

**AAKASH
ODEDRA
COMPANY**



**LEWIS
MAJOR**
CHOREOGRAPHY



**BRITISH
COUNCIL**

Photography by Angela Grabowska



LITTLE MURMUR

Education Pack

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INTRODUCTION

This pack includes a range of activity ideas to explore the themes within Little Murmur and information / support links on dyslexia - enabling wider learning around the performance. There are a range of methods to engage students through sensory exploration, discussion, watching, moving and reflecting, which can be used before and after the show.

Aakash Odedra Company was founded in Leicester in 2011 and is named after Artistic Director, Aakash Odedra. Aakash was born in Birmingham and lives in Leicester. He is a globally recognised and award winning dancer and choreographer. His choreography pushes boundaries, responding to and drawing inspiration from current issues. As a British Asian, Aakash Odedra uses his voice to translate ancient and contemporary movement languages to tell new stories.

Aakash Odedra Company has created Little Murmur for young people aged 7+, families and schools. Based on the original moving show Murmur, it is an honest and heartfelt conversation about the experience of living with dyslexia, retold for young audiences.

Aakash found school really difficult and was diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age. Dyslexia affects the way someone understands letters and words in reading, speaking and writing. Due to letters and words being difficult to understand and use, Aakash expressed himself through dance instead. It was important for Aakash to celebrate his abilities, like dancing, instead of being defined by the way he learned. In Little Murmur, Aakash explores his experiences and the common misunderstandings about dyslexia using light, sound, movement and visual design.

For all students in Years 3-9.

Tasks within this pack support curriculum areas of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Media Arts, Learning through the key themes of:

- Identity
- Expression
- Learning methods

LESSON PLANS AND IDEAS

Lesson plans for *before* watching the performance

Lesson plan 1: **An introduction to dyslexia**

Share this statistic with your classroom:

International evidence suggests around 20 per cent, or one to five children in every Australian classroom, has mild, moderate, or severe dyslexia or is a struggling reader. With the right support the strengths and talents of dyslexic people can really shine.

- Australian Government Department of Education

Watch the following videos:

[Video 1](#)

[Video 2](#)

Share this quote with your classroom:

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

- Albert Einstein

Reflection Activity:

Encourage your student's to share their reflections on the quote and videos if they feel comfortable to do so.'

Lesson plan 2: **Introducing Little Murmur**

This lesson introduces students to Little Murmur, asking them to engage with a monologue from the performance to discuss the subject matter of dyslexia.

The lesson also provides access to the Little Murmur trailer for students to experience a snippet of the show allowing contextual discussion to help prepare them for the live performance.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

LESSON PLANS AND IDEAS

Lesson plans for *after* watching the performance

Practical lesson plan 1: “**Identity**”

This lesson asks students to explore their individual identity focusing on each person’s name and how they see themselves. This theme is explored throughout Little Murmur where Aakash realises that his name includes the letter ‘A’ twice at the start, and that he felt a sense of belonging and self-realisation because of this. For this task students will need access to craft materials to design their own name that will then be used as the starting point for the practical activity.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

Practical lesson plan 2: “**Expression**”

Students are encouraged to explore different ways of expressing feelings and emotions through physical, written and verbal methods. Within Little Murmur, themes of being restricted versus being free are demonstrated visually through images of birds, physical movement and spoken word. This allows the performance to use a range of modes to represent the feelings Aakash experienced. Students are asked to create their own performances through their movement exploration and written monologues.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

Practical Lesson plan 3: “**Exploring Confusion**”

This lesson encourages students to challenge themselves and think on the spot, asking pupils to reflect on when things feel confusing, backwards or hard to work out and how we navigate our way through that. Within Little Murmur the theme of dyslexia is explored, encouraging audience members to be aware and accepting of this. This task highlights to students how some people receive and absorb information differently.

> [Link to lesson resource](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Curriculum Links

Additional resources

- [The Australian Dyslexia Association](#)
- [What is Dyslexia Video from the Queensland Department of Education](#)

Reading list

- Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees
- The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss
- Feelings by Richard Jones and Libby Walden
- Why Am I Different by Norma Simon
- So, you think you've got problems? by Rosalind Birkett
- Brian has dyslexia by Jenny Leigh
- Dyslexia Explained – without the need for too many words by Nessy.com
- Dyslexia: A Teenager's Guide by Dr Sylvia Moody
- The Teenage Guide to Stress by Nicola Morgan

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Little Murmur was commissioned as part of Vital Spark. Vital Spark is a movement addressing the lack of diversity in the Performance for Young Audiences sector.

Find out more atthesparkarts.co.uk/vital-spark

Web: thesparkarts.co.uk

Facebook: @The Spark Arts for Children

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Instagram: @thesparkarts

@artscentremelbourne #LittleMurmur

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