



choogh choogh

All aboard for a delightful train journey through India

Experience the sights, sounds and smells evoked through South Asian dance, music and theatre; and meet some amazing characters along the way.

Performance work
for an early years
audience

Duration: 25 minutes

Touring from spring 2022



Beeja



choogh choogh

choogh choogh is a performance work inspired by the joy of travelling through India on a train. It combines classical Indian dance with contemporary movement, theatre and play, sharing with audiences a world full of colour, invention and flow. The journey starts with the audience getting a special **choogh choogh** ticket. Three artists weave a traveling tapestry with three scarves, morphing from one scene to the next as the sights, sounds and smells whiz by. The sound scape is rich with the sounds of the train, hawkers, festivals, musicians, ambient sounds of rivers, jungles and cities. The artists sing songs which are specially written for children - *Chai Chai*, *Coffee Coffee* and *Kites Kites everywhere*. They interact with the audience, engaging their imagination. Scarves become steam, railway tracks, turbans, train windows, camels, elephants and so much more. It is a journey where audience experience world inside the train, through the train and outside it. Along the way the tickets get checked, imaginary food is sold and shared, among other interactions. This show is an exploration of just how much we can see and imagine, together, as the train chooghs chooghs on.

The duration of the work is 25 minutes.

The work includes a post performance interactive session with the audience. It can take form of becoming the train, using the scarves to become tunnels and wind, making animals with hand gestures or trying out turbans and the tying of sarees.

As a joyful, authentic affirmation of Indian culture it will give early years children a glimpse of India and a chance to share in one of the major cultures of the UK.

The work is a **Beeja** presentation. It is conceptualised by Anusha Subramanyam and Vipul Sangoi.





Since the work was created during the pandemic, it was choreographed to be performed outdoors as well as for indoor settings. The work was toured in Somerset, Surrey, Derby by Take Art and Enfield for 25 shows in 2021.

The feedback and the reviews of the work have been very extremely positive. South East Dance commissioned The Motion Dance Collective to make a film of the work with live audience. The work was videoed during a live performance with audience at Stanley Arts in South Norwood, London. The film was shown in at Children and their Grown-Ups showcase, part of Pavillion Dance online showcase. It is available at

<https://youtu.be/4ynTzfb-U-Y>

Feedback

Choogh Choogh was a joyful, immersive, and interactive experience. Children could bring their own interpretations to the story. Really refreshing for children to experience performance going beyond nursery rhymes and be engaged with such high quality dance.

Georgia Martin, parent and teacher, Norwood

It was age-appropriate and the performers adapted what they did in response to the children and to keep them engaged. The children were absolutely mesmerised by the performance!

Head Teacher, Whitecross Primary School, Derby

Outstanding performance. We enjoyed the show very much, music sound story. Maya and even 4 months old Hallie enjoyed. She sat very happily in my lap. We all had great time.

Sarbjeet Sekhon, grandmother, Purley

My child was absolutely buzzing about the performance when she got home!

Parent, Derby



Creative Team

Concept and Choreography

Anusha Subramanyam and Vipul Sangoi

Performers

Anusha Subramanyam, Dom Biddle, Saloni Saraf, Nandita Shankar Das

Soundtrack

Vipul Sangoi, Dom Biddle, Prathap Ramachandra

Photography and Design

Vipul Sangoi

Film

The Motion Dance Collective

Supported by

Arts Council of England, South East Dance, Take, Art, Stanley Arts, CYTO



Useful Information

Time-scale

Touring Spring 2022 - Spring 2023 and beyond.

Running Time

25 minutes (no interval) +interaction

For

Small-scale venues (arts centres, rural touring schemes, studio theatres, schools (nursery and primary), libraries, galleries, etc).

Performances

Option 1

Up to 2 performances a day with 15-20 minute post performance interaction

Option 2 (details on page 5)

Up to 2 performances plus workshop (for up to 1hr) for family groups or teachers.

Option 3 (details on page 5)

A performances plus half or full day workshop (for up to 1hr) for family groups or teachers.

Minimum space requirements

5mts. width x 6mts. deep. The audience sits in a 'U shape in front of the stage.
1mts+5mts +1mts

On the road team

4 (3 x performers, 1 SM/ Technician)

Technical requirements

For outdoor performances we would need a dance floor.

The show will work with or without lighting, so if you have it, great, but if not, it's not a problem.

If you have a PA system we will make use of this. We carry our own battery powered stereo box

Workshops

This is an opportunity for children, guardians, teachers and others to learn the dance and movement of various narrative excerpts, songs and Indian folk dance that are part of the **choogh choogh** production. The participants will also have a chance to create their own little narrative section connected to train travel and India as they imagine their own travels for making their movement and gestural dance. They will also learn and create a short folk-bollywood dance section. By the end of the workshop the participant will have learnt some of the material from the show and created their own variations.

Workshop 1 - up to 1 hr

Fun workshop for kids and adults, the participants will learn some of the dance moves from **choogh choogh**.

If possible, the participants would be encouraged to share few movements they have created with each other at the end of the workshop.

The participants will also experience and learn wearing sari and tying turbans.

Workshop 2 - half or full day

This workshop would be suitable for teacher, early years practitioners and community dance practitioners.

The participants will be sent video of **choogh choogh**, prior to the workshop. As a visual and performance stimulus for generating ideas and creative tasks.

The workshop will work through the structure of **choogh choogh** to enable the participants to explore ways to develop ideas from the work. Participants will learn components of the dance styles from the work and use those for creating their own choreography. The workshop would also introduce and explore India through dance, movement, visuals and music.

Through this workshop the participants will get an understanding for different dance genres, working with objects and making their own songs, to give them options and introducing them to different kinds of dance and dance making.

The participants will also experience and learn wearing sari and tying turbans.



About the Company

Beeja was started by Anusha Subramanyam – dancer, choreographer, teacher and dance movement therapist. She is seen as one of the most exciting exponents of bharatanatyam working 'inside' and 'outside' of its tradition. Her work is trans-cultural and inter-generational. She has also worked extensively with people who are differently abled.

In her work, Anusha uses the strong narrative base, gestural language, music, rhythm score and conversational style to set up a dialogue between dancers, musicians and the audience. She has choreographed and collaborated with artists from different disciplines to create work that is accessible, entertaining, thought provoking and connects to the many different cultures of the UK.

Vipul is a multi-media artists and a designer. A well known performance photographer, he has also worked in film and theatre.

Beeja means 'seed' in Hindi. In keeping with its name, Beeja aims to generate new ideas, new understanding and fresh creative forms, particularly through the way that it allows us to be alert to, and take tremendous pleasure in living organisms and biological webs of relatedness. Like a seed underneath the soil collecting all sorts of nutrients, Beeja works is enriched by the skills of its creative collaborators. Over the years Beeja has performed in mainstream venues and in non-conventional venues like museums, hospitals, schools, village halls and other public spaces.

Beeja's offers a range of options – performances, workshops, residencies and regular dance classes. Beeja, in collaboration with some of its partners, also offers workshops and residencies in 'Bollywood', Indian folk, creative movement and other Indian classical styles.

Contact

Beeja

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