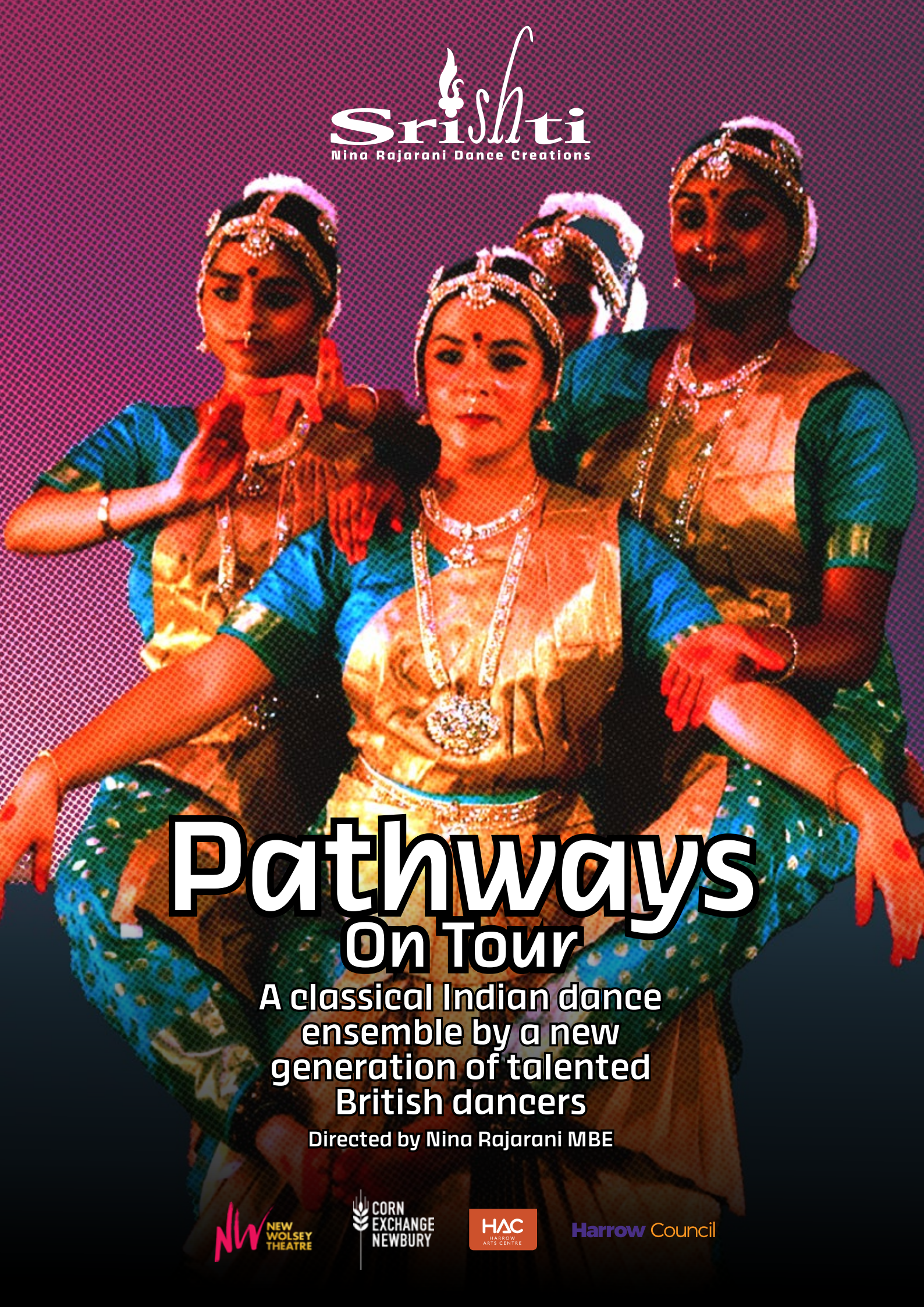




Srishi
Nina Rajarani Dance Creations

Pathways On Tour

A classical Indian dance
ensemble by a new
generation of talented
British dancers

Directed by Nina Rajarani MBE

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Pathways is enabling a new generation of British-grown South Asian dancers to find their feet and showcase their talent through four ensemble Bharatanatyam works.



Three works are by award-winning choreographer and Srishti's Artistic Director Nina Rajarani MBE, and one by inimitable guest choreographer Mavin Khoo. Charismatic music composer and Karnatik vocalist Y Yadavan has created the music score for the performance.

Originating from southern India, Bharatanatyam is a versatile classical Indian dance style that is hugely popular in the UK and globally. It is characterised by strong lines, geometry, symmetry, as well as highly expressive mime.

SRISHTI is a leading London-based South Asian arts organisation established for over thirty years. The company prioritises nurturing new talent and creates work that maintains the authenticity of classical Indian dance and music whilst presenting these forms in innovative ways and within contemporary contexts in the UK and internationally.

THE PERFORMANCE

Invocation to Ganesha

A traditional start to a Bharatanatyam performance, hailing the elephant-headed god, Ganesha, who is the remover of obstacles. This dance describes the god's iconography, such as the crescent moon adorning his forehead, and his unmatched qualities.

Choreography: Nina Rajarani MBE
Composition: Muthuswami Dikshitar

Tribute to Devi

A powerful and mesmerising hymn to the goddess who is adorned by red garments, protects devotees, destroys ignorance and illusions, and instills awe in all those who witness her presence.

Choreography: Mavin Khoo
Composition: Muthuswami Dikshitar

INTERVAL

Ragam Tanam Pallavi

A unique feature in a Bharatanatyam performance as normally this form of music is presented in a traditional Karnatik music concert, the classical music style from South India. The *ragam* is a form of non-rhythmic improvisation through musical notes within the singer's chosen musical scale, followed by the *tanam*, when the word *anantam* (joy) is repeated in creative ways to an underlying pulse. The composition culminates in *pallavi*, a line of lyrics to which there are varying melodic and rhythmic treatments.

Choreography: Nina Rajarani MBE
Composition: Yadav Yadavan

Nrityopahara

An uplifting dance with intricate rhythmic patterns danced with exuberance as a finale.

Choreography: Nina Rajarani MBE
Composition: Yadav Yadavan

THE ARTISTIC TEAM



Nina Rajarani MBE — Artistic Director, Choreographer and Dancer

Nina carried out her Bharatanatyam training under Prakash Yadagudde at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (London), during which time she also had additional training with Chitra Visweswaran of Chennai, India, during her visits to London. Since 1988 Nina has received training regularly in Chennai under Shanta and VP Dhnanjayan. Nina's dance style today is unique in its assimilation of the best qualities from each of the different traditions followed by her gurus. Nina has also received Karnatik music vocal training under Sivasakti Sivanesan at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and under Karpagam Balasubramanian in Chennai. She has trained in *nattuvangam* (conducting for dance) with Seetharam Sharma of Chennai.

Over the years, Nina and her husband, vocalist and composer Y Yadavan, together have created several outstanding new works, providing a strong artistic team. Nina's professional dance work has been performed extensively within the UK, in many European countries, in India, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, the US and Canada.

In September 2006, Nina won the Place Prize, Europe's largest choreographic competition sponsored by Bloomberg for her piece *QUICK!*

Nina has earned herself an admirable reputation as a teacher and has to her credit, a thriving school of dance based at the Harrow Arts Centre in Middlesex, since 1991. She is a founder committee member of the Classical Indian Dance Faculty of the ISTD (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing), and served as the Secretary and later the Vice Chair of the Faculty. She is a senior Bharatanatyam examiner for ISTD, currently serving as Lead Examiner of Vocational and Teaching Qualification Bharatanatyam exams.

Nina Rajarani was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) in the Queen's 2009 Birthday Honours, in recognition of Services to South Asian Dance. The award recognises Nina's many years of work developing and raising the profile of South Asian dance.

Y Yadavan — Composer and Vocalist

Yadavan trained from a very young age in Sri Lanka under Sangeeta Bhooshanam S Balasingam and furthered his musical

aspirations in Chennai, India, under the renowned Sangeeta Kalanidhi B Rajam Iyer. Yadavan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Indian music from Madras University, India, as well as a Diploma from the Music Academy of Chennai, for which he was awarded the "Sangeetha Rathna" title. Yadavan is a much sought after vocalist and has composed maargams (dance repertory items) and provided vocal accompaniment for many dance performances, as well as for dance and mridangam arangetrams (debut solo performances) all over the world. He has been performing on a regular basis with various dancers and dance teachers based in the UK, Switzerland, France, Germany, Norway, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, India, Canada and the US.

Since April 2002, Yadavan has been collaborating with his wife Nina Rajarani MBE, touring internationally with her professional dance company, SRISHTI - Nina Rajarani Dance Creations and composing original music scores for the company's new dance productions. Yadavan is involved in all of SRISHTI's education initiatives. In addition to this, he teaches Karnatik vocal music at Srishti's dance school based at the Harrow Arts Centre as well as on an individual basis. Yadavan teaches the music component of the Bharatanatyam



syllabus of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD), and has sung for the ISTD's Bharatanatyam audio resource for teachers.

Mavin Khoo — Guest Choreographer

Mavin Khoo is an international dance artist of remarkable versatility. He is a well-known solo classical Bharatanatyam dancer as well as a contemporary dancer with a classical ballet background.

Khoo's status as one of Bharatanatyam's most exciting modern innovators demonstrates the global reach of the tradition as well as the allure of his personal style. He was a direct disciple of the legendary maestro Guru Adyar K Lakshman.

Known for his distinctive artistry and virtuosity, Khoo tours the world as one of a few solo male Bharatanatyam exponents with global recognition. He has worked with many other leading figures from contemporary dance, and works as Creative Associate with the Akram Khan Company. He works closely with



Akram Khan as repetiteur working on the coaching and staging of his works.

Mavin has collaborated with Srishti several times over the last couple of decades.

Paul Micah — Technical Manager on Tour

Paul is a freelance lighting and sound designer as well as a technician based in Farnham. He has been working in theatre for many years as a freelance technician and stage manager, and has found a passion for lighting and sound design.

As a technician he has worked at the Bhavan Centre and the Broadway Theatre, designing lights and sound for a variety of incoming companies that hire the space, the latest being for Bounce Theatre Company.

Most recent shows for lighting design include *Freedom* at the Arcola Theatre followed by a UK tour, *Two Brothers and One World Cup* on a national tour, *Bugsy* at Alra studios, *The Crossing* at the Mosaic Festival, London, *Urvugul* dance



festival at the Watersmeet Theatre and Glee at The Tramshed Theatre..

Rishika Mazumdar — Dancer

Rishika has been training under Nina Rajarani MBE for the past 11 years. She has completed her ISTD Intermediate vocational examination and is currently preparing for Advanced 1 and 2. Rishika also intends to pursue the ISTD Level 4 DDE (Diploma in Dance Education) soon. She has participated in many of Srishti's community-based performances.

Rishika joined the University of Aston in Autumn 2024 to study Medicine and is keen on continuing her dance training alongside her academic studies.

Disha Varsani — Dancer

Disha is an exceptional dancer who has been training intensely in Bharatanatyam with Nina Rajarani MBE for the past 7 years. As a young dancer aged only 15, she was invited to participate in touring this production last year due to her extraordinary talent and dedication to



dance. Disha recently completed her ISTD Advanced 1 vocational examination and is currently working towards Advanced 2. Under adult supervision she assists in the teaching at Srishti's school and plans to do ISTD's Level 4 DDE (Diploma in Dance Education) teaching qualification as soon as she reaches the minimum age to pursue this. Disha has participated in many of Srishti's community-based performances.

Disha is keen on pursuing a future career in dance, involving both performing and teaching.

Varsha Vijay — Dancer

Varsha trained in Bharatanatyam initially in India, and following her move to the UK in 2014, she continued her training under Nina Rajarani MBE from 2017. She has recently completed her ISTD Advanced 1 vocational examination and is currently working towards Advanced 2. She has also recently embarked on ISTD's Level 4 DDE (Diploma in Dance Education) teaching qualification. Varsha has participated in many of Srishti's community-based performances, and over the past two years has been working at Srishti as a teacher for the school,

and an administrator for Srishti's school, touring company and charity outreach arm. She was an understudy for this production in 2023-24.

Varsha joined Anglia Ruskin University in Autumn 2023 to study Biomedical Science, following a gap year in which she furthered her dance training whilst working for Srishti.

Akshita Roshan Vijayakumar — Dancer

Akshita has been training under Nina Rajarani MBE for the past 9 years. She recently completed her ISTD Advanced 1 vocational examination and is currently working towards Advanced 2. Under adult supervision she assists in the teaching at Srishti's school and plans to do ISTD's Level 4 DDE (Diploma in Dance Education) teaching qualification as soon as she reaches the minimum age to pursue this. Akshita has participated in many of Srishti's community-based performances.

She is passionate about advancing her dance training and is eager to continue both performing and teaching.

Behind-the-scenes team

Sarah Trist
Tour Booker

Ambika Kucheria
Social Media Consultant

Suhani Dhanki Mody
Social Media Manager

Rakhee Taank
Admin Manager

Varsha Vijay
Administrator

Pritpal Ajmal
Website and Graphic Designer

Idriss Assoumanou
Photographer

SRISHTI OUTREACH WORKSHOPS & PERFORMANCES



Srishti has vast experience of delivering Indian Dance workshops in Bharatanatyam and Kathak dance forms which are suitable for students of primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, as well as community groups. Our workshop leaders make the workshops fun and enjoyable and are DBS certified.

Suitable for all ages and abilities. participants have a chance to learn a simple routine including basic dance movements, hand gestures, facial expressions, and rhythms used in these dance forms.

Srishti also provides performances at small scale venues, weddings, corporate events and can adapt to various settings, including outdoor or site-specific locations and celebrations of all kinds.

These performances can be tailor-made for any event and are available as full length productions or shorter pieces that can be billed with other groups.

info@srishti.co.uk
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NINA RAJARANI DANCE SCHOOL



Srishti – Nina Rajarani Dance School is based at Harrow Arts Centre in Hatch End, Harrow, Middlesex, and provides classes in classical Indian dance and Karnatik music from age 4 years upwards. Since 2016, Kathak dance classes have been established at the school.

The school started in 1991 and is led by Nina Rajarani MBE who is the principal Bharatanatyam tutor at the school. Karnatik vocal is taught by Y Yadavan, and Kathak dance is taught by qualified teachers. 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 Kathak and Bharatanatyam dance and Karnatik music, ensuring training with a strong foundation firmly rooted in tradition.

The school performs publicly 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.

danceschool@srishti.co.uk
020 8420 1076





Srishti – Nina Rajarani Dance Creations is a London-based dance company directed by Nina Rajarani MBE. The company tours both its small-scale and mid-scale performance works with live music in the UK and internationally.

Since 1991, Srishti has established itself as a high-quality touring dance company, innovative in outlook and rigorous in technical quality. The company aims to create work that maintains the authenticity of Indian classical dance and music while presenting these forms in innovative ways and within contemporary contexts.

Instagram
[@srishtidancecreations](https://www.instagram.com/srishtidancecreations)

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