

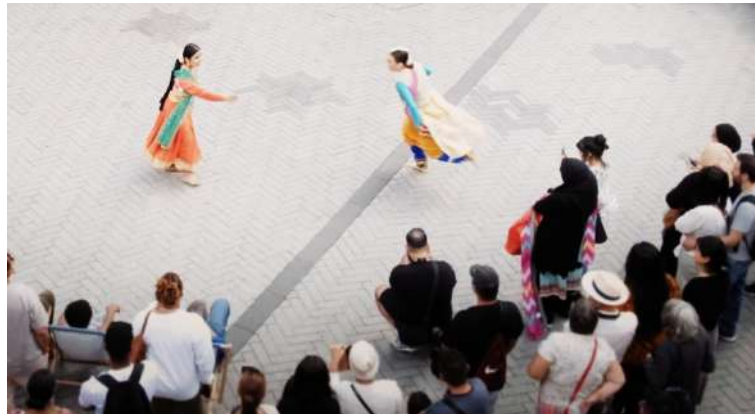


## Mughal Miniatures: The Awakening - Social Story

I am going to see Mughal Miniatures; it is an outdoor performance. It is 15 minutes long.

Sometimes a festival or outdoor event may be crowded. To get to the performance I may walk in front of other people, and other people may walk in front of me to get to the show. People might accidentally bump me while they walk by me.

I might be able to sit on the ground or on a chair to watch the show or I may have to stand up. I can choose where I want to watch the performance as long as there is enough space between me and the stage. A steward will tell me if I am too close, and I can move further back.



During the show, I will sit or stand with my family. There may be people I don't know sitting or standing close to me. I can move around and make noise during the show.

The music starts and stops throughout the show, there are lots of rhythmic Indian drumbeats and sometimes it is loud. There may be things that make me nervous. If I get



nervous during the show, I can: cover my eyes, wear ear defenders, hold my parent's hand, or play with my fidget.

If I see something that I like or think is funny, I can clap my hands or laugh. Others sitting by me might clap, cheer or laugh at things too. If the clapping or cheering is too loud, I can: cover my ears or wear ear defenders.

The set is a small stage, with a big square yellow picture frame at the front. At the back of the stage, there is a colourful patterned backdrop that looks like a room in a grand, Indian palace. There is a big empty space in front of the stage.



This is a dance show with loud music played through speakers. The performers don't speak or say any words, but I can tell what's happening in the story by following their movements.

There are four performers.

One is playing the part of the Mughal queen; she is wearing a costume that looks like this:



One is playing the part of the servant; she is wearing a costume that looks like this:



One is playing the part of the court musician; she is wearing a costume that looks like this:



One is playing the part of the court dancer; she is wearing a costume that looks like this:



The show starts when the dancers walk onto the stage. They strike a pose and stay still so it looks like they are in a picture. The music starts and each time there is a drum beat the dancers change their poses. A harp sounds and the dancers begin to dance together.



When the music stops, the queen doesn't look happy. She orders everyone to do their jobs: the musician plays an imaginary sitar, the servant washes imaginary clothes and the dancer has to do the dance moves the queen wants. The dancer starts trying out her own dance moves. The musician starts playing exciting music on the sitar. The servant starts trying on imaginary clothes and jewellery. The sitar music becomes quite loud and frantic for a short time.



The queen keeps trying to stop them and make them do their jobs the way she wants.

The musician and the dancer start pushing each other. The queen tries to settle the disagreement but then she shoves the dancer and the musician out of the picture frame.



The dancer and musician look scared to be out of the frame. The dancer starts exploring and encourages the musician to explore too. They come up close to the audience.



The dancer and the musician start dancing in their own styles. They both look happy and excited.

The queen chases the servant out of the picture frame. The queen stays in the frame and looks cross.



The dancer, the servant and musician take off their veils and start dancing together. They spin round with their veils held high in the air.

The queen tries to copy their dance but can't do it right. After a while she gets very angry, screws up her veil and throws it on the floor.



The others look worried and come back into the frame and put on their veils. They start spinning the queen round and round.

The queen stops and then slowly steps out of the frame. She looks happy and excited. The others follow her out of the frame.

The queen starts dancing joyfully. The others encourage the audience to clap along to the beat. If I want to, I can clap along too.



Each character gets a chance to dance in the middle in their own style. When the music stops the characters stop and stay still. The audience might start clapping. If I want to, I can clap along too.

When the music starts again, they walk back into the frame. The servant starts to dress the queen in the red veil, but the queen shakes her head and gives it to the servant. The others all swap their veils too.



Together they all step out of the frame and walk to the edge of the performance space. They all look happy

This is the end of the show, and the audience will start clapping and cheering. If I want to, I can clap and cheer too.

## Find out more



### Info about the company:

**Sonia Sabri Company** (SSCo) is an award-winning South Asian dance & music company. We tour performances & deliver teaching across Birmingham, UK & worldwide.

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