TOURING OPPORTUNITIES: 2024/25 Season

Who is ADT? Ananya Dance Theatre is a creator of feminist Contemporary Dance in the global arts and social justice movement. Ananya Chatterjea is an international artist and teacher, who has dedicated her career to an explosively reinventive conversation with traditional dance forms of India – Odissi and Chhua – and Vinyasa yoga. She recently edited a collection of writing: Dancing Transnational Feminisms: Ananya Dance Theatre and the Art of Social Justice. Ananya’s choreographic approach is rooted in her long interrogation of community-embedded performance: dancing together is not necessarily ensemble work.

What is the project? For the 2024/25 season, we will develop ANTARANGA, with support from the Regional Cultural Treasures Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation. As the company is still in the very early stages of developing ANTARANGA, we offer you the inciting questions and curiosities that are driving our investigations.

In a cultural context that often seeks to understand BIPOC communities through pre-determined categories, ANTARANGA insists on complex and intersectional understandings of beingness, in specific relationship to the Black and brown femmes who are part of our company. ANTARANGA is seeded by the Urdu word/concept ہم سفر (humsafar): “fellow traveler” or “those who journey together.” In order to be ready to “journey together”, we must continually reinvigorate the structures of BIPOC and transnational feminist solidarities. What happens when history and memory repeatedly clash? Or when familiar categories of identity fail to offer us real knowledge of others? What happens when we repeatedly encounter each other, differently each time, seeking to authentically see each other? How can we signal safety in each other’s presence: felt and offered? How are these newly-forged relationships bent, when landscapes of time, context, and energy shift? How are our views of the world re-chiseled with these shifts? We hear recurring whispers of “Who are you?” echoing, offering no easy answers, posing only more questions.

What is it like to be in the audience for an ADT work? Our fully produced works offer audiences holistic and visceral layers of movement and rhythmic footwork, integrated seamlessly with an original soundscape, large video backdrops, and custom-designed lighting, sets, and costumes. Whether in formal performance or in community action, the audience’s experience is cellular, vibrating, activating: invigorating in an interior place that surpasses words. Few audience members can resist some degree of physical involvement in the dance. More than merely decorative or entertaining, our work tackles issues with a profound and soulful beauty: you depart knowing that something has happened inside you, even if the words to describe it have not yet come to you.

You can learn more about typical tour activities and read a testimonial from a previous presenter, as well as other info about our history, on our website. Contact: Managing Director jennie.ward@ananyadancetheatre.org