

SOUTH ASIAN DANCE EQUITY  
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# SOUTH ASIAN DANCE & LGBTQ+ IDENTITIES

FAZLE SHAIRMAHOMED, PHOTO BY KIRIKO FOR ANALEMMA

**WEBINAR  
SPEAKERS**

NIKHITA DEVI | KOMAL GANDHAR | RAHEEM S. PAYNE  
SHIVA RAICHANDANI | FAZLE SHAIRMAHOMED

**29-30 APRIL**

**29 APR:** 3.00-5.00PM (BST) **WEBINAR**  
**30 APR:** 11.00-3.30PM (BST) **IN PERSON**  
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# WEBINAR SPEAKERS



**Nikhita Devi's** practice is deeply rooted in their Indian heritage, based primarily on Indian classical dance, but also draws heavily from bellydance (or raqs sharqi) and burlesque, martial arts and the spiritual practices of yoga and tantra. They investigate questions of identity, sexuality, heritage and freedom of expression through their work. They hope that infusing the movement vocabulary of classical dance styles with the sensuality and earthiness of bellydance and burlesque will help to inspire and liberate femmes, the LGBTQ community and the South Asian community at home and abroad. *Photograph: (photographer credit Amy Irene Marquez)*



**Komal Gandhar** is the cultural wing of Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC, Kolkata, India), an NGO which functions as an exclusive forum of female, male and transgender sex workers and their children, and demands the decriminalization of consensual adult sex work in all its aspects. Komal Gandhar is comprised of dance, mime, theatre and singing groups who perform nationally and internationally. Their cultural programmes use different media to advocate for the citizenship rights of sex workers, their children and LGBTQ+ communities.



**Raheem S. Payne** has been training in dance and movement, especially Kathak, for a number of years now, taking Kathak beyond traditional realms. He explores gender representation through practice and further academic study. Raheem applies dance training to Cabaret performance and Drag Artistry and continues to integrate both sides of his cultural heritage within his performances. He has performed in many prestigious locations, has been commissioned by Akādemi (London) to perform at the Southbank Centre, and has choreographed for TV & Film.



**Shiva Raichandani** is a BAFTA-nominated, multidisciplinary non-binary artist working across film, television, and stage. They were a semi-finalist on Britain's Got Talent, a contestant on India's and France's Got Talent, and has been a dance choreographer and educator for over 12 years across Indonesia, Hong Kong, India, and the United Kingdom. They're passionate about archiving, documenting, and telling stories of resilience and resistance through the medium of performance art.



**Fazle Shairmahomed** (he/she/they/dem) creates decolonizing rituals, performance art, and dance rooted in ancestral work and intersectional activism. Fazle was born and raised in a multicultural society in de Transvaal/Schilderswijk in Den Haag, in the Netherlands, they feel very hybrid, and identifies currently, but not exclusively, as Dutch, Surinamese-Hindustani/Indo-Caribbean, Muslim, Queer, non-binary, and as a person of color. They are mostly informed and inspired by Muslim/Sufi traditions of Gnawa, Zar, the whirling Dervish; Japanese Butoh, Surinamese Winti culture, Hindu rituals, Caribbean Bubbling, Muslim funeral practices, Vogueing, and the Club.