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- Sukhleen & Baldev Virdi
- Swati Lakhanpal & Amit Mehta

Contribute



nriyangan  
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# Nriyangan Kathak Academy

## 11th Annual Showcase



May 24, 2026 at 3 PM

Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre  
3 Carter Green, Carmel, IN 46032

### Contact

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## About Kathak

Kathak is one of the most ancient dance forms of India. The word "Kathak" is derived from "Kathak" meaning story. Deeply rooted in Hindu mythology, Kathak was originally performed by storytellers in temples who narrated tales from the epics through dance, song, and mime. Over centuries, it evolved through the Bhattish movement and later flourished under Mughal patronage, absorbing Persian aesthetics. Today Kathak is celebrated worldwide for its intricate dance, expressive abhnhya, graceful spins, and rhythmic complexity.



## About Nriyangan

Nriyangan Kathak Academy (NKA) has been the only Kathak institution in the entire state of Indiana for more than two decades. The mission statement for NKA is "to promote diversity and educate the community in the north Indian classical dance form of Kathak". NKA students present an annual Kathak showcase which is free of any admission charges and is attended by 500-750 guests. Students of NKA participate in local community and corporate events, fundraisers and outreaches. Students have performed in notable events like All Indian Dance Festival (Carnegie Hall, NYC), North America Bengali Conference (Madison Square Garden, NYC), Multicultural event at Depauw University, Summer concerts at Greencastle, IN, Gregory Hancock Dance Theater productions, Heartland Film festival gala, the first Carmel Diwali, etc. NKA students also collaborate with classical and jazz musicians and other local dance companies, both Indian and Western, to allow the evolution of Kathak while staying true to its original content.

# Guru Dr. Anindita Sen

FOUNDER & ARTIST DIRECTOR



Dr. Anindita Sen is the founder, President and Artistic director of Nrityangan Kathak Academy in Carmel, Indiana. Anindita's dance journey began at the age of 2 when her mother enrolled her in a local dance school in Kolkata, India. Her association with Kathak has been for the past 50 years. She trained in the Lucknow gharana of Kathak under Guru Amita Dutt, a disciple of the Kathak legend Padmavibhushan Birju Maharaj. Following performances in India, UK and her time in Cary, NC she ended up in Carmel.

For more than two decades, Anindita has made it her mission to educate the Indiana community about Kathak through performances, outreaches and workshops. Anindita is sought out for her expertise in classical Indian dance and often participates on panel discussions. She also serves as the President of the BoD for Gregory Hancock Dance Theater. Complimenting her dance career, Anindita is a Regulatory Affairs Executive for UCB Biopharma following a 19-year tenure at Eli Lilly and Company.

## Guru Anitha Srikant



With over 25 years of performance and teaching experience, and more than 250 stage performances to her credit, Anitha Srikant is one of the most respected Bharatanatyam teachers in the Midwest. For the past 10 years, she has led Nrityanjali Dance School in Fishers, where she trains students in the classical art of Bharatanatyam. Her students actively participate in numerous competitions and stage performances across the United States and India, earning recognition for their dedication and talent.

## Guru Shri Prashant Shah

Shri Prashant Shah is one of the senior disciples of Padma Vibhushan Shrimati Kumudini Lakhia, and is a critically acclaimed male teacher-performer-choreographer now based both in India and in the USA. Prashant ji has been a collaborator doing workshops and intensives with the students of Nrityangan since 2024.



# Program

1. Durga Vandana
  2. Holi
  3. Garaja Garaja\*
  4. Ruth aa gayee rey
  5. Mohe rang do lal
  6. Seniorita
  7. Chanakya\*
  - INTERMISSION
  8. Kathak to live music
  9. Aakaar
  10. Bansiwala
  11. Fusion Tarana
  12. Piya tohse
  13. Trap Padhant
  14. Performance at Carnegie Hall
- Award Ceremony & Dancer(s) of the year*



*\*Premiere*

*All dances presented this evening have been conceptualized and choreographed by Dr. Anindita Sen, Prashant Shah and Anitha Srikant*

# Participants

**Graduated:** Ria Tandra, Ashwini Singh, Riti Tandra, Shivika Jain  
**Advanced:** Sruthi Devarapalli, Sanam Shah, Aditi Purohit, Saanvi Nagireddy, Sanjana Lathar

**Adults:** Ena Bhattacharya, Debarati Bardhan - Akala, Kamalika Chatterjee, Madhumita Boddapati, Nimisha Nagar, Nitasha Khanna, Payal Bhatia, Preetu Lather, Juhii Agarwal

**Intermediate IV:** Pari Ponugoti, Pooja Thakkar, Simran Viridi, Rysha Banerjee, Eva Francis, Riddhi Dangle, Gargi Walekar

**Intermediate III:** Meghna Sarma, Zoe Singh, Aanya Chhajed, Tanvi Chhajed

**Intermediate II:** Alayah Mitra, Ananya Bhatwadekar, Piyali Kohli, Prachi Subbannavar, Hitisha Desai, Avani Gupta, Ivana Gupta, Mira Talwar, Dikshita Dey

**Intermediate I:** Samruddhi Dawande, Puja Pandya, Prachi Pandya, Dhyani Jethava, Soniya Patel, Swati Lakhanpal, Aadya Mehta, Akshada Pandey, Ayoni Patel

## Credits / Acknowledgements



**Thank You!**

- Gurus Prashant Shah and Anitha Srikant for their choreographic support
- Students of Nrityanjali Dance school
- Dr. Amudhan Venkateswaran, Kuhely Dey, Aditya Bhatia for their musical support
- Ria Tandra, Ashwini Singh, Riti Tandra and Shivika Jain for choreography and teaching assistantships
- Anuvi Desai for help with costumes and Andal jewelers for jewelry
- Jennifer Driscoll for photography
- Capture Hour Productions for videography
- Tarkington technical and production crew
- Nrityangan Board members Dr. Ajay Jain (Vice President), Anish Shankar (Secretary), Dr. Arup Roy and Debarati Bardhan-Akala (Co-Treasurer) for their tremendous support and advice.
- MCs: Anindita Sen, Sruthi Devarapalli and Sanam Shah

*Lastly and most importantly, thank you to all the parents and student volunteers without whom this show would not have been possible.*