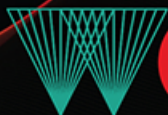


PRESENTED BY



NUS Arts Festival 2016
11 - 26 March



SAMBHAVNA

Sambhavna

By NUS Indian Dance

Fri & Sat 18 & 19 Mar | 8pm | UCC Dance Studio



ABOUT NUS INDIAN DANCE

The oldest dance company in NUS, NUS Indian Dance was established in 1977, under the faithful guidance of its Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer, Mrs. Santha Bhaskar. NUS Indian Dance houses three varying and equally vibrant styles of Indian Dance, namely *Bharatanatyam*, *Bollywood* and *Kathak*.

NUS Indian Dance is a community of highly committed dancers who takes pride in its welcoming environment willing to embrace dancers of different levels of ability. It is keen on cultivating these dancers to eventually grow a love for the art that those before them had found solace in.

The group has performed at the 1997 ASEAN Universities Arts Festivals held in Brunei. It has also won the Tan Ean Kiam Arts Awards 2011 for the Best Event for *Anweshana: The Search for Nalanda* (the last instalment of a three part production). In NUS Arts Festival 2014, they collaborated with NUS Indian Instrumental Ensemble to present *Chudar - Shiva's Fire* which featured music from prominent Indian composer Mr BV Balasai.

For more information, follow our Facebook page at [fb.com/NUSIndianDance](https://www.facebook.com/NUSIndianDance) or our Instagram page @nusindaindance or email us at indiandance.nus@gmail.com.



Photo by Kinetic Expressions Photography

ABOUT SAMBHAVNA (PROBABILITY)

Albert Einstein once wrote that, "it seems as though we must use sometimes the one theory and sometimes the other, while at times we may use either. We are faced with a new kind of difficulty. We have two contradictory pictures of reality; separately neither of them fully explains the phenomena of light, but together they do." In the same way, the behaviour of quantum-scale particles cannot be explained by classical concepts of 'particle' or 'wave' but a quantum phenomenon which continues to fill the human mind with wonder.

NUS Indian Dance, with original choreography from their Artistic Director Santha Bhaskar in part-presentation, part-performance, works with the processes of mind and movement to explore the quantum nature of reality through the language of *Bharatanatyam*.

PROGRAMME

Musical repertoire

Performed by Ghanavenothan Retnam (flute)

Supported by Eunice Koh Kai'En (cello) and

Sasidharan Nair Hari Krishnan (mridangam)

Creative Process Sharing

Presented by Mrs Santha Bhaskar

Introduction to Quantum

Presented by Ms Jenny Hogan and Mr Roland Hablützel

Sambhavna

Dancers: Aditi Gupta, Anamika Suresh, Malini Bhaskar, Nishalini Lakchimana, Ramya Veerappan, Sagarika Krishnan, Sarenniya Ramathas

Musicians: Eunice Koh Kai'En (cello), Ghanavenothan Retnam (flute),

Sasidharan Nair Hari Krishnan (mridangam)



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am deeply grateful to NUS Centre For the Arts for continually challenging me with new ideas to create new works. *Sambhavna* is an experimental work in progress, a collaboration with the Centre for Quantum Technologies for the NUS Arts Festival to create a new work that was inspired by the matter of quantum physics. My first meeting at CQT happened to be my first initiation to quantum physics. With the initial introduction, I understood the complexity of the quantum world. The physicists' experiments were an eye-opener for me to 'the world' I am existing in. I delved into books by Brian Greene, *The Fabric Of The Cosmos* and Marcus Chown's *Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You*, which are not easy reads, at least for me, to gauge a better understanding of the topic at hand - quantum.

A quote that further inspired me is from Mahatma Gandhi,

*"When I admire the wonders of a Sun Set or the beauty of the moon,
My Soul expands in the worship of the Creator."*

With my search for the creation of this Universe, I came across a *rig veda* hymn about the creation of this world. *Veda*, a Sanskrit word, which means knowledge, scripture and compilation of knowledge, was first written down for the first time 3500 years ago.

*"Who can tell how creation happened, Creation of God came much later,
Who knows whence creation happened."*

With this hymn, I decided to start my first phase of instalment of my *Sambhavna*'s choreography.

"The Telepathic Universe" which was chapter five of *Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You* made me see the concept of entanglement in a new light. There was now a possibility of choreographing a piece after the *veda* chants.

The particles seen in the microscopic world will be creatively expressed by the seven NUS Indian Dance dancers accompanied by three musicians: a flautist, percussionist and cello player. Ghanavenothan Retnam, our flautist, composed the musical score for this dance piece after watching the choreography.

The miracle of entanglement is when two entangled particles retain knowledge of each other. The particles interact with each other to become entwined. They remain connected just like a couple who are in love or like identical twins, wherein we observe Einstein's "spooky action at a distance".

My interest in this complicated, mysterious world and my search on the part of the dance in this weird world will always be my inspiration. My second step will be to expand my work into a full performance which will be staged in March 2017. I have much in store for the second instalment of *Sambhavna*.

Lastly, my heartfelt gratitude goes to Jenny, Sai and Roland from the Centre for Quantum Technologies, for their patience in introducing the subject matter to me.

Nature possess secrets for humankind to "discover". *Sambhavna* is homage to the quantum world.

Thank you audience for supporting dance.

Santha Bhaskar

MRS SANTHA BHASKAR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND RESIDENT CHOREOGRAPHER



Santha Bhaskar is a graduate of the Chempakassary Arya Kala Nilayam in Kerala and a student of the late Ramunni Panicker, Guru Kunchu Kurup and Kutralam Ganesam Pillai. Under these masters, she mastered Mohini Attam, Bharatanatyam and Kathakali. She also holds a diploma in Karnatic music from the Tamil Nadu Government.

Joining her husband in Singapore in 1956, she taught and choreographed at Bhaskar's Academy of Dance, now known as Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society. Santha is well known for her contributions to the development of Indian classical dance in Singapore and Malaysia. She has also studied traditional Chinese and Malay dance in Singapore, Thai dance and music at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and Odissi dance at the Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata. Besides dance and music she has had training in theatre studies.

For her outstanding services and contributions to the arts scene in Singapore, she was awarded the prestigious Cultural Medallion in 1990.

In addition, the "Natya Kalanidhi" award by the great poet Sudhananda Bharathiyar in 1957, "Kala Rani" award by Indian Film Arts Society and "Kala Ratnam" award by the Singapore Fine Arts Society, are a few of the other awards she has received for her brilliant work in this field. She has conducted more than 100 Arangetrams for which she has composed many 'Margams', specially designed for each individual dancer. She also has choreographed more than 50 programmes for television.

Her unique interpretation of traditional and modern dance idioms has resulted in many of her dance productions like *Ramayana* and *Manohra* which have made her a well-known choreographer in this region. The dance drama *Manohra* which fused Indian and Thai dance gained attention at the 1996 Singapore Arts Festival, while her interpretations of the *Ramayana* epic won acclaim at the Angkor Wat International Ramayana Festival in 1995 and at the Ramayana Festival in India in 1999. Her prolific output also includes the ongoing Aum Muruga series and *Rasa & Dhwani* at the Esplanade in 2003, where she set verses by Singaporean poets in all four official languages to dance.

Presently, she teaches at the Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society and at the NUS Centre for the Arts at the National University of Singapore. She is also a Resident Choreographer at the Centre, for which she has choreographed its Sanskrit drama in English, *Shakuntala of the Mahabharata* in 2002. She has also written many articles on dance for seminars and performing arts magazines.



Rehearsal photos of Sambhavna

CENTRE FOR QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES COLLABORATORS

Roland Hablützel is a PhD student in experimental physics.

Sai Vinjanampathy is a Research Fellow in theoretical physics.

Jenny Hogan manages the Centre's outreach programme.

CREDITS

Artistic Director &
Resident Choreographer

Mrs Santha Bhaskar

Lightning Designer
Photographer
Videographer

Alberta Wileo
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ABOUT NUS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Established in 1993, NUS Centre For the Arts (CFA) is a vibrant space for the appreciation of the arts and nurturing of the creative and inquiring spirit. It supports student engagement with the arts and the integration of the arts into the life of the University.

NUS CFA encompasses the NUS Museum, NUS Baba House and a Talent and Development arm that oversees 22 student arts excellence groups. Through its myriad of programmes, practices, exhibitions, workshops and outreach, such as NUS Arts Festival and the ExxonMobil Campus Concerts, the Centre enhances and augments the university experience and contributes to the building of knowledge and transformation of students.

CFA also manages facilities such as the University Cultural Centre, with its 1600-seat Hall and 450-seat Theatre, and rehearsal spaces in Runme Shaw CFA Studios and University Town. For more information, visit www.cfa.nus.edu.sg.

ABOUT NUS ARTS FESTIVAL

As the flagship arts platform of NUS, NUS Arts Festival brings together students and alumni in collaboration with international and local professional artists, inspiring fresh insights and compelling artistic works with unique Asian influences.

This 2016, the Festival theme of WONDER encourages us to consider how our capacity for wonder and imagination is affected as our interactions increasingly take place via mobile screens and computers. We ask "Can fresh discoveries of the world through emerging sciences like quantum physics reawaken our delight in the world and re-ignite wonder?"

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