Physical Theatre, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Gandini Juggling, Grange Park Opera, Menaka Thakkar Dance Company and BBC Young Dancer, which has given her a diverse experience and a lot of creative inspiration.

Setting up the company in 2019, she uses her creativity and platform to challenge ideas of 'othering.' With her deeply rooted practice in traditional Bharatanatyam, paired with her extensive choreographic experience, her role as Artistic Director of SPD allows her to engage with dancers in a grounded and authentic way, countering the often toxic pedagogy of the classical dance space and encouraging rigour alongside wellbeing, creativity and community.

Seeta's story and the stories she shares inspire many people from many different walks of life; she wants to dismantle the hierarchies in Bharatanatyam and contribute to a more equitable artistic landscape, whilst creating world class, authentic work.

Image credit: Stephen Berkeley White

Alt text: Black-and-white portrait of Seeta Patel looking directly at the camera, seated with one hand raised near her face.



THE RITE OF SPRING



Image credit: Seeta Patel Dance

Alt text: Large ensemble of Bharatanatyam dancers performing onstage in front of a live orchestra during The Rite of Spring

Taking the South Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam, with its intricate rhythmic footwork, geometric and dynamic movements and expressive prowess, Seeta Patel created a compelling and critically acclaimed interpretation of Stravinsky's iconic score – The Rite of Spring.

This large scale, 10 dancers Bharatanatyam reimagining of Igor Stravinsky's iconic ballet, originally toured the UK with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and was nominated for an Olivier Award (Best New Dance Production), making her the first woman of colour ever to be acknowledged in this category.

SPD's The Rite Of Spring offers a rare chance for audiences to see Bharatanatyam performed by an ensemble and showcases some of the finest Indian classical dance talent from across the globe.

Bringing Bharatanatyam and Stravinsky together in a powerful explosion of dance and music, this is an exploration through an Eastern philosophical lens that looks beyond notions of the exotic and Orientalist perceptions of Eastern classical arts. SPD's The Rite Of Spring fills an international gap by bridging two classical art forms from different sides of the globe, opening the door to attract new audiences to new spaces.

▶ [Trailer](#)

▶ [Full video](#) (password: rosFULL)

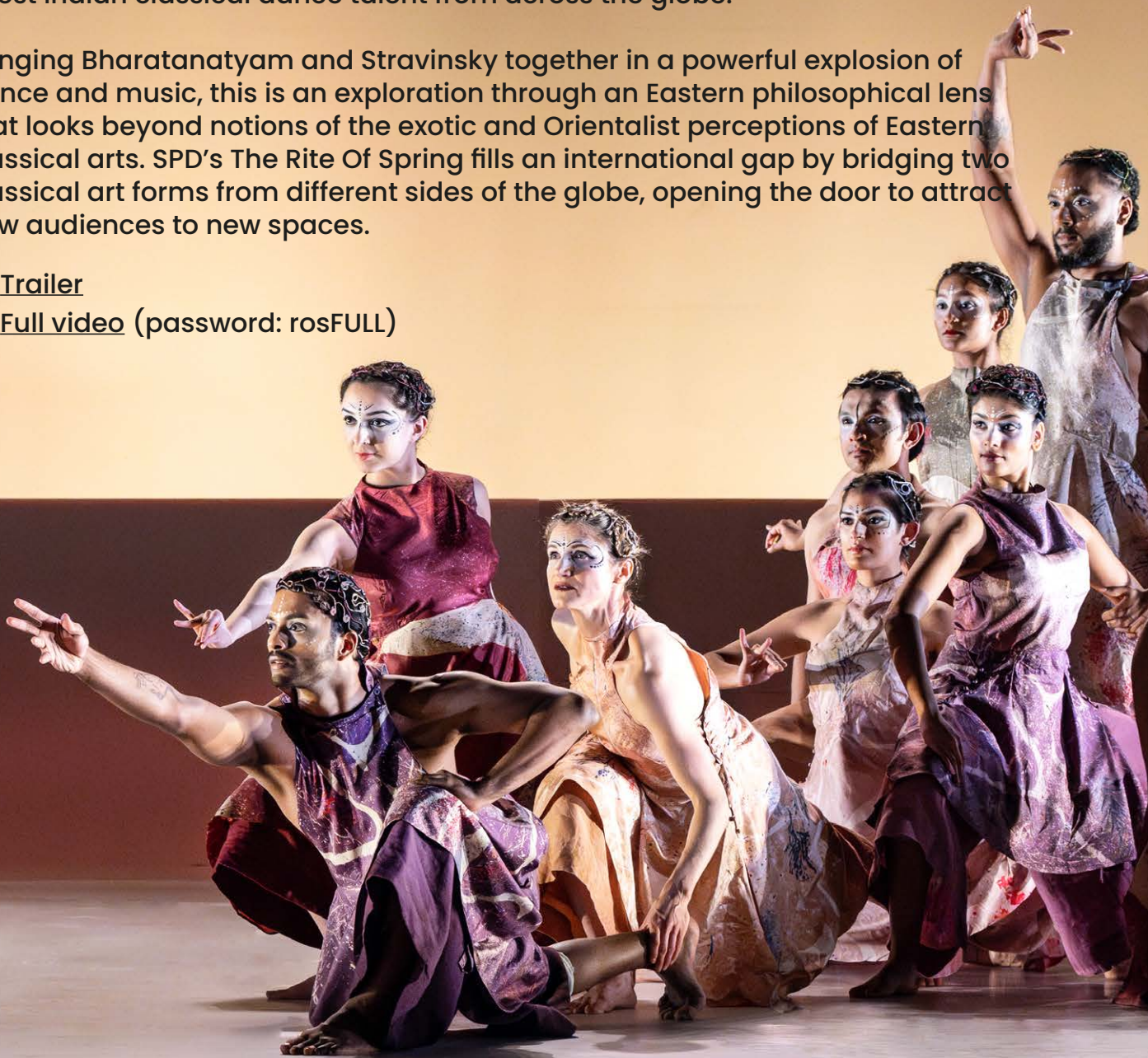


Image credit: Foteini Christofilopoulou

Alt text: A group of dancers huddle together in strong, striking poses, with some pointing towards a dancer standing apart from the group.

Image credit: Foteini Christofilopoulou

Alt text: Performer illuminated in vivid red light, standing in a powerful, ritual-like pose with arms extended.



"Seeta Patel has created an evocative, visceral interpretation of The Rite of Spring" **The Stage**

Image credit: Foteini Christofilopoulou

Alt text: Group of dancers clustered together in a low formation, creating a sculptural ensemble image.



"...then The Rite of Spring began and it was fabulous." **Dance Europe**



Image credit: Karol Wyszynski
Alt text : Dancers in pale costumes moving energetically outdoors, skirts and fabric swirling through the air.

TECHNICAL

- Stage 12m x 12 white / grey dance flooring
- Duration - 35 minutes; Shree often accompanies The Rite of Spring to form a full evening.
- Scale - Large > Mid Scale
- Touring Party - 15 (10 dancers + 5 crew)
- Venue crew - 2 required
- Set Up - Day before 10am start
- Get Out - 2 hours



Image credit: Foteini Christofilopoulou

Alt text: Close-up from behind of ensemble dancers seated together, highlighting intricate costumes and braided hair.

THE GIFT



Image credit: Camilla Greenwell

Alt text: Performer wearing an elaborate sculptural headdress and body adornment against a plain background.

In an era of contested truths, weaponised narratives and the relentless rewriting of history, *The Gift* arrives as an urgent and unflinching response.

Created by Olivier-nominated choreographer Seeta Patel and premiering at Sadlers Wells in Autumn 2027, this powerful, new dance-theatre work blends intricate choreography, poetic text and an evocative original soundscape to explore how identities are shaped, histories are rewritten, and narratives are claimed.

Drawing on myth, folklore and lived experience, *The Gift* examines the subtle mechanisms through which power is gained – not only through conquest, but through language, trade and the stories societies choose to tell.

Moving from magical fable to unsettling political allegory, *The Gift* invites audiences to reflect on the enduring legacies of colonialism and the ways in which inherited histories continue to shape our present. As voices shift and memories are contested, one question remains: who has the power to tell the story?

Image credit: Camilla Greenwell

Alt text: Black-and-white image of a performer framed by thick ropes, head tilted upward in a dramatic pose.



Image credit: Camilla Greenwell

Alt text: Performer lit by a warm orange glow, gazing into a small flame or illuminated vessel.



Image credit: Camilla Greenwell

Alt text: Close-up of a dancer's expressive upper body and hands forming a dramatic gesture against a dark background.

TECHNICAL

- Stage 7m x 7m black dance flooring (preferable)
- Duration - 80 minutes
- Scale - Small > Mid Scale
- Touring Party - 4 (1 performer + 3 crew)
- Venue crew - 1 required
- Set Up - Day before 10am start
- Get Out - 3 hours

Image credit: Camilla Greenwell

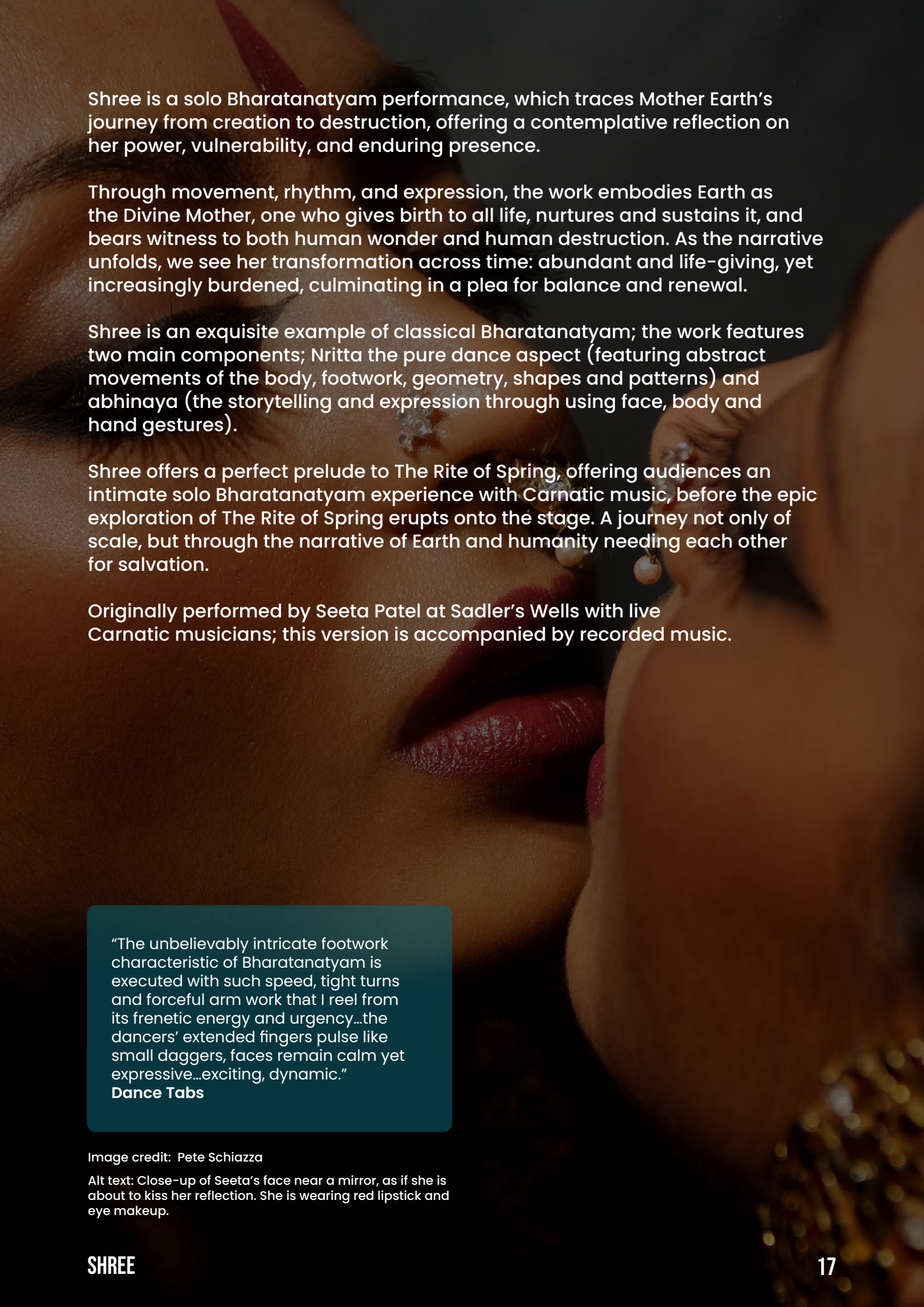
Alt text: Performer holding a rope under blue stage lighting, partially silhouetted.

SHREE



Image credit: Stephen Berkeley White

Alt text: Seeta Patel smiles and looks down, wearing a green outfit with jewellery in her hair and holding a dynamic movement pose.



Shree is a solo Bharatanatyam performance, which traces Mother Earth's journey from creation to destruction, offering a contemplative reflection on her power, vulnerability, and enduring presence.

Through movement, rhythm, and expression, the work embodies Earth as the Divine Mother, one who gives birth to all life, nurtures and sustains it, and bears witness to both human wonder and human destruction. As the narrative unfolds, we see her transformation across time: abundant and life-giving, yet increasingly burdened, culminating in a plea for balance and renewal.

Shree is an exquisite example of classical Bharatanatyam; the work features two main components; Nritta the pure dance aspect (featuring abstract movements of the body, footwork, geometry, shapes and patterns) and abhinaya (the storytelling and expression through using face, body and hand gestures).

Shree offers a perfect prelude to The Rite of Spring, offering audiences an intimate solo Bharatanatyam experience with Carnatic music, before the epic exploration of The Rite of Spring erupts onto the stage. A journey not only of scale, but through the narrative of Earth and humanity needing each other for salvation.

Originally performed by Seeta Patel at Sadler's Wells with live Carnatic musicians; this version is accompanied by recorded music.

"The unbelievably intricate footwork characteristic of Bharatanatyam is executed with such speed, tight turns and forceful arm work that I reel from its frenetic energy and urgency...the dancers' extended fingers pulse like small daggers, faces remain calm yet expressive...exciting, dynamic."

Dance Tabs

Image credit: Pete Schiazza

Alt text: Close-up of Seeta's face near a mirror, as if she is about to kiss her reflection. She is wearing red lipstick and eye makeup.

TECHNICAL

- Stage 7m x 7m black dance flooring (preferable)
- Duration - 20 minutes
- Scale - Small
- Touring Party - 3 (1 performer + 2 crew)
- Venue crew - 1 required
- Set Up - Same Day
- Get Out - 20 minutes



Image credit: Stephen Berkeley White

Alt text: Wearing a bright red outfit, Seeta leans to one side with one arm stretched towards the ceiling and pointing towards herself, while her other arm is behind her back.

ANATOMY OF SOLIDARITY

Co-Creation Community Led Project



Image credit: Irene Zurera

Community participants gathered around a table creating colourful textile and craft artwork.

Anatomy of Solidarity (AOS) is a co-created community led project which fosters connection amongst diverse communities; AOS embeds itself into a town/city over six months, works with four community groups to uncover, remember and engage deeply with that town/city's rich, nuanced history and relationship to solidarity and results in each community group creating original art work and performance which is exhibited at a museum.

The 2026 UK edition of AOS took place in Bristol where we worked with community groups specialising in: printmaking, embroidery, visual art and dance. Their solidarity influenced art and performance works were exhibited at M Shed, Bristol's largest public museum, and the exhibition welcomed 40,000 visitors.

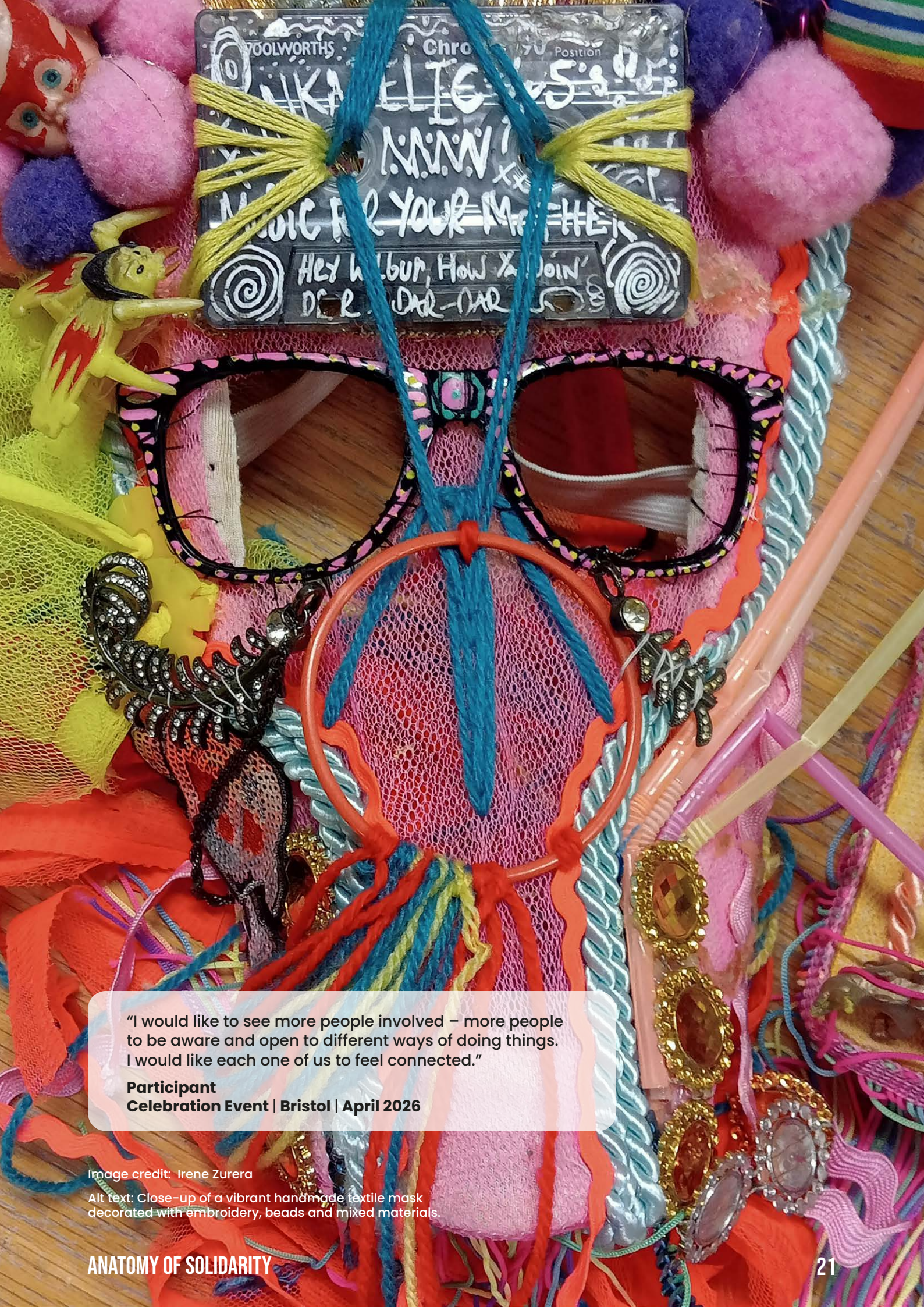
AOS examines how solidarity is built and fractured and its impact on relationships and alliances within and between communities. It offers a creative space to cultivate a more compassionate understanding of solidarity through our shared histories.

Image credit: Irene Zurera

Alt text: Woman standing beside a large, brightly coloured collaborative artwork in a museum setting.

"In many previous narratives about socially engaged practice, people frequently articulate a problematic idea that there needs to be a balance between community involvement and quality – as if the two are somehow at odds. Anatomy of Solidarity is a shining example of how authentic co-creation ensures high quality, relevant and purposeful artwork."

Dr Roz Stewart Hall
Independent Evaluation Report | Bristol | April 2026

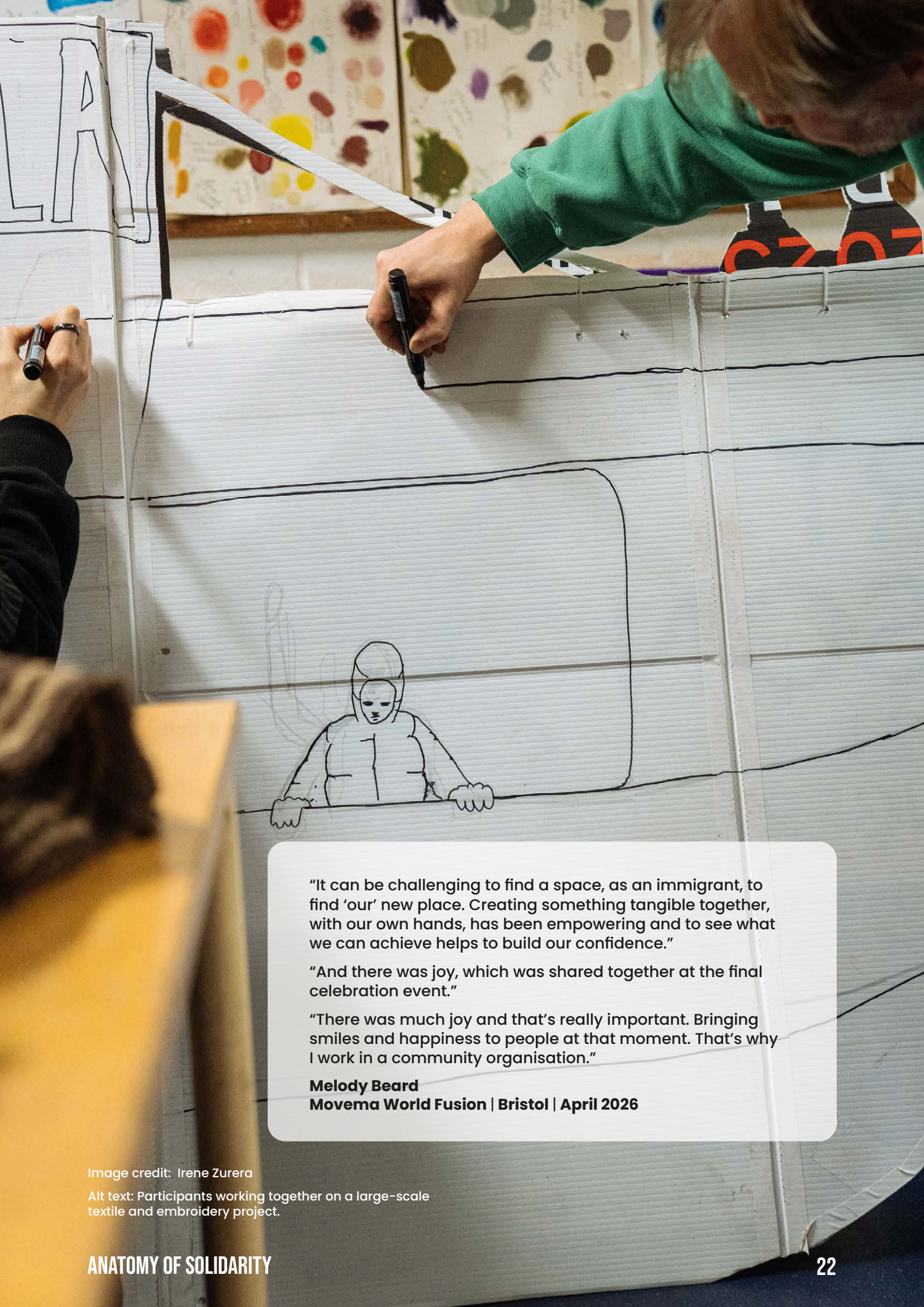


"I would like to see more people involved – more people to be aware and open to different ways of doing things. I would like each one of us to feel connected."

Participant
Celebration Event | Bristol | April 2026

Image credit: Irene Zurera

Alt text: Close-up of a vibrant handmade textile mask decorated with embroidery, beads and mixed materials.



"It can be challenging to find a space, as an immigrant, to find 'our' new place. Creating something tangible together, with our own hands, has been empowering and to see what we can achieve helps to build our confidence."

"And there was joy, which was shared together at the final celebration event."

"There was much joy and that's really important. Bringing smiles and happiness to people at that moment. That's why I work in a community organisation."

Melody Beard

Movema World Fusion | Bristol | April 2026

Image credit: Irene Zurera

Alt text: Participants working together on a large-scale textile and embroidery project.

TECHNICAL

As SPD expands its international partnerships, we are seeking collaborators and hosts to co-deliver future editions of the “Anatomy of...” series in their own towns/cities.

You could be interested in solidarity or want to work with us on a different theme that you’re working with. You might have a city of culture status or are working on a particular funding brief; SPD is open to other iterations of the “Anatomy of...” series. E.g. “Anatomy of Climate Justice”, “Anatomy of Power” or “Anatomy of Equity”.

The “Anatomy of...” series is designed to be adaptable to your context. It offers a unique opportunity for galleries, museums, arts centres, festivals or universities to invest in their communities with a proven project that deepens connection between community groups and enables a creative response to a common theme.



Image credit: Irene Zurera

Alt text: Community workshop scene with participants creating artwork around a table covered in craft materials.

CHOREOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

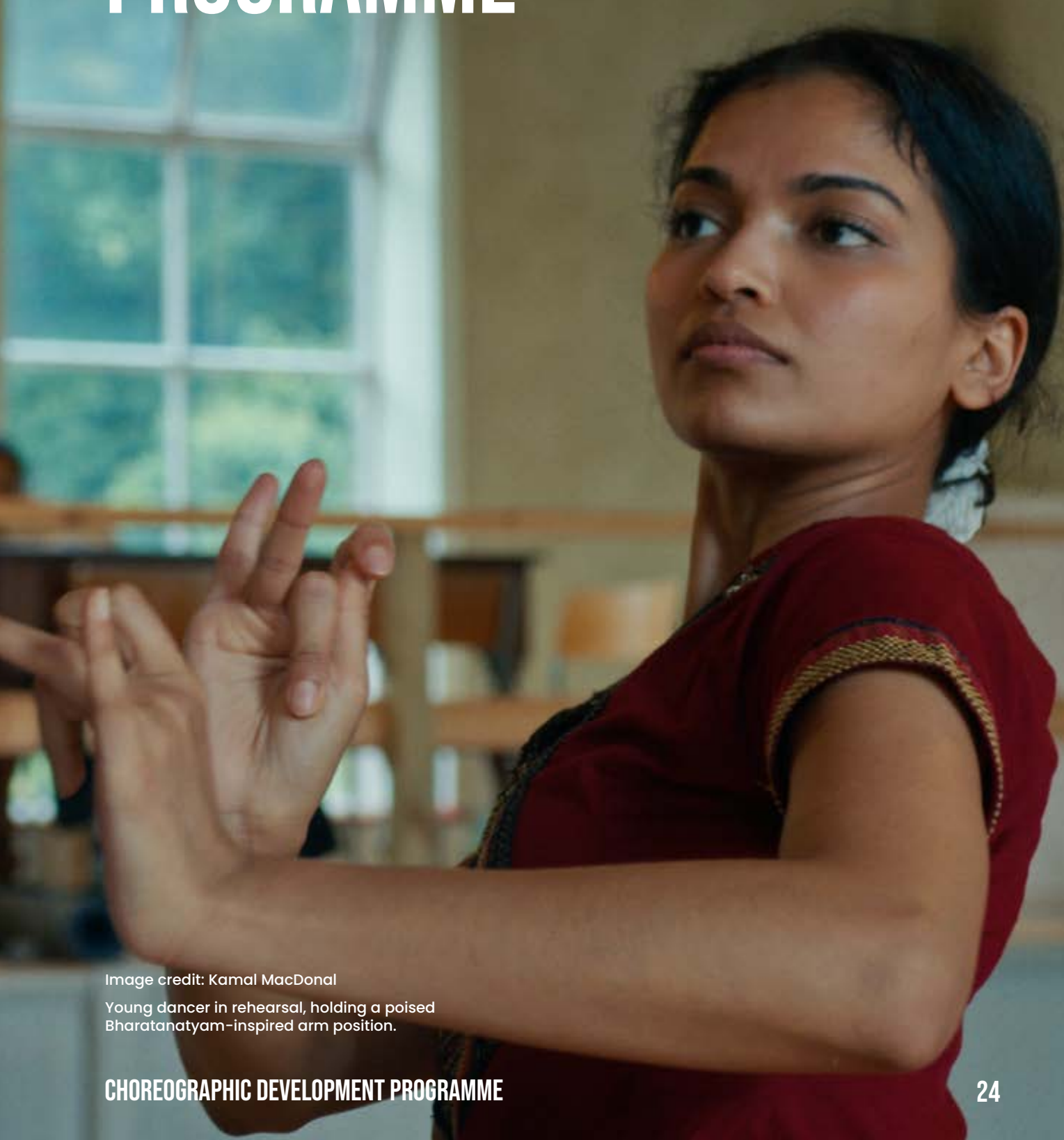
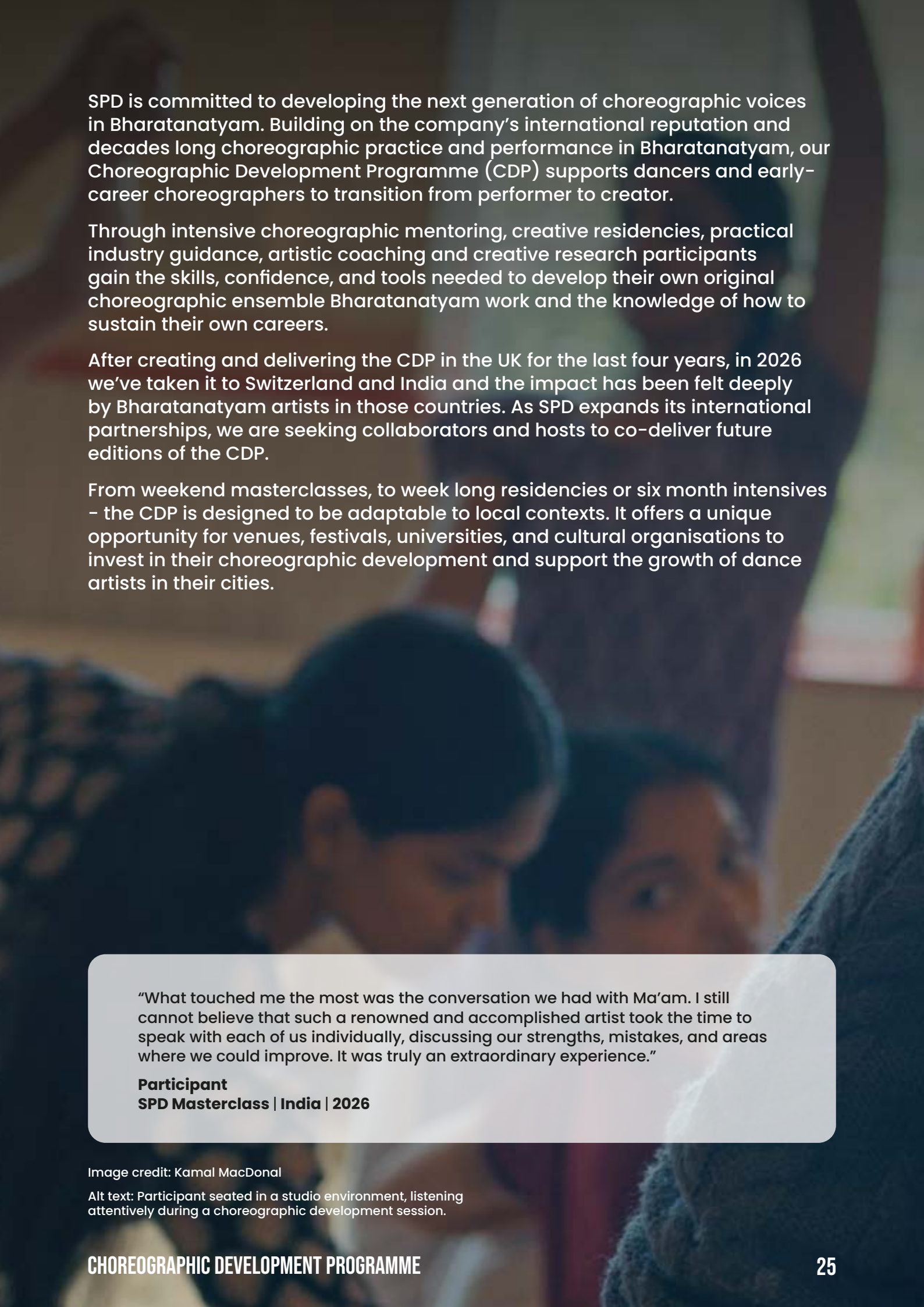


Image credit: Kamal MacDonal

Young dancer in rehearsal, holding a poised
Bharatanatyam-inspired arm position.



SPD is committed to developing the next generation of choreographic voices in Bharatanatyam. Building on the company's international reputation and decades long choreographic practice and performance in Bharatanatyam, our Choreographic Development Programme (CDP) supports dancers and early-career choreographers to transition from performer to creator.

Through intensive choreographic mentoring, creative residencies, practical industry guidance, artistic coaching and creative research participants gain the skills, confidence, and tools needed to develop their own original choreographic ensemble Bharatanatyam work and the knowledge of how to sustain their own careers.

After creating and delivering the CDP in the UK for the last four years, in 2026 we've taken it to Switzerland and India and the impact has been felt deeply by Bharatanatyam artists in those countries. As SPD expands its international partnerships, we are seeking collaborators and hosts to co-deliver future editions of the CDP.

From weekend masterclasses, to week long residencies or six month intensives – the CDP is designed to be adaptable to local contexts. It offers a unique opportunity for venues, festivals, universities, and cultural organisations to invest in their choreographic development and support the growth of dance artists in their cities.

"What touched me the most was the conversation we had with Ma'am. I still cannot believe that such a renowned and accomplished artist took the time to speak with each of us individually, discussing our strengths, mistakes, and areas where we could improve. It was truly an extraordinary experience."

Participant
SPD Masterclass | India | 2026

Image credit: Kamal MacDonal

Alt text: Participant seated in a studio environment, listening attentively during a choreographic development session.

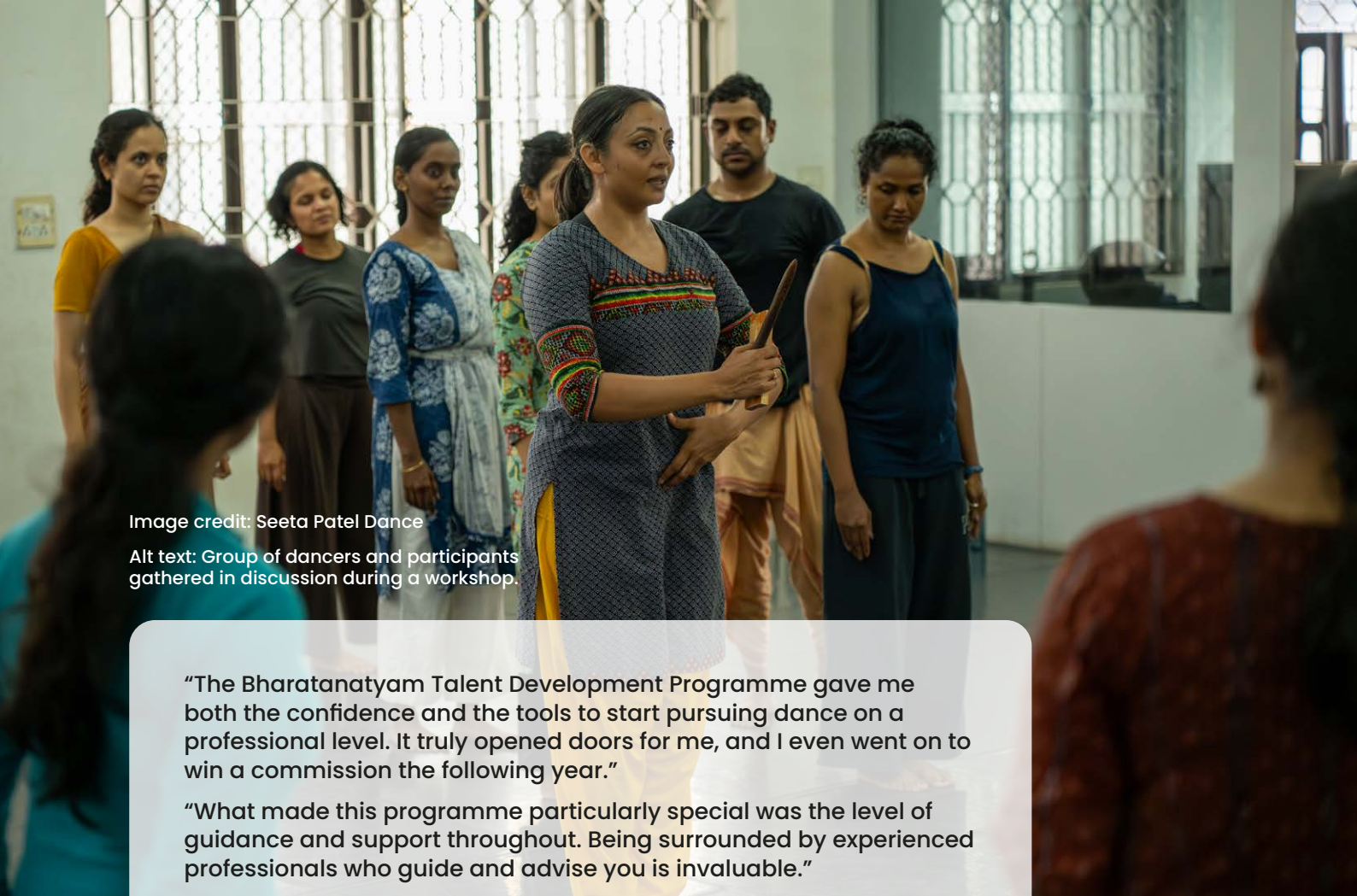


Image credit: Seeta Patel Dance

Alt text: Group of dancers and participants gathered in discussion during a workshop.

“The Bharatanatyam Talent Development Programme gave me both the confidence and the tools to start pursuing dance on a professional level. It truly opened doors for me, and I even went on to win a commission the following year.”

“What made this programme particularly special was the level of guidance and support throughout. Being surrounded by experienced professionals who guide and advise you is invaluable.”

“Overall, this programme made me realise that I am capable of pursuing dance seriously, and the advice I received was always tailored to where I was in my journey.”

Gayatri

Participant | Talent Development Programme | UK | 2025



Image credit: Seeta Patel Dance

Alt text: Dancers rehearsing together in a studio, spaced across the floor.

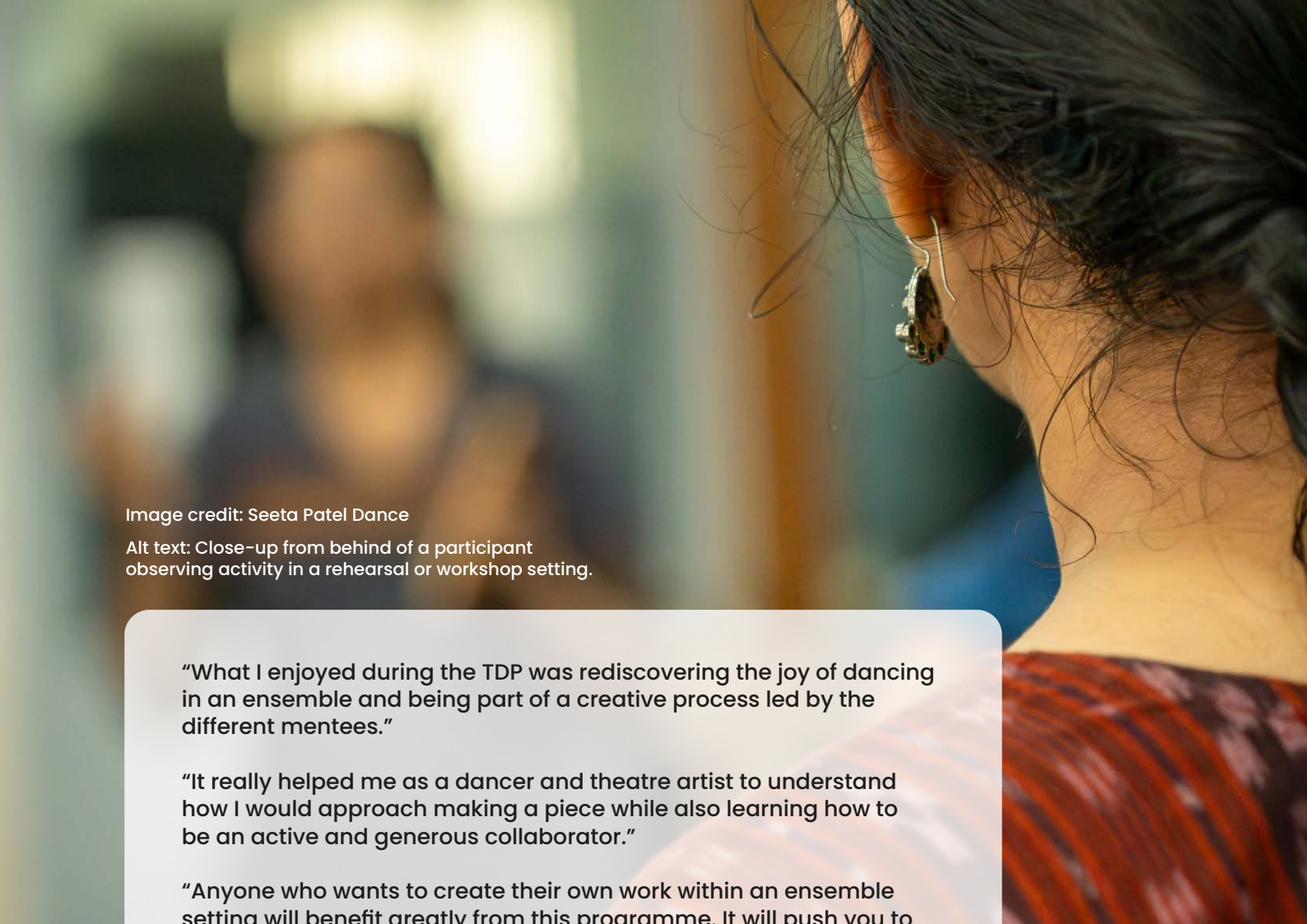


Image credit: Seeta Patel Dance

Alt text: Close-up from behind of a participant observing activity in a rehearsal or workshop setting.

“What I enjoyed during the TDP was rediscovering the joy of dancing in an ensemble and being part of a creative process led by the different mentees.”

“It really helped me as a dancer and theatre artist to understand how I would approach making a piece while also learning how to be an active and generous collaborator.”

“Anyone who wants to create their own work within an ensemble setting will benefit greatly from this programme. It will push you to find your voice as a maker while also reminding you of the joy of a collaborative process.”

Devaki

Participant | Talent Development programme | UK | 2025



Image credit: Seeta Patel Dance

Alt text: Dancers leaping across a dance floor together.

CONTACT

To discuss Seeta Patel Dance,
please contact:

Rae Lee

Executive Director

rae@seetapateldance.org



Image credit: Foteini Christofilopoulou

Alt text: A dancer in a purple costume holds a strong pose, with her shadow creating a dramatic image against the blue lighting behind her.