

KISAGOTAMI & THE MUSTARD SEEDS

A Ballet about compassion & shared humanity to the ancient Buddhist parable of Kisagotami



KISAGOTAMI & THE MUSTARD SEEDS will be a dance dramatization of the Indian fable of for both Indian and European audiences.

It will be a 70 minute dance performance for musicians, singers, dancers, actors and projection, of a classic story of the getting of wisdom, in this instance finding wisdom through the tragic grief and loss of a child.

The drama is based on a traditional Indian fable which teaches acceptance of the human condition that must embrace grief and loss if it is to survive the apparent arbitrary injustices of existence - "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune".

And this acceptance of the human condition in the end can only be a process of self-teaching by observation and experience. Thus the female protagonist will eventually realise that it is herself through experience who will be her own comforter. The dramatic organization of the piece has a classic composition, starting with neutrality, experiencing fulfilled happiness only to lose it and search for the reasons why, ending in a positive solution but realising it comes with the conditions of being human. To gain wisdom is often painful and not always accompanied by happiness - "She awoke the following morning a wiser but a sadder woman".

This tale of **KISAGOTAMI & THE MUSTARD SEEDS** is one of the few fables in an Indian context that prioritises the condition and situation of the enlightened female, and makes particular connections with a European sensibility, crossing borders that are sympathetic to make the project applicable in a staged drama in Europe and India.