



Festival Unit – Leicester City Council

# Spellbound

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

# School 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.



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA3uCIAVLfo&feature=share&list=UUL6Cntdr2qLdAF\\_KAohKp\\_Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eA3uCIAVLfo&feature=share&list=UUL6Cntdr2qLdAF_KAohKp_Q)

## Lantern Parade – Teach the Teachers (or community group leaders)



The Spellbound show starts with a parade of lanterns involving local schools (or community groups) leading Kausalya, mother of Lord Ram, to her plinth from where she begins to tell the story of Ramayana.

### Teach the Teachers

As part of the ACE funding, a highly skilled and creative lantern artist will run a master class for two days to 'Teach the Teachers' (or community group leaders) the techniques of making lanterns from tissue paper & withies. This simple technique can expand from the basic pyramid lantern to more challenging projects for those more experienced groups. The artist will also help assess the level of material required for the group's different lantern projects and we will assist with sourcing supplies, and providing worksheets by way of reference.

### Costs

The costs of the training session will be **free** to you and will include all initial materials required for the parade. If you choose to continue the project within your school, community group, we will help you source the materials but you will have to cover the cost of any additional materials. You will be responsible for making the lanterns and bringing them to the site on show day to participate in the parade. After the parade the group will be directed to **the front of the audience** and to watch the production.

This project will be offered on a first come first serve basis. Further details about show day for participating groups will be provided closer to the time.

**If you require any further information or would like to discuss any details, please contact:**

**Pravin Mistry on 07973 358449 / 0116 2221013 or email [leicester\\_mela@yahoo.com](mailto:leicester_mela@yahoo.com)**