



Srishti – Nina Rajarani Dance School is pleased to introduce

Kathak dance classes

in association with Pagrav Dance Company

Classes will be conducted by Parbati Chaudhury under the guidance of Urja Desai Thakore

Term dates:
17 Sept to 26 Nov (inclusive)
excluding 29 October

Timings:
Saturday mornings
9am -10am Under 5s
10am -11am Adult beginners
11am -12pm Children 5 years and over

For further information and an application pack please email danceschool@srishti.co.uk
www.srishti.co.uk

Photo: Jagdeep Shah

Srishti – Nina Rajarani Dance School

Srishti - Nina Rajarani Dance School is based at the Harrow Arts Centre in Hatch End, Middlesex, and provides traditional training in Bharatanatyam dance and Karnatic music. The school started in 1991 and is lead by Nina Rajarani MBE who is the principal Bharatanatyam tutor at the school. Karnatic vocal is taught by Y Yadavan . Over the years, the school has earned itself an admirable reputation where students pride themselves upon the high standard of dancing and singing they aim to achieve. The school emphasises adherence to the classicism of classical Indian dance and music, ensuring training with a strong foundation firmly rooted in tradition. The school performs publically at least twice a year, allowing students the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned over the year as well as giving them the opportunity to experience dancing in a performance setting outside of the classroom. Srishti - Nina Rajarani Dance School is delighted to expand its activities to include Kathak dance classes.

Kathak

Kathak is a north Indian classical dance form that draws upon ancient Hindu temple and Mughal era court traditions. The vast repertoire comprises poetic, dramatic and abstract dance that is characterised by fluid body movements, complex patterns of footwork, fast pirouettes, sculpted poses of sudden stillness and expressional storytelling.

Srishti's Kathak students will be grounded in technique through footwork, movement and pirouette exercises, building up to extended technical and expressional compositions and pieces. Students will also be coached for the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) Kathak examinations.

Urja Desai Thakore – Artistic Director Pagrav Dance Company

Urja Desai Thakore is one of the UK's leading Kathak dancers who studied Kathak under the guidance of Padmabhushan Kumudini Lakhia at Kadamb, Ahmedabad, for over twenty years. Urja received her BA in Kathak from Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya in India and completed an MA in South Asian Dance with Choreography from Roehampton University, London.



Urja is the Artistic Director of Pagrav Dance Company which she established in 1997. Urja has over twenty years of teaching experience and Pagrav Dance Company is committed to nurturing the next generation by providing a solid platform for emerging dancers. Urja is a committee member of the ISTD's Classical Indian Dance Faculty.

Parbati Chaudhury – Principal Kathak Tutor

Parbati Chaudhury began her training in Kathak at The Bhavan Centre, London, under Sushmita Ghosh and later Abhay Shankar Mishra. She continues independently under the tutelage of Urja Desai Thakore. She has also attended intensive workshops and summer schools with renowned Kathak practitioners from India and the UK. As a performer, Parbati regularly features in productions by Pagrav Dance Company, Akademi and Kadam. As a teacher, she leads and assists Kathak classes for Pagrav Dance Company, Siobhan Davies Dance Studios, amongst other organisations. In 2015, Parbati won two national youth dance awards: Akademi's *Kathak Solo Category of Yuva - South Asian Youth Dance Competition* and Milapfest's *Yuva Nritya Ratna Award*. Aside from her dance practice, Parbati also works at *Pulse* magazine to support the creation of a more integrated and informed South Asian arts community and takes on freelance projects in arts administration.