

Natalia Armacanqui

Dancer, culture-keeper, storyteller, teacher,
performer, choreographer, administrator &
scholar



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ABOUT THE DANCER . . .

Integrating the three universal elements of dance, Ang (grace), Taal (rhythm), and Abhinaya (expression), Natalia naturally manifests an original syncretic aesthetics by weaving her multiple global dance styles including Indian, Peruvian, Middle Eastern, and Western Contemporary into a tapestry that connects community to connect with others and the Great Spirit as her most authentic self. Rooted in a multi-racial and ethnic background, as well as, life-long trained to a professional level in a classical Indian dance form Kathak - Natalia now shares her art with audiences internationally, inspired by art's ability to transcend cultural barriers and to raise awareness on racial, gender, immigration, and queer justice. As a performing artist, the uniqueness in Natalia's movement and rhythm practice is defined by her subtleness and sensitivity, which are threatened in this age of flashiness and violence. This stems from her holistic, rigorous training in the stylistics and discipline of tradition and the expressive dynamism of the contemporary. Rooted in a multi-ethnic background, Natalia presents her art to a variety of audiences of all different cultures, as a means of transcending cultural barriers and dismantling toxic, oppressive social norms. Her journey as a dancer started from the tender age of four years old. Since the beginning, upon her very first sight of dance, Natalia was passionate and dedicated about training and mastering the dance form, with support from her Indigenous Peruvian mother Berta Armacanqui and North American father David Hildner. From 2002 to 2015, Natalia continuously visited India to receive intensive tutelage from multiple dance maestros of Kathak. Although, much of her training took place in the U.S., prior to coming to India, several years from Smt. Sandhya Desai, Prof. Mekhala Natavar, and Prof. Purnima Shah. In the years 2008 and 2014, Natalia was awarded prestigious award fellowships such as Senior Performing Artist and Urdu Language candidate from the American Institute of Indian Studies. Graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in South Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Wisconsin and a Masters in South Asian Dance from Roehampton University, London, Natalia now continues her to perform, teach, and choreograph as dancer in the U.S.A. , UK, and beyond.

MAJOR PERFORMANCES, AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS...

- Faculty Concert Series premiere of Contemporary Kathak Choreography entitled “The Red Orchestra” at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dance
Madison, WI, U.S.A., September 2015-February 2016
- Main role as Umrao Jaan in U.K. production of *Umrao – the Noble Courtesan* produced by Asian Music Circuit
London, U.K. & *the Fringe Festival*, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2015
- Concert of the Legends with Zakir Hussain on Tabla and Kalashram company
Minneapolis, MN, U.S.A, September 2012
- Solo Kathak Performance at Sadler’s Wells - Wild Card
London, U.K., 2013
- Advanced Urdu Language Fellowship Award with specialization in the Ghazal – American Institute of Indian Studies
Lucknow, India 2014 - 2015
- First Kathak professional to be called for participation in the creative process of internationally-acclaimed Akram Khan contemporary dance company
London, U.K., May-June 2012
- Solo at Lucknow Literary Festival for Wajid Ali Shah Award Ceremony
Lucknow, February 2015
- Kathak Performance at Commonwealth Games opening ceremony
New Delhi, India, 2010
- Senior Performing Arts Fellowship Award - American Institute of Indian Studies
Delhi, India 2007-2008
- Co-Author of International Kathak Dance Syllabus for Dance Examinations Board – Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing
London, UK, March 2012

- Sur Sringar Sansad Award – Swami Haridaas Sangeet Sammelan
Mumbai, India, December 2011
- Vasavadatta Dance Drama, Lead role - Sujata Banerjee Company
Artsdepot, London, UK, November 2011
- International Kathak Festival, soloist – Anila Sinha Foundation
Chicago, U.S.A., October 2009
- Vishwanayika Dance Drama, Lead role – Directed by Archana Joglekar
Bruhan Maharashtra Mandal, Philadelphia, July 2009
- Call for Peace Dance and Drum Company International Tour, soloist
University of Puerto Rico, July 2007

EDUCATION

Roehampton University, M. A. in South Asian Dance

Diploma earned in 2016

University of Wisconsin- Madison, B. A. in Languages and Culture of Asia

August 2004 – May 2009

EXPERIENCE

Asst. Teacher, Asst. Lecturer, Performer | **Kalashram Dance Company**

D – II/33 Shahjahan Road, Delhi, India

February 2008 – September 2011

Member of international Kathak Dance Company as a soloist as well as participant in stellar choreographies. Performer and assistant teacher of various training levels at the Kalashram academy. Presenter of lecture demonstrations and workshops conducted throughout India and abroad.

Dance workshop organizer & teacher | **Privately organized**

London, U.K. – Expression dance studio, December 2013

Cincinnati, OH, U.S.A. – Private dance studio, November 6th, 2015

Madison, WI, U.S.A. – Alicia Ashman library, January 2013

Dance workshop teacher for NGO | **Rehabilitation Center for
Human Trafficking Survivors**

Free the Slaves, 18 Central Lane II Floor, Bengali Market, Delhi 110001
Telephone: 001919313548040

Designed and conducted a workshop for adolescent girls who were survivors of human trafficking. The mission of the workshop was to initiate a process of healing trauma through dance via Kathak by developing an appreciation and respect of their own bodies and empowering through movement and rhythm.

Associate Artist, Performer, Teacher | **Sujata Banerjee
Dance Company**

1 Stag Close, Edgware, Middlesex UK HA8 5LQ
Telephone: 44 - 208 - 9057199
October 2011 – May 2012

Teacher of various levels of Kathak dance at the Sujata Banerjee dance school as well as performer as a lead soloist and member of group choreographies. Presenter at workshops and lecture demonstrations organized by the company.

Lecturer, teacher, performer | **Center for Advanced Training for
South Asian and Contemporary Dance**

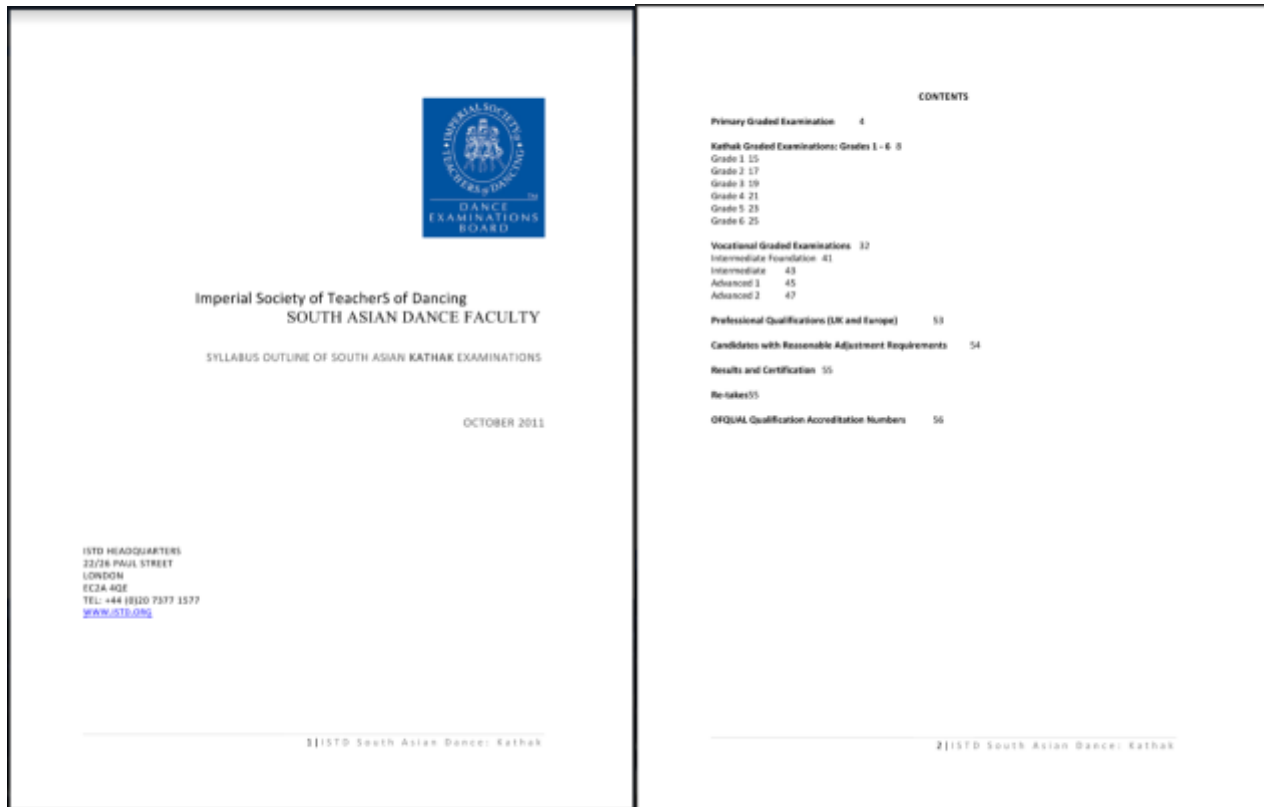
DanceXchange, Level 5 Birmingham Hippodrome, Thorp St., Birmingham B5 4TB
Telephone: +441216891096
December 2011

Conducted a workshop for advanced level students of Kathak dance. Choreographed dance pieces and exercises for the group.

Author of International Dance Syllabus | **Imperial Society for Teachers of Dancing**

Imperial House
22/26 Paul Street
London
EC2A 4QE
Phone: +44 (0)20 7377 1577
London, UK, March 2012

Co-Author of international Kathak dance syllabus specification for dance examinations board. Duties included providing original material of Kathak technical knowledge from 25 years of experience for practical and theoretical purposes and expressing it in an accessible fashion for Kathak students of Primary to Grade 6, Intermediate, Intermediate foundation, Advance 1 & 2.



Concert Organizer & Promoter & Manager | **Indian Graduate Student Association & South Asian Sisters, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2014
 Overture Centre, Capitol Theatre
 Madison, Wisconsin

Monday, October 1st, 2012
 U.W. Mitchell Theatre
 821 University Ave.
 Madison, Wisconsin

Conceptualization, organization, and managing of Indian classical music and dance which invited the legendary performer Padmavibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj Kalashram dance troupe to University concert with support of community and university organizations. Duties included event, organizing, planning, fundraising, publicity, promoting, management, and hosting of artists. (see poster of event attached). The second event “Stories of Survival” in 2014 was in special honor of the victims and families affected by the Sikh temple shooting tragedy on August 5th 2012 in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and rape victim Jyoti Singh in 2012 – see promo video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=854qxi69Yt0>



TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND
 7:00 PM
 THE OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
 CAPITOL THEATRE



Event Manager and organizer | **Mehfil (Part 1 & Part 2)**

Sunday, August 24th, 2014
 Dance Life Studio
 6725 Seybold Dr.
 Madison WI 53719

Saturday, June 11th, 2016
 1127 University Ave
 Madison WI 53715

Developing a unique dance and music concert series concept which brought together both Indian and Western aesthetics, converting conventional performance spaces into dance and music gatherings including contemporary collaborations. Duties consisted of finding sponsors, inviting and promoting both local and international dance and music artists from different artistic fields and backgrounds such as Indian sitarists and tabla players, Nepali flute, Afghan rubab, and other Indian classical dancers. Event planning for such concerts included conceptualization, fundraising, publicity, selling tickets, management, venue booking, and hosting artists. (See poster attached).



Lecturer, Lecture Demonstrator | **Universities in U. S. & U. K.**

Roehampton University – Lecture / Demonstration at Centre for Dance research for “Thumri Rasrang”

Princeton University – Performance/Lecture for cultural show, April 2007

Rutgers University – Lecture/Performance “Dancing with Krishna” Department of Religion’s lecture series on Mysticism, November 2005

University of Wisconsin-Madison – Lecture/Demonstration for the Centre for South Asia on the history of Kathak, October 2010

Articles Published on Dance

| **PULSE MAGAZINE & LUCKNOW
OBSERVER**

Interview and front cover on “Hindutva and Indian dance”, March 2014

https://issuu.com/sanjeevinidutta/docs/140301_pulse_124_100_web-1

Article on the city of Lucknow & Lucknow Gharana Kathak, November 2014

<http://lucknowobserver.com/pandit-birju-maharaj/>

Article on Ghazals and Kathak, Spring 2016

https://issuu.com/sanjeevinidutta/docs/132_e-pulse_web

SKILLS

- Dance Teacher, Lecturer/Workshop, Performer, and Choreographer trainer
- Event/Concert organizing, promoting, and management
- Dance field research and academic writing
- Elementary graphic design, sound and video editing
- Languages: English, Spanish, French, Hindi, Urdu, & Farsi