Cultural Daily

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Akram Khan's CHOTTO DESH @ VPAC

Sarah Elgart · Wednesday, November 16th, 2016

This Sunday November 20, celebrated choreographer Akram Khan comes to Los Angeles with ***Chotto Desh***. Translating as "small homeland" in Bengali, ***Chotto Desh*** tells the story of a young man with dreams of becoming a dancer. Born the son of a cook, the autobiographical story follows the young man from Britain to Bangladesh in a solo dance theater work that mixes dance, text, sound, interactive animation, and other visuals. Based on ***DESH***, a lauded signature work of Khan's that premiered in 2011, this work is reimagined and directed for children and their families by Sue Buckmaster of Theatre-Rites.

A moment from *Chotto Desh*

An Associate Artist at London's Sadler's Wells, Khan's multi-award-winning work is widely recognized for combining both contemporary and Ancient Indian kathak dance forms and being both profound in substance and profoundly moving. In addition to creating work for the 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremonies, I've always admired that he created a duet with actress Juliette Binoche, who to the best of my knowledge had little to no previous dance experience prior to working with Khan. And while I've to date not experienced it live, his work also looks to speak deeply about the human condition, which I love.

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A single matinee performance of ***Chotto Desh*** takes place this Sunday at Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC) and if the trailer below is any indication, it looks to be stunning and magical, and I think we can all use a little more magic in the world right now.

For tickets and information go to: http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/

Enjoy!

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