

Dear Dance Teams,

Aaj Ka Dhamaka 2006 is approaching fast so mark your calendars for November 11th, 2006! This year AKD will be held at the newly renovated Memorial Hall on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and we promise it will be an exciting competition. Last year, we had groups from all over the East Coast put on spectacular performances that fostered an intense yet exhilarating competition. On behalf of Sangam, the South Asian awareness organization at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, we invite you to apply to compete in Aaj Ka Dhamaka 2006! We are very excited to host this competition again and look forward to having your team compete.

All proceeds from the show will benefit the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship. The Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship (MGF) was established in 1998 to give students an opportunity to plan and implement a project that affects the South Asian populations at home and abroad. Since the fellowship's inception, we have been raising funds to reach a desired endowment of \$125,000. This will sustain an annual scholarship that supports two MGF fellows by awarding them up to \$3,000 each. Thus far, we have supported the visions of 16 students and will continue to do so in years to come. This would not have been possible without those of you who have participated in past AKD competitions and supported our worthwhile cause. With your continued help, we can make momentous progress toward the MGF endowment and raise the necessary funds for this year's fellows, while celebrating our collective cultural talent at the same time!

We are confident that you will enjoy your time here in the Triangle area—not just the competition, but also the chance to meet and interact with the students in our local community. In addition, your team will have the chance to win \$1,000 (first place), \$500 (second place), or \$250 (third place). This will definitely be weekend that you will not want to miss, so we hope that you'll join us for this exciting and worthwhile competition.

We look forward to receiving your 2006 Aaj Ka Dhamaka application! For the latest information, visit the Aaj Ka Dhamaka 2006 website at www.uncakd.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sagar Harwani
Sangam President
harwani@email.unc.edu
(336) 558-7600



Mehul Patel
Sangam Vice-President
mehulman@email.unc.edu
(919) 923-2616



Competition Guidelines

- The AKD competition is limited to group dance performances of 8 to 16 people.
- The dance and music styles of each performance must incorporate elements of South Asian origin, including, but not limited to, bhangra, garba/raas, Hindi film, remixes, etc.
- All team members must be full-time students at a college or university. A team may be composed of students from various universities or colleges. Multiple teams from the same university may be selected to compete.
- Competition teams will be selected by the AKD Committee, based on the team's performance on a try-out video.
- Students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will not be eligible to participate in the competition. Instead these students may only participate in an AKD exhibition performance, as it may represent a conflict of interest with respect to judging.



Application Process

1. Complete the Registration Form included in this packet.
2. Prepare a video of a routine, which may be either a past routine performed by your group or a segment of the routine planned for AKD. Video should be at minimum two (2) minutes long. The video may be submitted in VHS form, on a DVD or CD (mpeg or avi only), or posted to a website.
3. Submit your registration form and fee (make checks payable to “Sangam”).

a. Early Registration

To register early, submit your registration form and fee of **\$100** by **Saturday, September 30th 2006** (postmarked). However, the tryout video may be submitted by Wednesday, October 11th.

b. Standard Registration

The standard registration deadline is **Wednesday, October 11th 2006** (postmarked). Standard registration fee is **\$125**. Submit your registration form, \$125 fee, and try-out video in one package (unless the tryout video is being submitted electronically).

Mail all materials to: Sagar Harwani
5110 Old Chapel Hill Road, Apt 101
Durham, NC 27707



Selection Process

Once all materials are received, the AKD committee will adhere to the following process:

1. Videotapes will be assessed, and teams will be chosen for the competition based on the judging criteria (refer to last page of this packet). The AKD Committee Chairs and the Sangam Executive Board has full discretion over which acts to include in the competition.
2. Selected teams will be notified by **Monday, October 16th 2006** via the team's contact person by phone and email. Teams are expected to confirm their participation by **Tuesday, October 17th 2006 by 9:00pm EST**.
3. All teams not selected to compete will have their registration fee returned. Some teams will have the option to be placed on a waitlist to compete.

Rules and Regulations

1. Dances must be between five (5) and seven (7) minutes. If any team goes over or under the set time constraints, points will be deducted from the team's score.
2. Each team must have no fewer than 8 members and no more than 16 members.
3. Final team rosters must be received by **Wednesday, October 25th 2006**, which will be done electronically.
4. Each participant must check-in individually on **Saturday, November 11th 2006**. On the day of check-in, each participant must present **two** forms of his/her picture identification — one must be a University or College identification. Any team member unable to present the required identification or not on the final team roster will not be able to compete.
5. There is a mandatory dress rehearsal at Memorial Hall on the morning of the show, **Saturday, November 11th 2006**. Rehearsals will begin promptly at the designated time. Each team will be assigned a 15-minute time slot. If any team misses their rehearsal time, they will not be able to practice on the Memorial Hall stage.



6. Each team's performance music must be recorded in wav format onto one continuous track, which includes all intended breaks and pauses. The CD should consist of only one track. The CD must be clearly labeled with the team's registered name. Two (2) copies of the CD as well as the team roster must be submitted along with the final roster by **Wednesday, October 25th 2006**. Alternatively, both of these items may be submitted electronically so long as the method of submission is arranged in advance with the AKD Co-Chairs.
7. On the day of the show, performers must report backstage at their assigned time. Failure to comply with this rule may lead to disqualification or loss of on-stage practice time.
8. The consumption of alcohol, the use of any illegal substances, and/or being under the influence on or near the premises of Memorial Hall will not be tolerated. The AKD Committee and Memorial Hall reserve the right to disqualify and/or expel any participant partaking in such activity.
9. All participants are expected to comply with operation and use rules at Memorial Hall.
10. Any rules that are violated may lead to an individual or team disqualification. These decisions are at the sole discretion of the AKD Committee.
11. Neither Sangam nor any other sponsoring organization are responsible for any bodily and personal injury or damage to property resulting from participation in Aaj Ka Dhamaka 2006.
12. The AKD Committee reserves the right to add new and updated rules and regulations that it deems necessary and appropriate with regards to the venue and the competition itself. Any further additions will be posted on the website and team contacts will be notified via email of all changes.



Registration Form

(page 1 of 2)

1. Team Name: _____
(College or University: _____)
2. If not selected for competition, would you like to be placed on a waiting list?
 YES NO

3. Please briefly describe the type/style of your performance.

4. Primary Contact Information:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

(continued on next page)



Registration Form

(page 2 of 2)

5. Team Members:

All team members must be full-time students at a college or university. On the day of check-in, each participant must present **two (2)** forms of his/her picture ID—one must be a University or College ID. Please have each team member sign next to their information, designating that they have read and agreed to all rules and regulations.

Full Name	School	Signature	T-Shirt Size (s,m, l, x-)
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2.			
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9.			
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11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			



Judging Criteria

Opening/Ending
(How original is it?)

Creativity
(How innovative/original are steps, formations, concepts or themes?)

Traditionalism
(Does the dance contain traditional elements, i.e. dance moves, music, costumes, etc.?)

Choreography
(Are there a variety of formations and transitions from one move to another?)

Accuracy
(Are the dance moves executed smoothly; are the dancers in sync with each other and music?)

Difficulty
(How difficult are the moves?)

Dhamaka (Energy)
(Are the dance moves, energy and expressions of the dancers appropriate relative to the music?)

Special Effects
(Are there any stunts performed, props used, etc.?)

Overall Performance
(What is the overall impression of the dance?)

*The AKD Committee reserves the right to update any judging criteria that it deems appropriate. Any changes will be explained and posted on the website and team contacts will be notified via email of all changes.



Final Checklist/Timeline

September 30th, 2006

Early Registration Deadline

*(submit **\$100 fee** & completed registration form; video postmarked by October 7th, if not electronic)*

October 7th, 2006

Audition video postmark date for both early and standard registration

October 11th, 2006

Standard Registration Deadline

*(submit **\$125 fee**, completed registration form, and video if electronic)*

October 16th, 2006

Teams notified of selection for competition

October 18th, 2006

Deadline for chosen teams to confirm participation

October 25th, 2006

Final Team Roster & 2 copies of performance music on CD due

November 11th, 2006

Dress Rehearsal, Morning

(all performers must bring 2 forms of ID)

Show starts, 7:00pm