

## NCPA presents Mudra Dance Festival, 2017

~ The latest season of this acclaimed festival demonstrates the power of transformation ~

~ April 20 to April 23, 2017 | Experimental Theatre, Tata Theatre & Godrej Dance Theatre, NCPA

- The power of transformation is explored extensively through various classical dance forms during this four-day festival.
- **Patra Vivartana conceptualized by Usha Rk, performed by Dakshina Vaidyanathan, Himanshu Shrivastava, and Arupa Lahiry** takes audiences through the transformation of three characters – **Soorpanakha** and **Ahalya**, from the Ramayana and **Shikhandhi** from the Mahabharata from their individual perspectives.
- **Vivartana – Dance transforms**, a Bharatanatyam performance by exponent **Rama Vaidyanathan** and her troupe, demonstrates how music and dance has been used as a tool of transformation and self-actualization.
- **Bhūya**, a performance by the noted Odissi dance gurukul - **Nrityagram**, will explore the concept of endless transformation through movements in dance.
- Multi-dance presentation by four renowned Mumbai based danced troupes led by artistes - **Sanjukta Wagh and Beej, Jhelum Paranjape and Smitalay, Vaibhav Arekar and Sankhya, and Gauri Sharma Tripathi and Ankh** showcasing transformation narratives.
- Lighting Workshop by **Jaydeep Apte** focusing on stage transformations using stage lighting.

**Mumbai, March 20, 2017:** NCPA's Mudra Dance Festival 2017 promises to be a platform where audiences will witness shades of transformation through ingenious combinations from April 20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>. Performances include a show by Bharatanatyam exponent Rama Vaidyanathan and her troupe and another act by the Nrityagram ensemble.

**Swapnokalpa Dasgupta, Head – Programming - Dance, NCPA** said, "The idea took root at a time when a lot of changes were being discussed and carried out at the NCPA itself. It felt like a natural progression. Just as it is vital for an arts center to keep transforming its space and programming in order to sustain itself and consistently stay relevant; similarly, transformation is a necessary aspect of dance. How would it still exist otherwise? After all, nothing in this world is static".

The festival will open with '**Patra Vivartana**', depicting three characters from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and their journey of transformation. **Dakshina Vaidyanathan** performs on a lesser known interpretation of Ramayana as **Soorpanakha** who tricks Ravana to fight Lord Rama, in order to avenge her husband's death who was killed by her own brother, **Himanshu Shrivastava** as **Shikhandi** who transforms twice – once physically, while receiving manliness from Yaksha and the other mentally while receiving Krishna's guidance in the battlefield and **Arupa Lahiry** as **Ahalya** who on her husband's curse, freezes like a stone and transforms back to life with the touch of Lord Rama take us through stories of transformation from the perspective of their respective characters. Patra Vivartana is conceptualized and presented by art consultant **Usha Rk**.

Audiences will be enthralled by '**Vivartana – Dance transforms**', presented by acclaimed Bharatanatyam dancer **Rama Vaidyanathan**, a popular artiste who has performed twice at the NCPA for the Mudra Dance Festival and this year will

perform for the first time along with her troupe, which includes two promising Mumbai based artistes – Keerthana Ravi and Prachi Save Sathi on the second day of the festival. **Vivartana** showcases Lord Shiva’s **Tandav Nritya**, considered the cosmic dance of the universe. Every move of Lord Shiva during the ‘**nritya**’ is a symbol of change representing the cycle of creation and destruction thus embodying transformation.

On the third day of the festival, Nrityagram ensemble, will present ‘**Bhūya**’.-It is a transformation of dance as it moves from one step to another, depicting the flow of dance. As each moment sheds itself, new ones are revealed. One leading to another, endlessly transforming. Nrityagram, founded by Protima Bedi is one of India’s top dance schools renowned not just for their unique Guru Shishya model of learning but also for their soulful choreographies and renditions. ‘**Bhūya**’ will be presented by Odissi exponents **Surupa Sen, Bijayini Satpathy**, Pavithra Reddy, Akshiti Roychowdhury and Urmila Mallick.

The last day of the festival will be an amalgamation of performances by four artistes showcasing the rich cultural diversity of classical Indian dance forms. All four performances, lasting twenty minutes each, explore the common domain of transformation. The opening act of the evening, **Khyal**, a Kathak performance by **Sanjukta Wagh**, Pooja Pant and Neha Kudchadkar examines the interplay of the verbal and nonverbal geometries of thought. The resultant performance is a collective play of rhythm, melody and dance. Odissi danseuse **Jhelum Paranjape** and her troupe will take enthusiasts through the journey of the dance form from folk to classical. Beginning with **Mahari**, the dance performed by **devdasis** of the Jagannath temple, to **Gotipua**, performed by young boys dressed as girls, the troupe will end with Odissi as it is performed today. The third act, **Vaibhav Akrekar’s Upaj**, is introspective in nature. It examines the shift between definitive structures to a more free-flowing spurt of movements of the Bharatanatyam idiom. It also focuses on how choreographic architecture affects the **spohta**, the explosion of meaning in the minds of **rasikas** (enthusiasts). The last performance of the quartet is to be performed by **Gauri Sharma Tripathi**. It is an attempt to create a synergic form by combing the grammar of Kathak with a contemporary dance form. The choreographies are in collaboration with ANKH Dance Company, Danceworx Academy, and Navdhara India Dance Theater.

On the last day of the festival, **Jaydeep Apte** will be conducting a workshop on how a stage can be transformed using lights. The session will delve into how lighting plays a crucial part in setting the mood during any dance recital and how it adds more meaning to the performance.

The four-day festival is guaranteed to give audiences an experience that they will cherish for a long time.

#### Schedule:

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
April 20, 2017	Patra Vivartana - by Dakshina Vaidyanathan, Himanshu Shrivastava and Arupa Lahiry, conceptualized by art consultant Usha Rk	Experimental Theatre	7.00 PM
April 21, 2017	Vivartana – Dance Transforms by Bharatanatyam exponent Rama Vaidyanathan and troupe	Experimental Theatre	7.00 PM
April 22, 2017	Bhūya – by Nrityagram Ensemble	TATA Theatre	7.00 PM
April 23, 2017	Multi-dance presentation by four artistes – Sanjukta Wagh, Jhelum Paranjpe, Vaibhav Arekar, Gauri Sharma Tripathi	TATA Theatre	7:00 PM

Workshop			
April 23, 2017	Lighting workshop on transforming the stage with lights by Jaydeep Apte	Godrej Dance Theatre	11: 00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Box Office now open**

Call **66223724/ 66223754** to book tickets.  
To book online, visit [www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com).

**Ticket Price: Rs. 150 onward (Members) and Rs. 200 onward (Public)**

**About the NCPA:**

Opening its doors to the world in 1969, the NCPA became the first multi-venue and multi-purpose cultural centre to be built in South Asia. Vibrant and diverse, the NCPA today is recognized by artistes, patrons and media alike as India's premier performing arts institution. The Centre provides a fine showcase for India's rich performing arts traditions, all thanks to the institution's training and research initiatives.

The NCPA presents over 600 events each year across all major art forms, most notably Indian Music, International Music, Theatre and Film, Dance, and Literature, Visual Arts and Photography. There are Heads of Programming for each of these art forms who curate innovative events and festivals; representative of everything from classical to contemporary throughout the year. The NCPA produces its own programmes and also collaborates with leading cultural promoters from around the world. NCPA is the only member organisation of the International Music Council (IMC) from India.

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**For media queries, please contact:****NCPA:**

Ms. Deepika Pant | 9867221046 |  
[dpant@ncpamumbai.com](mailto:dpant@ncpamumbai.com)

**LinOpinion:**

Aparna Mehrotra | +91 9969623947 | [Aparna.Mehrotra@golinopinion.in](mailto:Aparna.Mehrotra@golinopinion.in)  
Hina Thadani | +91 9773818904 | [Hina.Thadani@golinopinion.in](mailto:Hina.Thadani@golinopinion.in)