TOURING OPPORTUNITIES: 2023/24 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 Chhau – 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 can be more than unison work.

What is the project? For the 2023/24 season, we are developing MICHHIL AMRA!: WE ARE THE PROCESSION! with support from the Regional Cultural Treasures Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation, MAP Fund, and the National Endowment for the Arts. MICHHIL grows from Ananya Chatterjea’s memories of growing up in Kolkata, where political protests and processions routinely occupied public spaces, caused traffic snarls, and interrupted daily business – experienced anew, here in the Twin Cities, during the Uprising following George Floyd’s murder. MICHHIL elevates messages from grassroots BIPOC organizing: we cannot return to normal after interruptions, because constructions of normality are often built atop systemic violence. Disruptive energies and experiences are common in many challenged communities – and were newly thrust upon the worldwide community during the Covid-19 pandemic. MICHHIL builds on the hallmark of Chatterjea’s choreographic style – contrapuntal ensemble dancing – and is intentionally interrupted by invited audience members, whose improvised processions take over the stage and house. Artists regroup, and the choreography restarts from a new place, proceeding through different group formations. The work concludes with an exploration of liberation, as the worlds of stage performance and audience processions merge and emerge anew: no longer oppositional, still adjacent, inviting hope and connection.

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