

Guru Arunima Kumar

Award winning Kuchipudi dancer, teacher, choreographer and global cultural leader, with over three decades of specialist experience in leading, collaborating and performing cutting edge , high profile international and national performances

Founder/ Artistic Director of Arunima Kumar Dance Company- one of the largest Kuchipudi institutions in the world with more than 150 students worldwide (UK, India, Poland) across ages 4-75 years , with 3000+ performances in over 50 countries and over 30 awards and citations.

Arunima is recognised as a pioneer for creating a significant mark for Kuchipudi globally , and for Indian classical dance , making Kuchipudi professional, inclusive , innovative , accessible and impactful for diverse audiences. She has created a strong professional institution with professional performers and a pioneer in dance and health practice for hospitals, prisons and corporates .

Significant Performances and Collaborations - Arunima has been commissioned by leading government and non government organisations globally to lead , choreograph and present several historic performances -

Jyotir - The first Kuchipudi dance performance at 10 Downing Street, London for UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer in October 2024. Featured across global media and press

Pratibha - The first Kuchipudi dance performance takeover at the historic Victoria & Albert Museum, London for Boost festival. The festival attracted a record 3600 in audience with 3 full house performances

Rang - International Kuchipudi festival organised by Guru Arunima Kumar with over 100 performers , all trained by Guru Arunima Kumar, at Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, London . Padmabhushan and Member of Parliament , Smt Sudha Murty was the chief guest , along with former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty, The festival is now a landmark event in the UK and is the only major dance festival dedicated to the dance form in the UK. She has organised this festival each year , over the last decade , including a digital version during the pandemic and it has grown from 15 performers to 100 , with extraordinary feedback each year.

Aatman- The first Kuchipudi dance performance at the historic French Institute , London in June 2024 , for Exhibition Road festival. The festival attracted a record 15000 in audience with 3 sold out performances

Katha festival performance at Chelsea theatre - a unique dance theatre project with children and grandparents , in June 2024, using folk stories from India in native languages including Bhojpuri, Telugu, Kannada , Rajasthani - conceived, curated and choreographed by Guru Arunima Kumar. The festival was featured by **BBC News** and by RBKC Council

The Place-, Contemporary Dance Festival Young Dancers showcase finals

Ekam - Choreographed and performed the first ever Indian classical dance production at the **Buckingham Palace** in February 2017 for the launch of India UK year of Culture , declared by the honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and her Late Majesty the Queen , organised by Ministry of External Affairs India , Nehru Centre , produced by Akademi“. She was the only dancer appointed for this highest honor.

Rajya- She was invited to choreograph , perform and present Rajya - timeless era for the Late Queen's **Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Buckingham Palace and the launch of the King's coronation celebrations at Westminster Abbey in 2023.**

She was on artistic panel of 12 dance leaders and teachers for the **Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022** and is the only artist invited from London to lead the teams for one of the largest mass dance participation projects in the world with several disabled persons in the cast

Invitation - She was invited as a cultural leader by **10 Downing Street on Internationals Women's Day** in 2023, by the honourable former Prime Minister , Rt honourable Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty.

She was commissioned by Indian government and Foreign Commonwealth Office to lead , choreograph and perform “**Jyotirmay Bharat - Illuminating India**” , a **multi South Asian dance production for HRH King Charles and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's** visit at Science museum in 2018 .

This was followed by several unique performances such as “Asatoma Sadgamaya - Darkness to Light “ ,for **Prime Minister Shri Modi's visit at Wembley stadium**, attended by 65000 people ;

“ **Resilience** “ for Indian Republic Day celebrations at Guildhall organised by Indian High Commission UK in 2019 ,2018, 2017 ,2016

Jay Rang for Consulate Birmingham on 26 January 2022, for cultural diplomacy during Commonwealth Games 2022 ;

Bloomsbury festival in October 2021 to deliver a large scale inclusive intergenerational dance performance at Bloomsbury fir audience development of the festival, St Pancras Church with over 60 performers age 4-65 years .

REBEL based on Bangladeshi freedom poet Kazi Nazrul Isalm's famous works for Bangladesh Independence day celebrations at **British Library** in October 2021 attended by a large community and dignitaries .

The RBKC Council invited her to curate, choreograph and deliver first ever , large scale site specific South Asian dance performance at **Notting hill Carnival** with over 60 performers age 4-65 years .

Westminster Abbey and Royal Commonwealth Society commissioned her to curate choreograph and deliver first ever , large scale inclusive intergenerational South Asian site specific dance performance at Westminster Abbey for Royal commonwealth family celebrations with over 60 performers age 4-65 years .Based on its success , she has been invited last six years to choreograph and perform at their various events for the Royal family and the Abbey

She has also commissioned to choreograph, lead and perform ‘Safar commissioned by DCMS - **UK Ministry of Culture Media and Sport for WW1 centenary celebrations** at Imperial War museum recognising the contribution of Indian soldiers in WW1 attended by honourable former Chancellor, Sajid Javid, where several Indian soldiers were recognised with the Victoria Cross.

She was commissioned by Hindu Council leadership to choreograph and present her powerful multi style South Asian dance work at the **European Parliament in Brussels** to influence the parliament to consider Hinduism as a recognised religion in Brussels, attended by several High Profile diplomats and foreign secretaries .

Arunima was commissioned to perform **Ramayana , victory of good over evil at Scotland Yard** for their Inter faith events in 2011-2022 , and for **British Navy and British Army** in 2011, 2012 until 2022 ,

She was commissioned by Teamwork films and Indian high Commission to choreograph and present “Kolkata“ with sarod maestro Soumik Datta and Bernhard at the **Royal Festival Hall Gala as a finale to India UK year of culture** in 2017

She has choreographed and performed at **International Yoga Day** for the High Commission of India several times including her unique work “**Nritya Yoga**” a large scale live yoga and dance workshop event for 10,000 participants at Trafalgar Square for promoting yoga in 2018, 2017 to promote health and well-being.

Commissioned by Indian Embassy to choreograph, lead and perform Yoga day at Tower Bridge in 2016, 2015

Arunima performed as a lead dancer in **Maaya for Olympics torch parade 2012**, produced by Akademi

Commissioned to choreograph, lead and perform for Roshni charity promoting harmony through arts 2011-2022 at YMCA London and Royal Society of Medicine

Arunima was commissioned by Akademi for solo work for **Daredevas at Southbank centre in 2009** and Utkarsh for her work **TRISTRI - on 3 women** at South Bank Centre 2010, later toured at Navadisha at Birmingham 2018 and Wolverhampton 2018.

Arunima was commissioned by Mukul Ghetto Tigers to choreograph and perform in **Gauhar Jaan**, a multi media dance theatre production at Rich Mix, 2016, 2017 and at Clapham theatre. In order to make dance relevant and socially impactful, Arunima focused on site specific productions and immersive experiences - her role as **Umrao Jaan**, in Akademi's production on the courtesan received outstanding feedback. She is also working with International theatre directors on site specific and immersive dance theatre work.

Commissioned to choreograph, lead and perform **Shakti project** - training 50 young artists and performing to a wide scale audience at University of Reading 2021, also commissioned for a similar **Krishna** in year 2018, funded by Kalakunj and Arts Council England

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Performed in **Maaya for Olympics torch parade 2012**, a site specific work and at Houses of Parliament organised by Akademi in 2015,

She was the first to choreograph **Shakespeare Sonnets in Kuchipudi** with Shakespeare Society 15 Nov 2019

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- Performed for Honourable CM of Andhra Pradesh performance 2016

- **She was the only Indian dancer selected for French Choreographer, Jerome Bel's Gala** - performed at the prestigious Sadlers Wells, Tate Modern, Bernie Grant Centre October 2016

- **Arunima has led performances for Bhavan Founders Day** last 7 years - Jan 2017-2024

International Kuchipudi dance festival, with 100 dancers at Bhavan, commissioned by ACE in 2018 & 2019, 2020 ; 2022, 2024 in partnership with Nehru Centre London

Aum at V&A Museum commissioned by Kala Chetna 2019,

Shiva commissioned by Kalakunj for Heritage Lottery Fund 2018;

Bronze girl, for SOAS 2016; Tridevi on poems by Bronte sisters, for Kala Sangam Bradford 2015.

India Tourism Day at World travel Mart 2016-2019 , 2024

HMS Ship by Indian embassy 2018

Performance for Pandit Ravi Shankar 90th Birthday celebrations , July 2010, London

International Commissions and Performances

Kathya - stories from India - Amore festival, France 2024

Kathya -Poland festival, 2024

“**Namaste Stockholm Festival of India**” in Sweden invited by Ambassador of India to Sweden , the festival attracted the largest audience participation in Sweden with over 15,000 people in the square , 2012, 2013, 2014

Invited by **ICCR** as a solo Kuchipudi artist to perform at Mudra Festival in Brazil touring 15 venues , 20 performances across the country, touring 15 venues in 2011 along with groups led by L Subramaniam , Kavitha Krishnamurthy, Abhai Sopori and Padmashri Ananda Shankar Jayant.

Invited by ICCR as a cultural ambassador to choreograph and perform solo at “ **Festival of India**” at **prestigious venues across Australia** including a solo at **Sydney Opera house 2008 and Canberra Festival** . Following its success she was invited by **Fiji Festival, Thailand Festival , Malaysia dance festival , Indonesia Festival** to facilitate India - Asia cultural relations in 2008

Sonika MADRID 2015

Film Festival, Ireland, Dublin City Hall, June 2012

Sweden, Stockholm, March 2014 , 2012

Festival of India, Hungary, Budapest, May 2012

Was invited to participate in the **Guinness Book of World record dance performance** organised by Silicon Andhra in Cupertino , USA . Was invited to co-lead the Guinness Book of World Record dance attempt for Khushi Feet charity , organised in Kent in 2011.

EXPO 1998, Lisbon, Portugal

India's 50th year of Independence held in Bonn, Germany 1999

EXPO 2000, Hanover, Germany

ICCR tour in 2003, Ministry of External Affairs of India, in prestigious venues in Australia, including Canberra Festival, Sydney Opera House, Melbourne, Brisbane

ICCR tour Fiji, 2003

Arts Festival Thailand, ICCR tour 2003

Arts Festival Malaysia, ICCR tour 2003

International Festival, Indonesia, 2004

Asian Arts Festival, Manila, Philippines, 2007

India Week, Nuremburg , Frankfurt , 2005

Tagore International Centre Berlin 2005

Nehru centre, London 2001, 2005

India cultural Center, Malaysia 2010

Kuala Lumpur Convention , 2010

International Kuchipudi convention Cupertino, California, 2008

India's 50th year of Independence held in Bonn, Germany

Arunima has presented an ambitious programme of cutting-edge South Asian dance in all its forms at world-class national and international performances , collaborating with several artists and global organisations like Akademi London , SAMPAD Birmingham , Milapfest Manchester and Liverpool , Kala Sangam Bradford , Sama Arts London , Kalakunj Reading, SADA , Dance umbrella, The Place , Siobhan Davies, Sadlers Wells, British Library, Mukul and Ghetto Tigers, Taanrind Theatre , Shakespeare society , Southbank Centre , One Dance UK to deliver outstanding classical performance ensembles involving diverse dance forms (Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Manipuri, Kuchipudi, folk) at mainstream and site specific events

Strong advocate for Diversity and Inclusion

Guru Arunima Kumar has created several path breaking works around gender issues and human rights- . She was commissioned to choreograph and present **Antardrishti for Baluji Foundation Inner Vision Orchestra** , world's only blind orchestra , for Unlimited Festival at Royal Festival Hall in 2019 which toured India (Mumbai Opera House and British Council) with lead blind Sitarist , **Baluji Srivastava OBE**

She was the only Indian dancer selected for French choreographer **Jerome Bel's** path breaking Inclusive work GALA at Sadlers Wells, Bernie Arts Centre and TATE Britain for Dance Umbrella in 2018.

She was the only Indian Kuchipudi dancer commissioned by Arts Council England to choreograph and present **Avatara , an inclusive collaboration with Kuchipudi dancers and specially abled Latin and Ballroom dancers on wheelchairs** from Step Change for Sadlers Wells and at Westminster Council's performance.

Arunima has developed several pioneering programs using **yoga and ancient dance techniques to enable health and well being of participants** through Indian arts . AKDC provides free dance training and dance therapy sessions to underprivileged children through its programs - Jhankaar and runs a community bursary centre to support artists from marginalised backgrounds .

Arunima was the first to explore Sufi in Kuchipudi, she is an art Activist and has created path breaking work around women's issues. .

Historic performance of **Kuchipudi and Human rights** - Arunima has worked on rehabilitation of women inmates in **Tihar prison**, Asia's largest prison, and developed dance and well being practice, Her work was so powerful that the magistrate gave permission to the inmates learning dance to perform at Habitat Centre in Delhi outside the prison. This was a **historic moment for Tihar** and for the inmates, some of who were sentenced to life imprisonment

Her piece Bandeeni, based on domestic violence won several awards and an ACE grant and was the only Indian dance work at Resolution 2018. Times Critic Donald Hutera said "it was deep, cutting edge". Guardian Critic Graham Watts wrote "one of the few memorable shows this year".

Arunima is strongly focused on women issues and has created award winning productions around women's identity, empowerment and social justice. Her production on SATI, **Shadows of My Rage** with opera singer Linda Shanovitch was performed at Bunker Theatre and at Oxford Fire station, has received rave reviews internationally and is now on tour. She was commissioned to choreograph and dance in the **worlds First Urdu Opera depicting honour killing-** Sohni Mahival for Alchemy festival in London, composed by visually impaired award winning artist Baluji OBE.

She has also worked with Corali dancers with learning disabilities, Amici dance theatre, OPEN AGE with participants form 60-100 years, Age UK Kensington and Hounslow

She recently presented Adrishya by Counterpoint dancers age 60-80 years led by Simona Scotto and she works at old peoples care homes, hospitals, disability centres like Asian People Disability Alliance to enable old people and disabled persons to access dance.

Founder Director AKYDC - Guru Arunima Kumar founded the first ever Kuchipudi youth dance group, providing high quality Kuchipudi training and accessible development opportunities, nurturing young people through collaborations. The Centre is recognised as an Arts Award Centre by Trinity College of Arts providing opportunities to young artists to develop artistic practice and receive Duke of Edinburgh awards (16 successfully awarded). Arunima is focused on creating a generation of artists of high standard, who will be the flag bearers of Indian art forms. Her students across India, UK, Poland, Italy, Brazil have performed across the globe and some have also received the prestigious ICCR scholarships for Indian dance. Her students have performed Kuchipudi at **YUVA, at Alchemy festival 2015, won the Best dance group in Alternative Choreography at Dance showdown, UK RBKC's largest dance competition for children** at the prestigious Cadogan Hall and Regional Dance showcase finalists at Trinity Laban and The Place.

Head of Faculty- Kuchipudi department at Bhavan, Set up the first Kuchipudi faculty at Bhavan London which is now the third largest dance practice at the centre running successfully past 6 years

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Founder / Director IYPN - Indian young professionals network and Women India network (WIN), in collaboration with Indian Embassy, London, supporting more than 500 Diaspora members in the UK, successfully curating and delivering events to engage the community and serve as a bridge for India UK business and artistic corridors.

Major performances in India

Invited by **Rashtrapati Bhawan** for former Late President Abdul Kalam in 2010 to present her solo work "Dreams" based on his book.

Performed at **"Surya" at India's most prestigious Khajuraho festival** of dance for high calibre performers in India, Arunima was one of the youngest solo dancers selected to perform at the festival 2010

Invited by **Government of India to choreograph and perform “Tarana” for Commonwealth games** in India for Indian Council for Cultural Relations 2010, honourable late chief Minister Smt Sheila Dikshit was the chief guest

She was one of the first to choreograph, lead and perform **Souls of Sufi, a spiritual dance production at India habitat centre**, Delhi in 2009, a first in Kuchipudi which set the trend for many to follow

Silicon Andhra Convention at Vijayawada December 2016

Sthree' - Gurgaon April 2016, Mumbai October 2015

Chennai, Karthik Fine Arts , December and January 2015

Sshh....., A dramatic dialogue in dance theatre , choreographed by Arunima Kumar, CSOI, Delhi October 2014

KALI - Gujarat July 2015

O WOMAN - a choreographic production at India Habitat Centre, 2014

Delhi Culture Festival, 2014

International Book Fair, Delhi 2014

Spic Macay tour across Uttar Pradesh 2013

Lal Bahadur Shastri Academi , Mussoorie , November 2013

i‘Shiva Shakti’ presented at Jaipur City Palace, February 2012 •

Commonwealth Games India Solo recital,

Raag Rang Festival

October 2010 ICCR HORIZON SERIES, Azad Bhawan,

October 2010 • Khajuraho Dance Festival, 2010

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar Samaroh, Sangeet Natak Academy, Delhi, September 2009

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, for Karthik Fine Arts, Chennai December 2010

Siva Shakti, Jaipur City Palace Durga Festival , Delhi , 2008,

World Dance Day Celebrations, Habitat Center, May, 2012

Delhi International Arts festival 2010

Brahma Gana Sabha 2010

Nuungambakam Sabha2010

Ustad Allauddin Khan Sammaroh , Mahiyar, Gwalior 2008

Bhavbhuti Gwalior Festival Nal Damyanti, Mahakavi 2008

Sanskrit Festival 2009

Benaras Pune Festival 2008

Mammalapuram, Chennai 2009

Jugal bandi with Kathak choreographed by Pt Birju Maharaj 2008

Budh Mahotsav Patna, 2007

Jaya Smriti, by Hema Malini, Mumbai , 2007

Radha Ashtami, Barsana , 2007

Haridas Sammelan, Mumbai, 2007

Indo European conference, ICCR 2007

Fusion with Advaita, 2007

Neemrana Fort Palace, 2007

SAARC Festival 2007 • JNU Festival 2007, 2008

Mardol Festival Goa, 2006

Goa international Centre, 2006

Biotech Conference Hyderabad 2006

Jhansi Mahotsav 2006

Chamba Festival 2006

Andhra bhawan Ugaadi, 2006

Pratisthita , Habitat Centre 2006

Kuchipudi dance festival in Kuchipudi Village

National Choreography Festival at Habitat Centre 2003

Qutab Festival in 2003

Legends of India Festival at Kamani Auditorium, Delhi, 2004

Kalidasa Festival at Nagpur in 2004

SOPAN Festival 2004

Legends of India Festival , Delhi , 2004, 2009

India International Trade Fair - 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2009 , 2010

Virasat Festival at Dehradun in 2005

India Habitat Centre HCL Series 2005

Young dancers festival, Kolkata , 2004

Qutab Festival 2003

National Choreography festival 2003

Delhi Tourism Festival , Delhi Haat 2003

Delhi Tourism Festival , Santushti 2003

Shringaramani award and festival , Mumbai, 2001

Bharat Yatra Festival Lucknow, 2001

Hyderabad Arts Festival, 2000

Rangapravesham , Triveni, Delhi, 1998

Amrapali Ballet , 1987

Press & Media

- Featured regularly on global media including BBC for her exceptional contribution to global dance and community, She has been given outstanding reviews by eminent dance critics and her dynamic profile has featured in all leading international newspapers, television and radio channels across the world . Included in Akademi most influential dance leaders

Board member on Roshni Charity, Sir Syed Foundation London , Hindustanyat and AWA Dance Charity

Arunima has acted in a number of radio and television programs , music videos, advertisements and short films including a cameo in a **Bollywood feature film directed by Prakash Jha – RAJNEETI**

Interests - National Champion Pistol Shooting and recipient of the Government of India Sports Talent Search Scholarship (1991-1992).

Eminent dance historian and critic, Padmashree Dr Sunil Kothari, wrote ...”*Arunima Kumar’s Kuchipudi on one of the three women Sati was commendable for contemporary interpretation and empowerment of women. this was the first ever contemporary work I have seen in Kuchipudi.*”

Arunima is a contributor to webduniya, India’s largest web news portal and runs an article series focused on London arts called MIND THE GAP. She has also contributed to ATTENDANCE EDITION 2014 .

Arunima is today recognised as an inspirational international figure and invited to several conferences and corporates as guest speaker to motivate others through her success story. She is known as a woman of the future, thought leader of her generation and is known for her innovative, cutting edge and engaging performance style

Awards -

Invited to 10 Downing Street as an Inspiring leader for International Women’s Day in recognition of services to arts and communities - 2023

NRI Award for Arts and Community service 2023, awarded by former President ICCR Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe at the House of Lords

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskaar , awarded by Sangeet Natak Akademi (President of India)2010 ,

A grade artiste' of Doordarshan - National television

'Established artist' empaneled by ICCR

EXTEND scholarship sponsored by Arts Council England

Pulse Commission award

UTKARSH Commission for Arts Council England and Akademi

Navadisha - one of the 5 dancers in the UK to perform at the festival in Birmingham

Shringaramani Title by Sur Shringar Samsad India awarded to artists of high achievement ,

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry FLO award for arts 2017,

Global Icon award for arts 2018 ,

Stardust award for Arts 2019,

She Inspires award (presented at House of Lords)2017,

Woman of the Year award 2018,

Asian woman of achievement(finalist) ,

Woman of Substance 2019,

She's Mercedes title awarded by Benz 2019 ,

Woman of the Year by IBN , 2020

BBC shorts award for film Cuppa , choreographed by Avatara Ayusuo, 2020

12 commissions by Arts Council England,

Wintrade award for Arts , 2021

Women Economic Forum award for work in women arts and empowerment 2020 ,

RBKC Mayors award (nomination) 2021.

Recipient of One Dance UK observership program with Shobana Jeyasingh CBE and Akram Khan as mentors.

Served as a key member of the Leadership team across corporates like Aricent, Accenture, AT Kearney etc , American express where she Led and managed strategy function for Europe (United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Italy and Denmark) . However she left her illustrious corpora career to focus on promoting dance services to the community worldwide.

Contribution and Social Impact during the Pandemic

During the pandemic in 2021, Arunima Kumar Dance received the Culture Recovery Fund grant and was recognised as of of the culturally significant 1000+ organisations in Britain . She was nominated

by her council and MP Felicity Buchan for the significant work done by her in the field of art and culture in Britain and international. . Through the grant Arunima and her team delivered a global digital engagement program with over 1000 sessions online promoting physical and mental fitness online . She launched Katha, a simple , yet innovative family learning digital project, based on folk stories from India and Rest Of World , envisioned & produced by Arunima Kumar ,a leader in Inclusive Indian arts and well -being initiatives.

The project was conceptualised and executed during the pandemic to bring forgotten folk stories alive and to encourage children to read and to connect with their heritage and their elderly (on digital platforms) despite the tough social distancing rules in place . The stories were selected and narrated by grandparents based in India and then choreographed and dramatised through Indian dance by children based in the UK and filmed on a virtual platform . This enabled families to remain creatively engaged with ancient literature , folk stories and texts that may be forgotten if not passed through generations through the ancient art of oral storytelling. The project has proved to be very successful in keeping children motivated and enabled physical and mental well-being of families through a powerful creative outlet. The project was highly successful and featured on International media, BBC Folk log platforms as well as BBC .It raised money for folk artists in India . Arunima also launched Virasaat and ARTIST4ARTIST digital series online , to raise funds for artists who were extremely vulnerable and suffering during the pandemic and was able to support 20 artists globally through this program. She also engaged children dn youth in UK to raise £3000 funds for poor artists in India to help them support their livelihood. She also created digital programs and performed online for HMRC inter faith events , Scotland yard, Mayors Diwali , Diversity Festival in Ashford.

She launched a nationwide programmes with Inclusive dance organisations Dance West (intergenerational community projects) , Indian Consulate Birmingham ,Annapurna ,Yorkshire(Budding artists program) & created new streams of online well being content & extended participation to diverse, vulnerable & isolated communities supporting 20 freelance artists.While lockdown measures eased in October 2020, she organised blended sessions with virtual & face to face sessions in open spaces and delivered 500+sessions through outreach work for children and families & partnered with RBKC council (reaching new centres in London , Birmingham, Yorkshire , Poland, Singapore, India , USA , Brazil) . She extended our work in Arts and well being through AKDC online dance , yoga activities , dance fitness boot camps for children and adults(under 65 yrs) “Stay active program” with Westminster Council.

She raised funds during the pandemic to remain open,develop & deliver cultural content to sustain outreach programmes with existing & new partners, the demand for which has increased significantly due to increased mental health issues , isolation and collaborated with Nehru Centre ,Indian Embassy, RBKC arts council, Change 4 life , Community Grant from councillors , Bhavan, Mayor Culture at Risk office ,RBKC Arts to remain the largest institution of a rare Indian dance form Kuchipudi, with 8 centres across London & International with 200+ students from age 3 to 65 years , recognised as an Arts Award Centre building the talent pipeline. It is the only Inclusive organisation in England that plays a leadership , development & cultural education role within Kuchipudi & therefore in South Asian dance that can't be replaced or replicated , driving innovations through R&Ds , excellence in performances, teaching , artist development , community engagement & collaborations with leading publicly funded bodies like SAMPAD, Milapfest, Pulse, British Army, Navy , Bhavan , OneDance UK for BAME community engagement & audience development .

AKDC creates the largest intergenerational Kuchipudi festival annually with 100+ dancers , at Bhavan ,funded by ACE in 2018 & 2019. Located in Kensington, AKDC bridges the gap of low cultural engagement with vulnerable BAME communities (Westminster, Hounslow, Rbkc, Hammersmith , Fulham Tower Hamlets) .

Youth Dance , Education & Artist Development

Arunima set up the first Kuchipudi youth dance organisation in Britin and collaborated with several institutions like Arts Council England , Bhavan , One Dance UK , Local RBKC and Westminster Councils, The Place , East London councils for a number of Inclusive ground-breaking projects for young people including the first ever International Kuchipudi festival (involving facilitating, training through workshops and presenting) with over 100+ intergenerational dancers from age of 4 to 65 years at Bhavan London , Ekatra for Westminster Abney for Royal Commonwealth Office for Queens Family Day celebrations in 2016, 2018, 2021 (Digital), U Dance organised by one Dance UK , and Yuva at SouthBank Centre for One Dance UK , Dance Ignite at Cadogan Hall with over 35 young people across dance forms, Kpop - a first ever Kuchipudi - contemporary dance collaboration with Korean Pop in collaboration with The Place to engage young people in cross art and creatives from Korean Cultural Centre , Multi Story project for a group of young dancers from Northern Contemporary Dance school , Intransit festival , AKDC was part of BBC Get Creative weekend where Kuchipudi was included for the first time, Naturally Active health and well being program organised during the pandemic focused on young people's physical and mental health with yoga, dance , storytelling and active engagement , AKDC students performed Kuchipudi at YUVA , at Alchemy festival 2015 and won the Best dance group in Alternative Choreography at Dance showdown, UK RBKC's largest dance competition for children at the prestigious Cadogan Hall and U Dance award during digital dance competition in 2021 . With her advocacy for inclusion of kuchipudi dance in mainstream arts , the dance form was included in BBC Young dancer award for the first time in 2021 . AKDC culture and creative education inclusive workshops on Indian art and culture (Diwali, Holi, Rakhi,) are sponsored by the most prestigious art gallery in London - The Saatchi Gallery with sold out events every year , attended by Mayor Kensington and local MPs . She led and delivered over 200 workshops and community outreach programmes in partnership with schools , universities , hospitals, care homes, Annapurna Dance Yorkshire She works closely with EPIC CIC to deliver workshops for the community and youth groups in Kensington and Chelsea, London.

AKDC aims to create exemplary performances in the field of Indian arts and culture. All of her students are trained in the traditional integrative approach and also scientific training and encouraged to perform to develop confidence, good technique and better health.

As part of this, AKDC institutions are a part of **Ministry of External Affairs India International scholarship program**. AKDC also works towards creating knowledge based collaterals – including literary works through a strong and innovative curriculum to be used in schools and dance institutions.

AKDC also does solo and group workshops across dance genres - Classical, Bollywood, Zumba in schools, colleges, hospitals, old age homes. Arunima has created unique Health specific work out programs leveraging dance like TAKITA , high intensity dance workout and SAMuM, a dance session for pregnant women with several health benefits..

Cultural awareness through workshops such as Diwali, Holi , Rakhee are also extremely popular among children and families. her recent Diwali workshop received appreciation from RBKC, London Mayor and Lord Bilimoria and Lady Kishwar Desai.

AKDC students convey that they learn more than what they come looking for - art, expression , music, stage, lighting and costume... they learn life skills.

Other Notable Performances

Kshetra Dance, UK May 2017

Launch Air India new terminal , UK Jan 2017

Sai Foundation, UK June 2017

Ekam foundation , UK Nov 2016

Kathakali - V& A / Maritime Museum

SAMA Arts , Cambridge 2018

Choreographed Nazrul in Vienna, May 2017 a cross cultural theatre on the bengali poet Nazrul with opera 2018

Ashwa Jayate to launch Asian Polo at IHC April 2017

Ugaadi Stockholm , 2010

TAL Ugaadi 2017, 2016,2015, 2014

World tourism Festival , UK inauguration November 2016

Andhra Tourism, UK November 2016

Visceral Arts festival Rich Mix December 2016

Brent Cross Mela 2016

Yuva Mahotsav, Milapfest July 2016

Women Go live Oxford Arts at Old fire Station curated by Donald Hutera

Sir Syed Foundation - choreography of Poems in Urdu on Indian festivals with Dr Hilal Fareed

Dramatised readings , Vikraal, SOAS, London 2015

The Curse, Rich Mix , commissioned by Pulse and Tagore Center UK, June 2015

Bank of Baroda performance November 2015 , 2016

Tata Consultancy performance November 2015

Indo Islamic Peace festival, Sir Syed Foundation UK, March 2015

Shiva Namaha , Luton February 2015

Rich Mix, London, February 2015, 2020,2022,2023

Manchester Festival , January 2015

Kensington Olympiad, Festival, India Tourism , January 2015

Media and Tourism Conference , November 2014

KIRAN - a production in classical dance by Arunima Kumar Dance company , Nehru Center London 2014

Kent Khushi Feet , November 2014

Kanupriya, a love story, Keats House London,2012

Ramadass Festival London May 2014

Co choreographer Little Witch - Big Dance July 2014

Co -choreographer Intransit July 2014

Hampshire Festival July 2014

AID UK July 2014

Camden Locks Festival July 2014

Shaam E SUFI May 2014

Balaji festival Birmingham 2014

Blue Beard June 2014

Guinness record attempt , Faversham, Kent, 2013

National Portrait Gallery , 2012

CHARITY SHOW – PRALAYA September 2012

Dublin Film Festival, Ireland, June 2012

Celebrating Jamini Roy – an interpretation of her works through dance, London, March 2012

CRY Charity event, Jumeira Carlton, London July 2011

Dance Theatre production – ITALIAN MAFIA – in association with st Marys University, London 2011

Ireland Film Festival, April 2011

Mentoring Daredevas, Watermans, London 2011 •

Glasgow Festival , 2011

Reading Arts festival, UK, October 2010

Milapfest- Dance India, August, 2010 Manchester

Film Festival of India, Her Majesty's Theatre, Cineworld, July, 2010 •

London Performance for British Army, July, 2010 London

Waterman's Theatre, July, 2010 London

Dance Festival, University of Liverpool, 2010

Nehru Centre , London, July 2009

Dance India, Lowry, Manchester 2009, 2010, 2011

Royal Opera House, London , 2009

Hat Factory , Luton 2009

Arena theatre , Wolverhampton Arts Festival, 2009

India festival, Cardiff, 2009

Education and Community workshops in London :

British Airways Culture workshop , London November 2014

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES workshop november 2015

SAATCHI gallery workshop for hold and diwali by AKDC every year attended by Members of Parliament , House of Lords , Diplomats

EPIC CIC workshops in Kensington and Chelsea , 2014

Basingstoke Festival Workshops , July 2014

Khushi Feet Festival, Kent 2012

Camden Primary School, London 2012

Orpington School, London 2011

Brentford Old Age Home, London 2011

Barlby Primary school, London 2011 • EPIC CIC May 2014

Blue Beard in collaboration with French Institut June 2014T Chelsea AND Westminster Hospital May 2014

Judge Dance Showdown 2014

Elderly Age UK Hounslow , London 2011-2012