



Festival Unit – Leicester City Council

Spellbound

(Part of the Diwali Switch On celebrations
at Cossington Park on 20th October 2013)

Dancers Information Pack

Storytelling through shadow play, performance, dance, narration, and pyrotechnic animation

On 31 August 2012 Spellbound aka Rama and Sita launched the Edinburgh Mela, having made its debut at Manchester's Diwali celebrations the previous year. Ramayana, the epic and traditional Hindu story of love, loyalty and friendship, was told through puppetry and Bharata Natyam traditional dance, performed behind a giant screen, and punctuated by special effects and pyrotechnics.



Produced by Walk the Plank and Fink On Theatre, and featuring Dance Ihayami and Rani Moorthy as Kausalya, mother of Lord Ram, the story has already delighted over 9,000 people. The show, commissioned by Manchester Indian Association and supported by Arts Council England and Manchester City Council, was originally designed to celebrate Diwali through beautiful choreography set to an original score.



Indian dance suits the shadow puppetry form, allowing for representations of precise hand movement, with the light source creating dynamic and surprising shifts of scale. This playing with scale is reinforced by pyrotechnics, such as the use of fire-drawings, to create much larger representations of the story. Fireworks shooting from the stage add to the show's vibrant experience and fit in with Diwali, the festival of lights or a mela celebration perfectly.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA3uCIAVLfo&feature=share&list=UUL6Cntdr2qLdAF_KAohKp_Q



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Casting

To ensure we do the story justice it is imperative that the shows Artistic Director - Nick Clarke works closely with each Individual or dance company on this.

The show requires a minimum of 4 dancers who will be paid a basic fee, (two males and two females). However we are happy to discuss the involvement of more dancers but can only offer the agreed flat fee to cover costs.

Dancer 1 – Sita

Female, late teens / early 20's. Dancers physique must be smaller than that of Lord Rama's. It is desirable but not essential that dancers have training in Kathak or Bharatanatyam.

Dancer 2 - Lord Rama

Male, late teens / early 20's. Dancers physique must be taller than that of Sita's. It is desirable but not essential that dancers have training in Kathak or Bharatanatyam.

Dancer 3 - Kaikeyi / Jatayu / Golden Deer

Female, Mid to Late 20's but could be older depending on physique.

Dancer 4 - Ravana / King Dasharatha / Hanuman

Male, Early to late 30's but could be older depending on physique.

Costume and Props - Walk the plank will supply all props and shadow masks.

Dancers call times for rehearsal (Peepul Centre) and show (Cossington Park):

Dancers call times for rehearsal and show: (Need to be available for all dates)

Day 1 Tuesday 15 October - Master Class - 10am until 6pm

Day 2 Wednesday 16 October - Rehearsal -9am until 5pm

Day 3 Thursday 17 October - Rehearsal - 9am until 6pm

Day 4 Friday 18 October - Rehearsal - 9am until 5pm

Day 5 Saturday 19 October - Rehearsal and onsite dress rehearsal - 10am until 10pm
(this day will involve onsite and venue rehearsals dependent on progress and weather)

Day 6 Sunday 20 October - Rehearsal / Show - 1pm until 10pm (all onsite)

Please note: All call times will vary dependent on progress, the Director will advise during rehearsals.

Information / casting / meet the Director – Thursday 3rd October from 12 till 7.30pm at Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre, Rothley Street, Leicester LE4 6LF. Please indicate a time that you would prefer to attend. For this first meeting, you will only be required for approximately 25 minutes.

If you require more information, please contact

Pravin Mistry on 07973 358449 / 0116 2221013 or email leicester_mela@yahoo.com



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If you are interested in taking part and you would like to come to the casting day **please send us as much information as possible:** You can send in either a CV with your dance experience, an email expressing your interest, information about you, any YouTube clips of your past performances, appropriate photos or all of the above .