



Department of Language & Culture Himachal Pradesh

Cordially Invites You To



Artwork by ©Raghav Raj Bhatt

GAITY KATHAK UTSAV

Friday 19th - Sunday 21st April, 2024

Gaiety Heritage Cultural Complex, Shimla

Workshops Fri & Sat | 1:30 AM - 1:00 PM & 2:30 - 4:00 PM | **Performance Sun 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

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Dr. Pankaj Lalit
Director

ABOUT THE GAIETY KATHAK UTSAV

The Utsav has been planned as a series of five sessions, held across three consecutive days. Including interactive and demonstrative workshops on the first two days followed by a performance on the third day, based on the Ramayana theme. These sessions would be conducted by **Guru Mangala Bhatt and Guru Raghav Raj Bhatt** along with their accompanying kathak dance troupe members: Divya Pathak, Preeti Krishnan, Shivani Sabharwal and accompanying musicians.

Day One 19th April 2024 (Friday), Venue is The Gaiety Multipurpose Hall:

The *first session* is a morning session and is going to have a Kathak Workshop (Demonstration + Interactive session) 11:30AM to 1:00PM.

This workshop is geared towards beginners and general enthusiasts, especially the school children of ages 13 and above.

The *second session* is an afternoon session and is going to have a Kathak Workshop (Demonstration + Interactive session) 2:30PM to 4:00PM.

This workshop is geared towards advanced level participants, especially for institutions and universities.

Day Two 20th April 2024 (Saturday), Venue is The Gaiety Multipurpose Hall:

The *Third session* is a morning session and is going to have the continued Kathak Workshop (Demonstration + Interactive session) 11:30AM to 1:00PM.

This workshop is in continuation to the previous day's workshop and is geared towards beginners and general enthusiasts, especially the school children of ages 13 and above.

The *Fourth session* is an afternoon session and is going to have the continued Kathak Workshop (Demonstration + Interactive session) 2:30PM to 4:00PM.

This workshop is in continuation to the previous day's workshop and is geared towards advanced level participants, especially for institutions and universities.

ABOUT THE GAIETY KATHAK UTSAV

MAIN EVENT DAY

Day Three 21st April 2024 (Sunday), venue is The Gaiety Theatre's **Gothic Hall**:

The *Fifth and final session* being the **main event is an evening session 5:30PM to 7PM** and is a performance titled: **Shri Ram Katha - The Journey of Rama**, conceptualized and choreographed by **Guru Mangala Bhatt and Guru Raghav Raj Bhatt**.

This Performance's entry is free of charge and open to all with limited seating capacity at the Gaiety Gothic Hall and on a first come first serve basis, please be a few minutes early to save a spot.

The rights of admission are reserved with the Gaiety Management.

This **Utsav** has been curated towards celebrating the spirit of exuberance through dance.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DAY-1 (MORNING) For Schools

Guru Mangala Bhatt & Guru Raghav Raj Bhatt
Friday 19th April, 2024 (Workshop for Schools)
Workshop Time 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

DAY-1 (AFTERNOON) For Institutions

Guru Mangala Bhatt & Guru Raghav Raj Bhatt
Friday 19th April, 2024 (Workshop for Institutions)
Workshop Time 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

DAY-2 (MORNING) For Schools

Guru Mangala Bhatt & Guru Raghav Raj Bhatt
Saturday 20th April, 2024 (Workshop for Schools)
Workshop Time 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

DAY-2 (AFTERNOON) For Institutions

Guru Mangala Bhatt & Guru Raghav Raj Bhatt
Saturday 20th April, 2024 (Workshop for Institutions)
Workshop Time 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

DAY-3 (EVENING) MAIN EVENT DAY

Guru Mangala Bhatt & Guru Raghav Raj Bhatt
Sunday 21st April, 2024 (Kathak Performance)
Performance Time 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Performance Theme:
Shri Ram Katha - The Journey of Rama



ABOUT KATHAK:

Kathak dance originated in the North of India, in the provinces of Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh and later came to be popular all over India and abroad.

The name "Kathaka" means "a storyteller". Kathak may have existed as far back as the days of epic tales of Ramayana and Mahabharata, for there is a mention of storytellers, travelling from place to place and telling stories from sacred texts. Once a part of the Hindu temple ritual of devotion to deities like Shiva and Krishna, Kathak in the course of history imbibed the influence of Muslim culture and began to be performed at Mughal courts to the delight of Mughal rulers. This created a unique blend of both Muslim and Hindu Indian traditions.

Bhava is an essential element of Indian art. When life is recreated into art, then its every aspect, every object and living thing is given new expression, and is reworked through the mind and body of the artist to give rise to a certain emotional state. These states are translated into movements and facial expressions, abhinaya. Abhinaya and technical mastery constitute two poles between which the dance itself grows and matures.

There is the technical aspect of a set of movements, circular and linear, which regulate the harmonious development of the body and create an aesthetically beautiful performance. There is a variety of chakras, which is also an essential element of Kathak, and when it is carried out to the utmost, it becomes a way of transcending the temporal in the eternal yearning for the absolute, the dancer spinning away into the infinity.

Pandit Durga Lal

Pandit Birju Maharaj

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Mangala & Raghav Raj Bhatt, disciples of Pt Durga Lal Ji and Pt Birju Maharaj Ji respectively are a dance duo synonymous with Kathak. Fine exponents of the art form, they bring together the confluence of two distinct styles of Kathak, representing Jaipur Gharana and Lucknow Gharana.

Going beyond the precincts of Kathak Kendra, they have performed in productions under the guidance of their gurus in major programs in a traditional Guru Shishya parampara. After this, they made it their life's mission to take Kathak to all the possible corners of the world, maintaining its true essence and classical form.

They have been running one of the most premier learning centres of Kathak, Aakruti Kathak Kendra, in Hyderabad since 1990. They have successfully imparted the knowledge of the art form to younger generations in traditional style, taking forward the legacy of their Gurus through their original productions and performances.

Their service to the art form has garnered praise from critics, rasikas, media and general public at large. Their massive contribution spans nearly 4 decades covering 6 continents and 40 cities. Some of the notable ones being in Uzbekistan, Singapore, Russia, Canada, Mexico, Philippines, Myanmar and Malaysia and numerous other countries. They have also performed at some of India's prestigious dance festivals like the Khajuraho Festival, Vasant Utsav and many others.

The established artist duo are empanelled with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Doordarshan and have been associated with Sangeet Bharti, Kathak Kendra, ICCR and Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi for various projects across the performing art spectrum including Indian Folk & Tribal art forms.

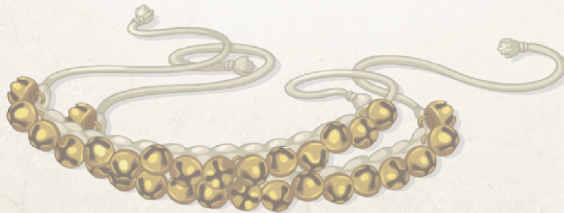


ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

They have proactively been a part of initiatives such as SPICMACAY, Heal a Child, Rotract and others, which integrate art and culture into the upliftment of the society and regularly feature in guest lectures at schools, institutions and bodies like the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT).

Besides this, they are also the curators and hosts of Antarang, a music and dance festival held in Hyderabad every year. Their choreographies have featured in prestigious occasions such as Festival of India USA, Incredible India New York, Afro-Asian Games, National Youth Festival, International Children's Film Festival, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Conference, Global Entrepreneurs Summit, NASSCOM India Leadership Forum and many such more!

For their contribution to the field of art, they have been conferred and honoured with many awards, few of them being the prestigious Guru Deba Prasad Das Award and State Awards from Telangana and State Awards from Andhra Pradesh. They have been conferred Prestigious Sangeet Natak Academi Award for the year 2019 for their contribution to the kathak Dance. They received this award from the honourable President Of India and the ceremony took place in Vigyan Bhavan on 23rd February 2023



Synopsis for Ramayana Production at Gaitey Kathak Utsav.

Ramayana, an ancient epic of Indian culture, is an integral part of our cultural and religious heritage. It depicts the journey of Shri Rama's life. Composed in Sanskrit by sage Valmiki as early as 5th century BCE, it is often considered as the Adi Kavya (i.e., the original/ first poem). Over the years, many regional vernacular versions of this composition have been recognised too. Beyond its spiritual significance, this epic also gives profound insights and meaningful life lessons.

Ramayana is immensely popular and considered of great merit, forming a part of the story repertoire in many dance forms all across the country. In fact, incidents from this story are engraved in monuments of historical significance such as walls of the oldest temples across India and South East Asia, indicating the widespread regard for Ramayana.

In reverence to this epic historical account, a unique production has been curated chronicling the journey of Shri Ram right from his birth in Ayodhya, his tutelage under sage Vishwamitra, his unparalleled success in Sita Swayamvar, his exile to the forest, his divine encounter with Hanuman and his valiant war with the demon king Ravana. Although Ramayan is a story of palaces, traditions, politics, and battles, its narrative also teach us values that we must strive towards as individual people and as a collective society - triumph of good over evil, honesty, righteousness, humility, forgiveness are some of the life lessons that this tale continues to teach all of us since time immemorial.



Synopsis for Ramayana Production at Gaitey Kathak Utsav.

Conceptualized and choreographed by Guru Mangala Bhatt and Raghav Raj Bhatt, this production has been composed on the lyrics of "Nama Ramayana" written by the renowned Saint Ramdas. It is also worthy of mention here, that each sub story depicted in this choreography has been set to a different Raag, that was carefully selected keeping in mind the spirit & emotion prominent in that incident, maintaining an atmosphere of rapture throughout this recital. Another unique aspect of this production is that it is helmed completely by dancers portraying both male & female characters without additional props or costumes or make up specific to a character. In fact, focus was maintained on establishment of every character, purely by virtue of our expressions, body movements and emulation of specific features of every character.

We, at Aakruti Kathak Kendra, have thoughtfully shaped this spectacular production titled:

Shri Ram Katha - The Journey of Rama that will keep you enthralled, render some poignant memories and take you back in time.



Aakruti
Kathak Kendra



Artwork by ©Raghav Raj Bhatt



GAIETY KATHAK UTSAV - 2024

Workshop Venue : Multipurpose Hall, Gaiety Theatre, Shimla (Entry Ridge Side)

Performance Venue : Gothic Hall, Gaiety Theatre, Shimla (Entry Mall Side)

Session - 1

Friday 19th April, 2024 (Kathak Workshop for Schools)
Workshop Time 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Session - 2

Friday 19th April, 2024 (Kathak Workshop for Institutions)
Workshop Time 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Session - 3

Saturday 20th April, 2024 (Kathak Workshop for Schools)
Workshop Time 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Session - 4

Saturday 20th April, 2024 (Kathak Workshop for Institutions)
Workshop Time 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

DAY-3 (EVENING) MAIN EVENT DAY

Guru Mangala Bhatt & Guru Raghav Raj Bhatt

Sunday 21st April, 2024 (Kathak Performance)

Performance Time 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Performance Theme:

Shri Ram Katha - The Journey of Rama