

Bend It Like Bengal

A football-themed community dance education package

In 2008, award-winning choreographer Nina Rajarani MBE created *Bend It....*, a contemporary Bharatanatyam work for her male-dominated touring company based on football and lads' culture. The complex footwork shared by Bharatanatyam and football creates a testosterone charged display of skill, revealing the energy and physicality of Bharatanatyam in an accessible context.

Srishti has devised a workshop package related to this touring work, using the themes and movement material of *Bend It...* as starting points.

The workshops include:

- an **introduction** to basic Bharatanatyam vocabulary;
- **short phrases** adapted from the *Bend It...* repertory;
- a series of **creative exercises**, allowing students to create dance phrases using the vocabulary acquired in the dance exercises
- a final **curtain-raiser presentation** including material devised and performed by members of the community group.

The football theme and the vigorous style of the movement will be of particular appeal to boys, and we aim to involve up to 20 boys and young men with a particular focus on participants from the Asian community. *Bend It Like Bengal* provides a high-quality, open access dance creation and performance opportunity and positive learning activity for a demographic not usually targeted by community dance work.

For further information or to book, please contact Srishti on **020 8420 1076** or email info@srishti.co.uk

