



Chotto Desh



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**Classroom activities
and ideas for dance**

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KS2

Chotto Dosh

Classroom activities and ideas for dance

KS2

Created by Emma Bellerby for Sadler's Wells

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Introduction

This pack contains easy-to-teach lesson ideas for you to explore themes around identity and heritage with your students. We hope you find it useful and enjoy celebrating diversity and the influences that make us who we are.

In Chotto Desh, we learn how Akram sometimes feels confused and overwhelmed by his heritage. Desh means “homeland” in Bengali and we see throughout the performance how Akram tries to make sense of being brought up between two different cultures. His homeland of Bangladesh feels familiar and alien all at once and growing up in England allowed cultures to cross and influences to be diverse. We see him exploring the ways in which he is similar to his parents and worlds away from them all at the same time.

Chotto Desh is a celebration of identity and diversity. Throughout the performance, the movement, staging and storytelling in Chotto Desh shows us Akram’s individual viewpoint. His heritage blended from different cultures has developed his unique understanding of the world which he shares with us.

This pack is an opportunity for you to explore the different cultures in your classroom in a celebration of diversity. We hope that it will provoke interesting discussions and give your class an opportunity to share the wonderful ways in which they are all different.

Music used by the Akram Khan Company in the performance of Chotto Desh can be found in this Spotify playlist:

<https://spoti.fi/2OJKJF9>

A word from the director

Chotto Desh is very pertinent right now as our young people are experiencing increased pressure associated with a multicultural society. It will inspire children to think about their own stories and perhaps make their own autobiographical art full of truth and beauty. It is a privilege and a pleasure to direct this new performance.

Sue Buckmaster