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For Immediate Release

***Kattam Katti*, a new dance show inspired by the chaos,
creativity and colour of Indian kite festival, comes to TRP this
June**

Following its world premiere with two sold-out nights at Sadler's Wells, London's Home of Dance, Pagrav Dance's innovative new show ***Kattam Katti* is coming to Theatre Royal Plymouth on 2–3 June 2022** as part of a UK tour.

Kattam Katti is a new dance/theatre performance from Pagrav Dance Company created by Urja Desai Thakore (recently a BBC Young Dancer choreographer) that transports its audience to Uttarayan, the world-famous kite festival that takes place in Gujarat, North India. The show vividly brings to life tales of competition, danger, excitement, and unity wonderfully evoking both the solemnity and delight of this hugely important celebration.

Every January millions of people from different cities, religions and social classes come together to fly kites in a unique event marking the transition from winter into spring. Whilst it is a joyous event, Uttarayan is also ruthlessly competitive. The aim is to fly your kite higher than anybody else's. Competitors coat their kite strings with glass pigment that while beautiful on the surface will also cut the strings of other kites. Wounds to participants are not unknown and penthouse-owning rich people make full use their advantages by launching their kites from high rooftops. *Kattam Katti* draws parallels with society's inequalities in India, the UK and around the world.

Kattam Katti (Cutting Through) is a neo classical work with a contemporary feel and strong roots in the South Asian dance tradition. It features live original music from four musicians who interact with, and move around with, the four dancers.

Founded in 2005 by acclaimed dancer, choreographer and teacher Urja Desai Thakore, Pagrav Dance Company creates work rooted in classical Indian Kathak styles, fused with contemporary storytelling and design. The company is also highly committed to nurturing the next generation by providing a supportive platform for emerging dancers.

Urja said: “Today there are many deeply divided societies around the world. I used kite flying and the festival as a metaphor for the inequalities of privilege I see in those societies and in the corporate world. It is also based on my personal observations of the festival and Gujarati heritage in general. I hope that by addressing such universal themes in this way we can introduce Asian dance to new audiences from diverse cultures.”

Tapping into the chaos, creativity and colour of the kite festival, the company brings to life the excitement of Uttarayan with lyricism, drama and exquisite technique. The work is created and performed by a new generation of British dancers of Indian heritage, accompanied by live musicians who collectively illustrate the highs, lows, loves and losses of lives that are lived out among the festivities. *Kattam Katti* is suitable for all ages and backgrounds.

Pagrav are also hosting kite-making workshops at each venue that *Kattam Katti* visits alongside dance workshops in local schools.

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Images can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3jeRoEN>

Watch a trailer for *Kattam Katti* here: <https://youtu.be/mTvYuJ6N8FY>

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@theatroyal.com / 01752 230439

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West’s principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK’s largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.



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