

WITHIN

ADITI MANGALDAS
DANCE COMPANY
THE DRISHTIKON DANCE FOUNDATION



★★★★★ The Weekend West, Australia

★★★★★ Limelight Magazine, Australia

Kathak & Contemporary Dance based on Kathak (Group) on live and recorded music

Concept & Choreography
Aditi Mangaldas

Do the times compel us to look **WITHIN**? To recognise our deepest, most complex emotions? To explore our innermost spaces where humanity and brutality, masculinity and femininity, good and bad seem to lie in half embrace... Waiting to be disentangled. Waiting to be recognised beyond the binaries. Waiting to find expression in ways that shape our lives, our actions, ourselves.

Is there another way to discover the sky, the eternity within us? Where does one seek inspiration for this journey?

“To understand yourself you must create a mirror that reflects accurately what you are... Only in the understanding of what is, is there freedom from what is.”

J. Krishnamurti



Choreographer's note

Aditi Mangaldas

“Choreographing **WITHIN** (which premiered in 2013) has been a very different experience from my last few works. It has been about delving into the self and exploring our deepest emotions, however disturbing they may be. Needless to say, the process of creating it has sometimes been almost too close for comfort. That is the journey I invite you to take with us.

When I began conceptualising the piece, I revisited mythological stories in the context of the social turmoil of our times. Eventually these have become the subterranean stream that feeds the work. Leaving **WITHIN** both, **‘knotted’** up in our emotions, and **‘unwrapped’** of them. In doing so, I found myself inspired by the emptiness and eternal space of the ‘sidhha’ sculpture.”





Programme

Part 1: **KNOTTED**

Contemporary dance based on Kathak
40 minutes

Intermission | 20 minutes

Part 2: **UNWRAPPED**

Classical Kathak
45 minutes

"Riddles, beauty and gaping abysses" ...
-Dr. Alfred Henning

Touring Information

A photograph of three dancers in motion on a dark stage. The dancer on the left is wearing a bright green long-sleeved dress and has their arms outstretched. The dancer in the center is also in a green dress, captured in a dynamic pose with one leg lifted. The dancer on the right is wearing a grey long-sleeved dress and is also in a dynamic pose. The background is dark and out of focus.

Duration: 1 hour 40 min approx. with a 20 min intermission

Group size: 14 - 16 members
7-8 dancers / 4 musicians / 2-3 tech (light, sound & stage) / 1 manager

Language: English, Hindi (dialects) & Urdu



What dualities
exist in all of us?

Through
Aditi Mangaldas' unique
Kathak vocabulary,
'WITHIN' invites you
to look inward.

PHOTO CREDIT: DINESH KHANNA



Where
HUMANITY

and
BRUTALITY
lie in half embrace.

PHOTO CREDIT: MAMTA

Where
MASCULINITY
and
FEMININITY
wait to be unraveled.



PHOTO CREDIT: DINESH KHANNA

Where
THE GOOD
and
THE BAD
evoke tension.



PHOTO CREDIT: DINESH KHANNA

Credits

Concept & Choreography:

Aditi Mangaldas

Mentor: Morag Deyes

Stage Design: Manish Kansara

Light Design: Fabiana Piccioli

Dramaturgy: Vani Subramanian

Special Mentoring and Dramaturgy: Farooq Chaudhry

Research: Ragini Pasricha and Aditi Mangaldas

For KNOTTED:

Music Composition: Ish Shehrawat + diFfuSed beats (Sound

Reasons) | Recording Musicians: Pakhawaj: Ashish Gangani, Tabla:

Mohit Gangani & Cello: Saskia Rao De Haas

Costume Design: Kimie Nakano (Realisation: Sandhya Raman)

Script: Vani Subramanian

For UNWRAPPED:

Music Composition: Mahesh Vinayakram | With the exception of

“Aajra din dooba...”: Original Composition and

Lyrics by Pandit Kumar Gandharva (With thanks to Kalapini Komkali for granting consent to use the above)

Spoken Words: ‘Wrapped up in Yourself...’, Lal Dēd, translated from Kashmiri by Ranjit Hoskote

Sung Literature: ‘Is ghat antar...’, Sant Kabir / ‘Yaar ko humne...’

Hazrat Shah Niaz

Costume Design: Aditi Mangaldas



Dancers & Musicians: Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company & the Drishtikon Dance Foundation repertory members

Coordination and Administration: Sangeeta Rana, Kusum Arora and Manish Sharma

Production: **Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company & the Drishtikon Dance Foundation**

World Premiere | Delhi, India | 2013

Presented at:

India (Delhi 2013, Mumbai 2014, Ahmedabad 2017, Delhi 2018 & Delhi 2025)

UK (London | Alchemy Festival, 2014)

Singapore (Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay | Kalaa Utsavam 2014)

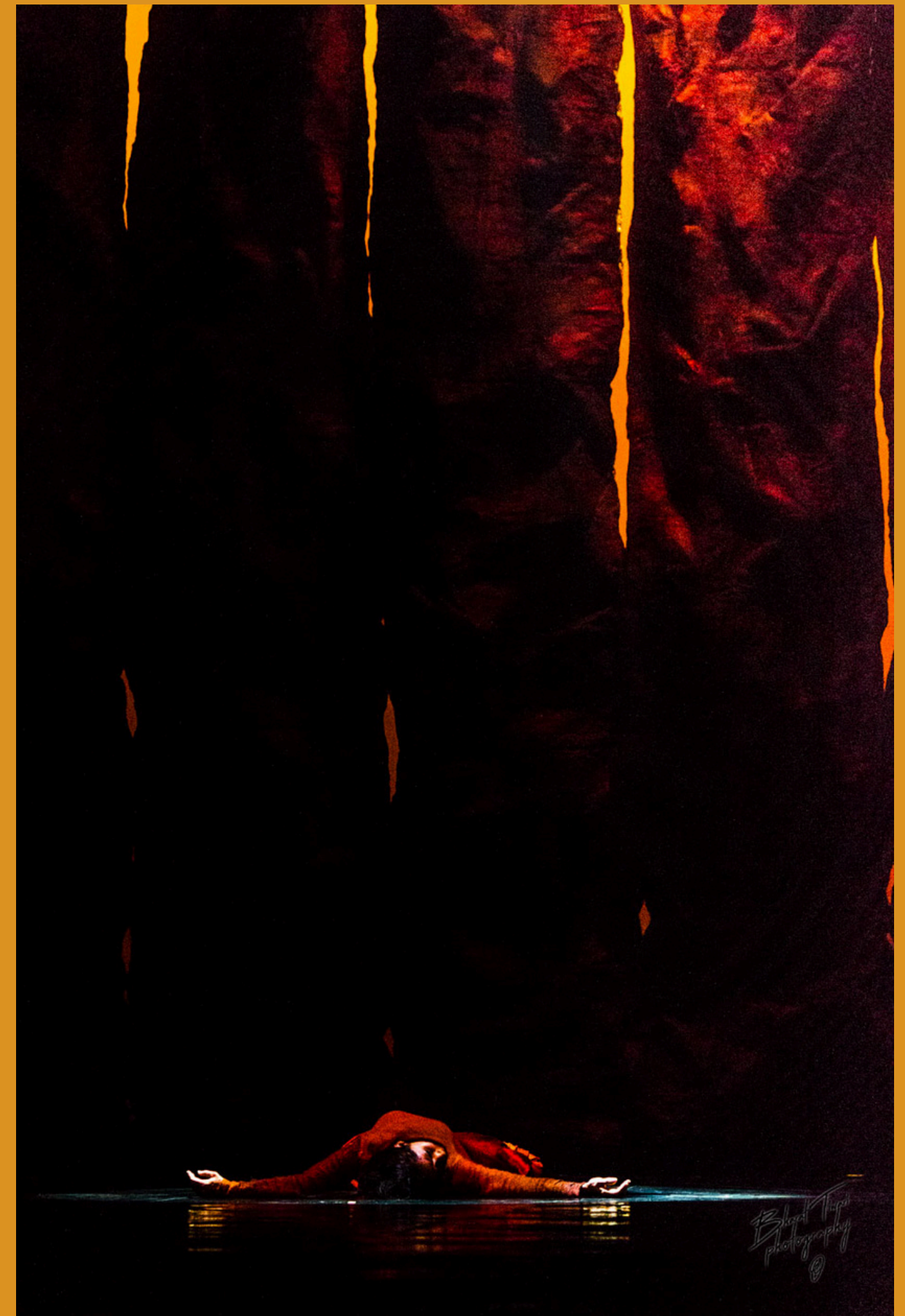
Australia (Perth | Perth International Arts Fest, 2016)

Georgia (Tbilisi | Tbilisi International Arts Fest, 2016)

Romania (Sibiu | Sibiu International Arts Fest, 2016)

Germany (Villingen, Wolfenbuttel, Wolfsburg, Minden, Pulheim, Leverkusen, Schweinfurt & Amberg 2019)

Russia (St. Petersburg | ANO Diaghilev. P.S. International Festival of Arts & Voronezh | XII International Platonov Festival 2023)





WITHIN

Official Trailer | www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDzUzj-QusQ

For full length video link contact the dance company office

Reviews

Received 4 ½ star rating from
The Weekend West, Australia ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★

Received 4-star rating from
The Limelight Magazine, Australia ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★

Classical Indian dance that delivers both narrative intelligence and jaw-dropping virtuosity... Her artistry and poise, her dramatic gifts and unshakable technique are truly astounding; dance as effortlessly compelling as this is a joy to watch in itself, but underpinned by the questioning intelligence of Mangaldas, it becomes something transformative. - **Maxim Boon, Limelight Magazine | Australia 2016**

“The finesse and individuality of Mangaldas' dancers are displayed in formal groupings but the undeniable highlight is a lightning fast, lustrous solo for the choreographer, who darts and flutters like a joyous humming bird. - **Deborah Jones, deborahjones.me | Australia 2016**



Reviews

Her work **WITHIN**... transports its audience into the rich musical and visual world of Kathak...with a twist... Even when the dancers' faces are covered by cheesecloth wraps, this work is radiant. Spinning in apparent ecstasy or chanting a rhythm accompanied by intricate hand gestures, the dancers seem elated. - **Nina Levy, The Weekend West | Australia 2016**

Aditi has carved her own niche in the international contemporary dance scene. Hers is a long journey and it has been relentless. The dancers perform with high energy and one marvels at the technique evolved that astounds the audiences. - **Dr Sunil Kothari, Narthaki.Com | 2018**

Aditi Mangaldas, ever on a quest. An exceptional performer and choreographer, Aditi's dance stands out for the contrast it conjures up – charged stillness and whirling energy. - **Chitra Swaminathan, The Hindu | 2018**

Her (Mangaldas') dance form, Kathak, is centuries old, but her sensibility is as modern as today. She has astonishing technical skills; yet her dance is more than that. It is movement choreographed as a series of answers to questions posed by her inquiring mind... Her dance demonstrates what it means to be utterly free in body, mind and spirit to explore the world. - **Shanta Gokhale, Mumbai Mirror | 2018**

A powerful and aesthetic dance performance with unusual and enthralling images, highlighted by impressive light effects. - **Von Monika Klein, rp-online.de, Leverkusen | Germany 2019**

Once again, she impresses by her solo performance full of virtuosity, but her dance conveys much more: pride, passion, happiness, tenderness, concentration, musicality, and tremendous delight in expressing herself through dance. She is joined by her troupe for a great celebration, which turns into a stunning finale of suggestive power. The audience is quickly drawn into this mesmerizing dynamism. After a brief moment of silence, the guests from India are celebrated with thundering applause. - **Manfred Herker, www.mainpost.de, Schweinfurt | Germany 2019**

Reviews

“The dancers are moving in an atmosphere which makes the audience shudder. The symbiosis which is portrayed between an environment as a whole and age old traditional Indian and contemporary dance styles is as mesmerizing as it is scary. The audience follows the happenings on the stage with bated breath... pleased about the beautiful finale to this unusual performance applauds enthusiastically.” - **Von Renate Zähl , schwarzwaelder-bote.de, Villingen-Schwenningen | Germany 2019**

“Exciting as well as demanding since the dynamism of attractive solo performances and the virtuosity of the dance troupe are only one side of their performance. The other side is the decoding of a complex choreography comprising symbolism, music, songs, light, and stage design... The performance of the dancers is outstanding and speaks without any concrete reference. What remains is a long look at an unknown culture, full of riddles, beauty and abysses. A long round of applause for an extraordinary dance performance.” - **Von Rainer Sliepen Wolfenbuttel | Germany 2019**

Shattering glass ceilings, breaking boundaries and delivering path-breaking performances have defined the dance journey of Aditi Mangaldas. Instead of dwelling on past achievements or being satisfied with her incredible body of work, the forward-thinking Indian Kathak maestro is continuing to have a fearless approach. - **Asjad Nazir, EasternEye UK 2023**

Dancers are said to be ‘The window to the society’, it is their moral responsibility to show what is happening, what is not happening, what can be spoken or what cannot be spoken. Kathak exponent Aditi Mangaldas is one such artist who from the start of her illustrious dance career has been speaking of the unspoken... - **Sandip Soparrkar, Life & More 2023**

Aditi showed why she is rightfully considered one of the greatest of all time. - **Asjad Nazir, EasternEye UK 2024**

In an ensemble work called UNWRAPPED (an extract from WITHIN), Aditi and her marvellously trained dancers and musicians delivered a stand out show to a rapt audience... Her intellectual curiosity shone through at many sections, pushing the socially elite Chennai audiences to sit up and lean into the work... The well knit, impeccably dressed and trained musician ensemble were totally at ease during the performance... - **Anita Ratnam, Narthaki.com, February 2025**

Reviews

“The honesty that Aditi Mangaldas brings to her works is very much a part of her persona too... One of the most influential proteges of Kathak legends Kumudini Lakhia and Pt Birju Maharaj, Aditi always had a sense of what she wanted to achieve as a dancer. Like her gurus, she believes in looking at the wider world, never allowing herself to be boxed in by conventions.” - **Chitra Swaminathan, The Hindu**
| **January 2025**



About Aditi Mangaldas | Artistic Director, principal dancer and choreographer

Aditi Mangaldas is a leading dancer and choreographer in the classical Indian dance form of Kathak. With extensive training under the leading gurus of Kathak, Shrimati Kumudini Lakhia and Pandit Birju Maharaj, Aditi is today recognised for her artistry, technique, eloquence and characteristic energy that mark every performance. Besides dancing and choreographing classical productions, both solo and group, she has broken new ground by using her knowledge and experience of Kathak as a springboard to evolve a contemporary dance vocabulary, infused with the spirit of the classical.

Considered a maverick in India, Aditi is unafraid to confront social and present-day concerns. Celebrated around the world for the startling richness and intricacy of her dance and choreography, Aditi has recently won the UK Theatre Awards 2024 in the category of 'Achievement in Dance' for MEHEK, a duet with her co-choreographer and dancer Aakash Odedra. Aditi was nominated in the category of 'outstanding performance (classical)' by the National Dance Awards UK - Critics Circle in 2017 for INTER_RUPTED as well as, more recently, for 'outstanding female modern performance' by the National Dance Awards UK - Critics Circle in 2023 for FORBIDDEN, and for the Eastern Eye Arts, Culture, and Theatre Awards 2024 (ACTAs), UK for MEHEK, which was also ranked as 'Top five dance shows of 2024' by The Stage, UK.

Aditi Mangaldas is empanelled with ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Government of India) in the 'outstanding artist' category. Aditi was awarded the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Academy award, India 2007 as well as the National Sangeet Natak Akademi award, India 2013, that due to compelling reasons, she declined.



About **Aditi Mangaldas** (continued)

Aditi Mangaldas has won much critical acclaim across the world including at major international dance festivals. As quoted by Eastern Eye UK 2024... “She is rightfully considered one of the greatest of all time.” Or by The Straits Times Singapore, 2023... “Erupts in energetic brilliance.” Or by Seeing Dance UK, 2023... “Exceptional... compelling... every moment is imbued with meaning.” Or Eastern Eye UK, 2023... “Shattering glass ceilings, breaking boundaries and delivering path-breaking performances have defined the dance journey of Aditi Mangaldas.”

As quoted by the Guardian, London in 2017, “Mangaldas owned the stage without trying to earn it.....” Or at the Perth International Arts Festival, 2016, “Her artistry and poise, her dramatic gifts and unshakable technique are truly astounding” and at the Edinburgh International Festival, 2012, “Her concept of the intangible embraces the divine and the profoundly human: love and freedom, truth and beauty being as cosmically mystical as god.”

In India, many dance critics and connoisseurs celebrate her dance, “Her dance demonstrates what it means to be utterly free in body, mind and spirit to explore the world”. – Shanta Gokhale

She heads the Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company & the Drishtikon Dance Foundation.

www.aditimangaldasdance.com





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