

Dance: Digital

Working with digital technologies in dance practices

PRO GATI DANCE LAB

CALL OUT FOR SOUTH ASIAN DANCE PRACTITIONERS* – TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



SAMPAD South Asian Arts has been at the forefront of and continuously proactive in supporting and developing South Asian dance practice in the UK over the past 3 decades, delivering high quality and well informed development programmes that have raised the profile, quality and diversity within South Asian dance practice.

South Asian dancers, as many others, rose to the challenges created through the pandemic through continued creative practice, performances and teaching online to sustain themselves. There remains however, a pressing need for continuing professional development across the sector to ensure that dancers from different styles and experience of South Asian dance can respond to and use creative technologies as part of their choreographic practice.

ABOUT DANCE:DIGITAL LAB

Dance: Digital is a unique workshop delivered over 3 Saturdays for South Asian dance artists interested in incorporating digital technologies into their work. This workshop is for those with a range of experiences in working with digital. From complete beginners who are curious to understand the possibilities of digital to those with more experience ready to expand their practice. Developed by digital dance maker Rebecca Evans (Pell Ensemble) for Sampad the programme aims to inspire whilst also introducing key conceptual and practical elements of working with developing technologies.

WHEN & WHERE:**PRO GATI Dance & Digital LAB - Saturdays 10th June, 17th June & 24th June 2023****Timings: Arrival 12.30pm PROMPT Start 1pm – 7pm****Venue: Birmingham Ormiston Academy, Birmingham (tbc)****AIMS**

- **INSPIRATION:** Explore the possibilities of using digital in your dance-making process and for performances
- **PRACTICAL:** Learn practical skills for creating a dance work with digital through hands-on creation
- **NETWORK:** Create new networks with fellow dance artists and Creative Technologist
- **FUTURE:** Come away with a clear idea for a digital dance work and the steps to make it happen.

Day 1: Inspiration and starting points. We will review digital dance works that have been created, including a visiting South Asian dance artists coming in to discuss their current work, process and learnings in using digital. From there participant will engage in a series of practical workshops on generating ideas and how to think about the audience/end user during this process. (Participants are welcome to bring an idea they already have in mind to workshop). Day 1 will be co-led by Divya Kasturi.

Day 2: The second day will build on the first. Taking the ideas generated and bringing them to life through low-cost, no-tech prototyping. This leads to a session on the 'nitty gritty'. What are the budgets, timelines, partners and collaborators needed to bring this to life? Giving participants the ability to clearly communicate their ideas to funders, creative technologists and other collaborators. We will end on a note of inspiration considering the role of dance artists in the future/future digital spaces.

Day 3: Participants will have the chance to work with a variety of creative technologists to go through a very quick, low-fi prototyping process. Giving a better understanding of different digital-making processes. (Creative technologists are currently being confirmed and will be announced closer to the workshop. These may include; Spatialised Sound, Volumetric Capture for VR and Motion Capture).

Funded Places

We are seeking up to 8 dancers to take part in this 3 day intensive. To support dancers to take part in this intensive there are a limited number of funded places for those based in Birmingham and the region - of £100 for each dancer per day they attend to cover all costs. There are a limited number of spaces for those who do not meet the regional criteria but these are *unfunded*.

DANCE LAB LEADERS

Rebecca Evans – Pell Ensemble

Rebecca Evans: Choreographer and Artistic Director of Pell Ensemble www.pellensemble.com

As Choreographer and Creative Director of Pell Ensemble since 2012 Rebecca has developed and delivered digital dance performance, installations and engagement work in the UK & abroad. Her work uses interactive and immersive technologies combined with dance to engage audiences and communities in both the making and performance process. While Rebecca is not a coder she looks at creative ways to expand codes applications in collaboration with other artists.

Rebecca has been commissioned by many organisations including 2Faced Dance, Wilton's Strike, Spontaneous Combustion Festival, The Vaults, Athens Digital Arts Festival, DanceEast and London Borough of Culture. Rebecca is currently completing her MA in Virtual and Extended Realities from UWE Bristol.

Divya Kasturi (Co-leading Day 1)

Choreographer and Dancer www.divyakasturi.com

Divya Kasturi is a multifaceted dance practitioner with more than three decades of performing experience. She is trained in two South Asian dance styles of Bharatanatyam and Kathak. She is also trained in Western contemporary dance and has studied choreography modules at masters level.

Divya Kasturi is also a classical vocalist. She has worked with Sir Paul McCartney and Nitin Sawhney in the UK. Divya Kasturi's work has been seen all over the world including in New York, Sydney, Paris, and Mumbai. She has performed in Theatre de Complicite's acclaimed production 'A Disappearing Number' which was broadcast through NT live series worldwide in cinemas. She is currently a QuestLab artist with Studio Wayne McGregor. Her journey with digital started with Sampad in 2011 when she visited Madrid as part of Sampad's project with PRADO MediaLab and she has a particular passion to develop more digital work.

APPLICATION PROCESS

You must be

- A dancer/choreographer who performs or practices South Asian dance – this opportunity is open to anyone from ages 18 – 100! We are interested in you whether you choreograph professionally or teach South Asian dance.
- Be interested in developing your practice to explore the possibilities of digital technology in the choreographic process - however, no previous knowledge of digital or experience of working with digital is required.
- Be based in Birmingham or the Birmingham region (Priority for funded places will be for dancers from this area due to funding from Dance Hub Birmingham)

We recommend that dancers attend all three days if possible but if you are not able to attend all 3 then we recommend the following: If you can only attend one day, attend Day 1 (Saturday 10th June) - If you can attend 2 then Days 1 & 2 (Saturdays 10th & 17th June).

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit your responses to the following 5 questions – maximum of 2 pages of A4 or a short video application of up to 4 minutes, a CV (max 2 pages), details of one person who knows your work well and ensure we have your contact details (email and telephone number) by 24th May.

Questions:

1. Tell us about your dance practice and training? What is your connection to South Asian dance? Do you have any experience of working with digital (this is not required but it would be interesting for us to know).
2. Why do you want to take part in the Dance Lab?
3. How do you see this training supporting your future practice and ambitions?
4. Anything further you want us to know?
5. Which day/s or combination of days you are applying to attend.

Deadline is **Wednesday 24th May 2023.**

Please send submissions or any queries to Sabra Khan, Executive Director, sabra@sampad.org.uk

Applicants will be informed if they have been successful by June 2nd 2023 at the latest

**By South Asian Dance Practitioners we mean those that are practicing South Asian dance to a professional level in performance and/or learning settings.*

