



## **Sima Gonsai**

Sima is a director, programmer and educator in screen dance.

Originally trained in Bharata Natyam, her first dance film “Kita” developed her skills in deconstructing movement to its simplest form and experimented with ways of interpreting dance using hand drawn 16mm animation. The film ignited her passion for visual forms of storytelling - where movement or being moved became central to her work.

Known as “the artist on the bicycle”, her creative journey began as a visual artist when she independently cycled 8000km connecting the movement of people and places across three continents, Europe, South East Asia and South Asia.

Since 2011, Sima has produced and directed a trilogy of dance films, profiling disabilities on screen in collaboration with Freefall Dance Company and Birmingham Royal Ballet. This work has received international acclaim, reaching over 1.4 million audiences worldwide. Sima is currently developing a series of screen dance films involving deaf/blind dancers and leading a new research project exploring the connections between South Asian devotional dance, science and the cosmos.

**Proposal**

When you make a piece of screen dance, how can you ensure that it reaches a wide audience and not just be seen by your peers or supporters? How do you reach those, who may feel they are not your audience?

My presentation will focus on the trilogy of work I have directed with Freefall Dance Company, in particular on inclusive practice for the screen and the impact of distribution. The presentation will involve a short trailer of the trilogy followed by a talk about how screen dance has raised Freefall's profile on an equal and international platform.