

# Khan's thought provoking masterpiece

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**FROM** his time spent as Associate Artist at the South Bank Centre to choreographing for the likes of Kylie Minogue and Taiwan's Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, the career of dancer Akram Khan MBE is nothing short of dazzling.

Returning to Leicester with his much anticipated solo performance, Khan brings talent of a world class scale to the stage with Oscar winning visual artist Tim Lip (Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon) and Olivier award winning composer Jocelyn Pook.

Combined, they take us on a spiritual journey in search of

## **DESH**

Curve Theatre, Leicester

**Review by Louise Jenkins**

Khan's native homeland. Without hesitation, we are thrown into the bustling streets of Bangladesh as though summoned through Khan's movements.

Paired with extraordinary lighting and sound effects, from cattle bells to the beeping of horns, we watch him explore and fear the imaginary landscape before us. We later meet a new character, a Bengali cook, whose face we notice is painted

on the crown of Khan's head. Out of the darkness then emerges the mythical terrain of Khan's childhood.

Illuminated before us through beautiful light drawings, Khan boards a boat moving him away from the west and back to the jungle of his homeland. From this point onwards, Khan dances with a soul torn by sorrow and happiness as the reality of our poverty stricken world takes shape.

A spectacular performance and standing ovation for Akram Khan, you won't want to miss this thought provoking masterpiece.