

wexner center
for the arts

For Immediate Release

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**WEXNER CENTER HOSTS U.S. PREMIERE OF AKRAM KHAN COMPANY
DANCER COMBINES CLASSICAL INDIAN AND CONTEMPORARY FORMS**

***"A new shooting star."*—Frankfurter Allgemeine on choreographer Akram Khan**

One of the most talked-about new dance companies on the European scene, Britain's **Akram Khan Company** performs in its U.S. debut **October 18–21** in the Wexner Center Performance Space. Khan's award-winning choreography melds the 500-year-old Indian dance tradition of Kathak with contemporary dance forms. Writes *The Glasgow Herald*, "This is fiercely intelligent dance...thrillingly graceful and uplifting to watch." Sleekly supple and lyrical, Khan has electrified audiences and earned raves abroad as he seamlessly juxtaposes stillness and kinetic explosiveness. He draws on music by innovators (such as Nitin Sawhney) who are also exploring vanguard means to reflect their cultural heritage.

For this series of concerts, Khan performs his solo *Fix*, which draws its energy from whirling dervishes, and his first group work *Rush*, a purely abstract piece inspired by paragliders in freefall, performed by three dancers. He will also present the film version of his solo *Loose in Flight*.

RESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

While at the Wexner Center, Khan will conduct a masterclass with students in Ohio State's Department of Dance. He will also meet informally with Ohio State students affiliated with the Office of Asian American Student Services on campus.

news release

THE ARTIST

Born in the UK and of Bangladeshi origin, **Akram Khan** was schooled in the classical Indian dance form Kathak under the tutelage of world-renowned guru Sri Pratap Pawar. He went on to study contemporary dance and launched his own dance company in 2000. Khan has performed all over the world and has choreographed at Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker's Brussels-based contemporary dance school P.A.R.T.S. Khan was awarded the Outstanding Newcomer to Dance Award 2000 by two London organizations: Critics' Circle and *Time Out Live*.

EVENT SUPPORT

Lead support for the Wexner Center's 2000–01 performing arts season is provided by **AT&T** and the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation**.

Major season support is provided by **Philip Morris Companies Inc.**

Additional season support is provided by the **Ohio Arts Council**.

Akram Khan Company performances are made possible through a unique initiative by the **British Council** and the **National Dance Project** of the **New England Foundation for the Arts**. The British Council works to refresh and update perceptions of the UK by promoting the best of contemporary UK creativity worldwide. The National Dance Project was established to provide a system of support for the living, growing, discipline of contemporary dance by enabling both the creation of new work, and the distribution of dance across the country. Both organizations have been critical in helping make this tour possible.

Promotional support for this concert is provided by **WCBE, 90.5 FM**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Akram Khan Company

Description: U.S. premiere of Akram Khan Company in dance works that meld classical Indian and contemporary dance forms.

Dates and times: Thu–Sat, Oct 18–20 at 8 pm; Sun, Oct 21 at 3 pm.

Location: Wexner Center Performance Space, 1871 North High St. at 15th Avenue.

Tickets: \$16 general public; \$14 Wexner Center members and OSU students.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk (614 292-3535) and Ticketmaster outlets (614 431-3600).

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

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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