

DANCE CAN ERASE BORDERS BY MABEL PAIS

IAAC'S ERASING BORDERS 2021 DANCE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES INDIA'S MULTIPLE DANCE FORMS SEPTEMBER 22-26, 2021 ALL PERFORMANCES STREAM FREE TO THE PUBLIC

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) presents its annual Erasing Borders Dance Festival, September 22-26, 2021 for the 14th year. Each day's event begins at 8:30 P.M. The artists will present their dances virtually.

Ten artists trained in Indian dance forms from across the world will be brought together in a virtual borderless festival. The dance festival is one among the IAAC's other flagship events featuring music, film, and literature, all dedicated to furthering the knowledge and living practices of the arts of the Indian sub-continent. For more, visit iaac.us/erasing-borders-dance-festival-2021.

Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, IAAC Chairman stated, "This year's Festival, celebrating the start of the 75th anniversary of India's independence, will include four performance evenings and two morning workshops. For this year, the curators selected dance works that speak to these reflections on 75 years. Pondering on the issues of old struggles, new ideas, hard won achievements, renewed actions, and future facing resolutions, the Festival curators selected works where artists think of dance as their personal journey. They reflect on how dance stimulates awareness and how dance may direct a sustainable future. The artists proudly present their dance as heritage and as part of the global world."

Participating artists include Rukmini Vijayakumar, Preethi Athreya, Sonali Skandan, Kalamandalam Adithyan, Kaustavi Sarkar, Jyotsna Vaidee, Vaishali Trivedi, Bindu Rajendren, and Meera Sreenarayanan. Performances highlight Bharatanatyam, contemporary, Rajasthani folk, Kathakali, Odissi, and Mohiniyattam forms of dance.

New to the festival this year will be a documentary presentation on September 23 by Kalbeliya World, an international solidarity program that safeguards the art forms of women from traditional families of the Kalbeliya community in Rajasthan. Two morning workshops will round up the festival on September 25 and 26 at 10:00 A.M. ET. The first is led by Dr. Krishnakali Dasgupta and covers the Indian classical dance style of Manipuri and the second is a Rajasthani folk workshop conducted by Aakansha Maheshwari.

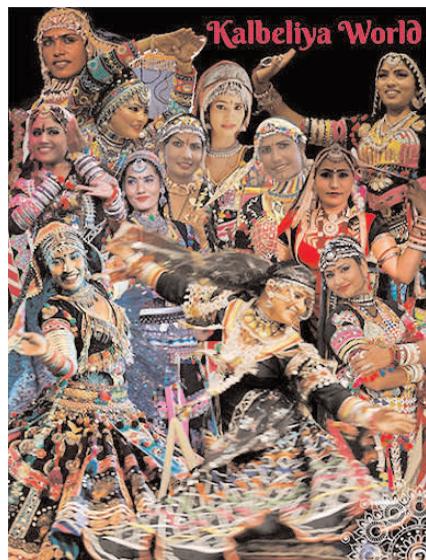
Said Deepsikha Chatterjee, Erasing Borders Dance Director for IAAC, "It has always been and will continue to be a transcontinental festival given the focus on Indian dance, whose practitioners live all over the world. Offering the festival virtually allows Indian dance to be seen across the world and in many of its original settings."

"Immigrant artists have always been essential to the creative landscape of New York City. Across multiple disciplines, immigrants are key to the city's global reputation for artistic excellence. The lineup includes artists who are local New York City residents and are from the Indian-American community," said Suman Gollamudi, Executive Director of the Indo-American Arts Council.

Each evening will include a panel discussion with the performers led by moderators who are among the doyen of the Indian dance community, explained Senior Curator Uttara Coorlawala. Kumudini Lakhia, Arshiya Sethi, Sonal Mansingh, and UK's Chitra Sundaram will lead these vibrant panels.

SCHEDULE:
A full schedule of the 2021 Erasing Borders Dance Festival:
Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 8:30 P.M. ET,

performance moderated by Kumudini Lakhia
Rukmini Vijayakumar Bharatanatyam
Preethi Athreya Contemporary
Sonali Skandan Bharatanatyam
Thursday, September 23, 2021, 8:30 P.M. ET,
performance moderated by Chitra Sundaram



Kalbeliya World poster
Photo / iaac.us

Kalbeliya
World Rajasthani folk
Kalamandalam Adithyan
Kathakali
Friday, September 24, 2021, 8:30 P.M. ET,
performance moderated by Sonal Mansingh
Kaustavi Sarkar Odissi
Jyotsna Vaidee Bharatanatyam group
Saturday, September 25, 2021, 8:30 P.M. ET,

performance moderated by Arshiya Sethi
Vaishali Trivedi Kathak group
Bindu Rajendren Mohiniyattam
Meera Sreenarayanan Bharatanatyam
Saturday, September 25, 2021, 10:00 A.M. ET
Morning workshop:



Krishnakali Dasgupta
Photo / iaac.us

Dr. Krishnakali Dasgupta Manipuri
Sunday, September 26, 2021, 10:00 A.M. ET

Morning workshop:
Aakansha Maheshwari Rajasthani folk workshop
To learn more about the artists and the performances, visit iaac.us/erasing-borders-dance-festival-2021

The Erasing Borders Dance Festival
The Erasing Borders Dance Festival of the Indo-American Arts

Council (IAAC) invites dancers, dance companies and choreographers across the world to present works of artistic excellence sharing movement, heritage, and inspiration from India. The festival is curated for the New York City public and can now be viewed globally in its virtual edition.

The Indo-American Arts Council
For more information, visit IAAC.us

NJPAC STANDS IN SOLIDARITY

By Mabel Pais



Healing Circle

Photo / Courtesy NJ PAC

The "Standing in Solidarity Racial Healing Circle" will be held virtually on Monday, September 20, @7PM. It's FREE on ZOOM

Last summer, in response to the death of George Floyd, protesters around the globe took to the streets to demand an end to systemic racism in the criminal justice system - a movement that grew to inspire a lasting reckoning with race, equity and injustice in all aspects of our lives.

In support of this movement, NJPAC launched "Standing in Solidarity," a series of events that offered greater understanding of current racial disparities. Throughout the past year, NJPACs "Standing in Solidarity" virtual conversations examined tough topics, from the need to reform the justice system to the impact of systemic racism on education, the business community and more.

The NJPAC events' participants have spent the past year reflecting on these issues. And the people who joined them for these conversations were what made these events moving, useful, insightful and effective.

Now, NJPAC invites the public to join the Arts Center, and The Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Center at Rutgers University, Newark to be part of the first 'Racial Healing Circle.'

A Racial Healing Circle is an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to share their stories and experiences in a safe space, to heal together the trauma that all of us have experienced due to structural racism. You'll share your stories with a partner, and then with a larger group - both to acknowledge the truth of all our experiences, and to build authentic relationships capable of transforming communities and shifting the national discourse.

PROGRAM

The "Standing in Solidarity Racial Healing Circle" will be held virtually on Monday, September 20, @7PM.

Racial Healing Facilitators:
Sharon Stroye, MBA, MPA, Director, Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center (TRHT) at Rutgers University - Newark

Tyreek Rolon, Academic Counselor, New Jersey Scholarship and Transformation Education in Prisons (NJ-STEP) Program.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)
Follow NJPAC's Standing in Solidarity Series Online:
Website: njpac.org/takeastand
Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

JCC OPENS HOUSE

By Mabel Pais

FALL FITNESS + WELLNESS OPEN HOUSE, Sunday, September 19, 2021

Join The Marlene Meyerson JCC, Manhattan, in-person and virtually to sample its amazing fitness and wellness classes and workshops for FREE. Find out why exercise is not only good for your heart but also for your mood and memory, how meditation can change your brain, as well as why what you eat influences what you feel, think, and remember.

Pre-registration is strongly recommended. Walk-ins welcome. Proof of vaccination required for in-person programs. For the Open House schedule, visit mmjccm.org/open-house and for the Special Open House Membership Offer, visit mmjccm.org/join/current-promotions.

(Mabel Pais writes on Social Issues, The Arts and Entertainment, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)