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## INTERNATIONAL DANCE SENSATION AKRAM KHAN RETURNS WITH POWERFUL NEW WORK

**CO-COMMISSIONED BY WEXNER CENTER, KHAN'S WORK COMBINES  
CLASSICAL INDIAN FORMS WITH CONTEMPORARY STYLES**

**"The beauty of his dancing, the absoluteness of his control hold the theater  
breathless...*Kaash* is startling, original and beautiful."—*The Guardian* (UK)**

The internationally acclaimed **Akram Khan Company** returns to perform its dynamic new dance work, *Kaash (if...)*, on **October 10 and 11** at the Drake Center's Thurber Theatre in a show presented and co-commissioned by the Wexner Center.

Choreographer Khan's work combines Indian classical kathak dance forms with contemporary styles, and juxtaposes bursts of whirling speed with sections of serene calligraphic grace. Local audiences experienced his electrifying U.S. debut in 2001 at the Wexner Center; Khan's return this year marks one of the most anticipated shows of the dance season.

*Kaash (if...)* is a collaboration with acclaimed artist Anish Kapoor, who designed the sets, and Nitin Sawhney, a key player in the Asian Underground electronica movement. *Kaash* is Akram Khan's first full-length work and since its debut in France, it has toured to prestigious festivals and revues around the world.

*The Sunday Telegraph* writes, "Khan is a charismatic innovator in blending kathak and contemporary dance techniques—mercurial, masterful in his brilliant alternations of speed and stillness. He and his four fellow dancers scythe and slice, spin and whirl through this force field with breathtaking momentum. Hands flicker to a blur; arms fly like rotor blades. The effect is hypnotic."

*The Stage* wrote about *Kaash*, "This is the kind of movement that tugs at the heart and stays twitching long after the endless applause has finished. There is no doubt about it—Akram Khan is a star."

The Wexner Center is the only co-commissioning partner for *Kaash* in the U.S.

### **AKRAM KHAN**

Akram Khan, 29, was born in London to parents from Bangladesh. He was schooled in the 500-year-old Indian classical dance tradition of kathak at The Academy of Indian Dance in London, and went on to study contemporary dance. As a teenager he appeared in Peter Brook's *Mahabharata* and in Pandit Ravi Shankar's *The Jungle Book*. In August 2000 he launched his own dance company.

In a recent feature story on Khan, *The New York Times* wrote: "With rave notices from the likes of William Forsythe, Pina Bausch and Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker, a string of prestigious awards and an impressive residency in London, Akram Khan is one of the most talked about young dancemakers on the international scene."

### **CALENDAR INFORMATION FOR AKRAM KHAN COMPANY'S KAASH (IF...):**

**Description:** Internationally acclaimed British choreographer Akram Khan and company perform *Kaash (If...)*, combining classical Indian dance and contemporary styles, in a show presented by the Wexner Center at Drake Center's Thurber Theatre.

**Date and time:** Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11 at 8 pm.

**Location:** Thurber Theatre at Drake Center, 1849 Cannon Drive (across from the Ohio Stadium).

**Tickets:** \$16 general public; \$13 Wexner Center members; \$10 OSU students

**Ticket outlet:** Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk, 614 292-3535 and Ticketmaster outlets, 614 431-3600.

**Public information:** 614 292-3535 and [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org)

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**Digital images available upon request.**

### **EVENT SUPPORT**

*Kaash* is co-produced by Wexner Center for the Arts, The South Bank Centre, The Tramway, The Vooruit, Sampad, DanceEast, and Maison Des Arts Creteil.

Funded in part by the British Council and the National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts. Lead funding for NDP is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional funding is provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Altria Group, Inc.

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2003–04 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

### **WEXNER CENTER**

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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