
Akram KHAN



Choreography and dance

Born in London into a family of Bangladeshi origin in 1974, Akram Khan began dancing at the age of 7. He studied with the renowned Kathak dancer and teacher Sri Pratap Pawar, later becoming his disciple. He began his stage career at the age of 14, when he was cast in Peter Brook's legendary production of the epic Sanskrit tale Mahabharata.

Khan started presenting solo performances of his work in the 1990s, maintaining his commitment to the classical Kathak repertoire as well as developing modern work. Among his bestknown solo pieces are *Polaroid Feet* (2001), *Ronin* (2003) and *Third Catalogue* (2005).

In August 2000, he launched Akram Khan Dance Company with producer Farooq Chaudhry, presenting creations such as *ma* (2004) which won the South Bank Show Award (2005), and *zero degrees* (2005) in collaboration with dancer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, sculptor Antony Gormley and composer Nitin Sawhney. In 2007, *zero degrees* received international recognition at the Helpman Awards, where the production won "Best choreography" and Khan won "Best Male Dancer".

Khan continued his cross-disciplinary collaborative work with ballerina Sylvie Guillem in *Sacred Monsters* (2006), working with the Taiwanese choreographer Lin Hwai Min on the production. The same year, in Cologne, he presented *Variations* in collaboration with the London Sinfonietta, to celebrate the 70th birthday of composer Steve Reich, which subsequently toured internationally in Europe and North America. He also pursued his commitment to diversity in artistic expression by choreographing part of singer Kylie Minogue's *Showgirl* concert tour in 2006.

In-I, a duet with Oscar-winning-actress Juliette Binoche with visual designer Anish Kapoor, completed a major international tour last year. Khan's critically-acclaimed company piece, *bahok*, originally produced in collaboration with the National Ballet of China ended its international tour in May 2010 in Beijing, where it was created.

Gnosis is Khan's new solo work. Combining his classical Indian and contemporary dance roots, he brings the opposing worlds of tradition and innovation face to face. He is accompanied on stage by world class musicians from India, Pakistan, Japan and the United Kingdom.

Khan has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout his career and was awarded an MBE for services to dance in 2005.