PROGRAM NOTES

M-DO/KathakToronto presents

MOONSHADOWS

Kathak dance inspired by the phases of the moon

Dec 13-14 2025, 2-4pm

M-DO/KathakToronto (from the Tibetan word "hmdo" meaning junction or meeting point), is a registered arts education charitable organization committed to enhancing public awareness of cultural heritage and diverse perspectives through music and dance performances, workshops, and other projects.

Donations over $25 will receive an official tax receipt

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M-DO KATHAK TORONTO

Land Acknowledgement

We are sharing Kathak – a north Indian classical dance form, from the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, the Wendat and the Haudensuanee.

This territory is within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudnesaunee, the Anishnaabe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, Toronto (Ktaronto) is the home of many indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to be able to work on this land. As artists, we strive to increase our knowledge of, and ability to honour these treaties more wholistically within community.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Artistic and Production Team

Concept/Main Choreography: Artistic Director Joanna de Souza
Additional Choreography: Amrit Phull, Jane Morris
Rehearsal Assistant: Aarti Anand
Poetry/Verse: Jane Morris, with a few borrowings
Graphics and Program Production: Mihaela Dirlea
Music Production: Ed Hanley, & Santosh Naidu, additional nagma Jonathan Kay
Music Composition & Production: Ian de Souza
Performance Musicians: Ed Hanley, Anand Kapur, Ameera Nimjee
Performance Chorus: Jane Morris, Joanna de Souza, Tippi Chai
Performance Sound Production: Gurtej Hunjan
Lighting: Will Morris
Videography Capture: Cathy Ord & Toby Proctor
Video Editing: Ed Hanley
M-DO/KathakToronto Teachers: Joanna de Souza, Jane Morris, Amrit Phull, Aarti Anand, Natasha Lalji

1. NEW MOON: (Remount) created for Kalanidhi Juva Kala International Indian Dance Festival 2003

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east and Juliet is the sun
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon

But the moon is not envious
She is astral, silver glow
Gleaming through phases

The sharpened edge where day and night meet
Pulling the waters of the earth
Gently tugging our emotions

Music Composition and Production: 7 Hills Ian de Souza
Choreography: Joanna de Souza and New Moon Dancers
DANCERS: Ameera Nimjee, Amrit Phull, Ashmita Roy, Mihaela Dirlea, Nishtha Sharma, Sandhya Gopalakrishnan

2. CRESCENT MOON:

Music Composition and Production: (Lt) Pandit Ramesh Misra, Toronto Tabla Ensemble
Choreography: Joanna de Souza
Rehearsal Assistant: Aarti Anand
DANCERS: Kiyara Wasdani, Maithri Basavapatna, Marwah Khalid, Avnee Joshi , Neha Joshi, Disha Pandey, Nandini Tyagi, PoornIma Wasdani, Reil Leonard
Usha Harikumar, Kaniz Sinetheya, Kirandeep Sambhi, Riya Didwania

Sharpening the edges of day and night
But always and ever the moon
Casting her smoldering silvery beams
In the darkness left by sun set

The darkness enhances her light
Suffusing the earth in the gloaming
In the gloaming we sit by our fires, look up and wonder

3. QUARTER MOON

Music Concept and Arrangement: Joanna de Souza
Based upon original composition by Ustad Ali Akbar Khan
Musicians:Christopher Hale, Santosh Naidu
Music Production: Ian de Souza
Choreography: Amrit Phull & Joanna de Souza
DANCERS: Kirandeep Kaur Chahal, Versha Rangaswamy, Aanshi Gandhi, Parul Monga, Disha Sachdeva

4. ARDHA CHANDRA (Remount) created for Body Percussion Festival 2014

Choreography: Joanna de Souza

DANCERS: Mihaela Dirlea, Amrit Phull, Aarti Anand, Natasha Lalji

5. MIDDLE MOON

The moon surprises us in her simplicity
Coming out from behind the clouds

I will never be morning person
For the moon and I are too much in love.

Original Music: Saiyan Bina Ghar Suna-
Bappi Lahiri 1978
Re-recorded Kolkata India 2000- (Lt) Pandit Ramesh Misra, (Lt) Pandit Chitresh Das
Abhijit Banerjee, Mala Ganguly
Choreography: Joanna de Souza & Jane Morris
DANCERS: Divya Vijay, Garima Sharma, Reshma Jose, Ria Kapoor, Sadaf Ahmed Khan, Anushka Prakash Babu, Jash Vora, Shughla Ismail

6. FULL MOON

The sun has set
We feel a pull
The moon is full
And we wait
With anticipation, a bit of trepidation
And a lot of wonder

In the fullness of time,
The fullness of the moon

You do not have to be full to shine,
But it helps!

Concept & Chorography: Joanna de Souza
Music Composition: Ian de Souza
Music Production: Ed Hanley, Santosh Naidu, Ian de Souza
Performance Musicians: Ed Hanley, Anand Kapur, Ameera Nimjee
DANCERS: Aarti Anand, Natasha Lalji, Vibhu Sharma, Sucheta Heble, Hannah Shaikh, Mihaela Dirlea

7. BARDO MOON

The gloaming is a shadowy time
But there is a glow about it
Light around the edges
Illuminating shape
Shifting form
Finding solace settling in the dark
By the dark of the moon
We make our way
To the edge of things.

Music: Ritesh Das, Eric Parker, Joanna de Souza
Choreography: Joanna de Souza
Rehearsal Assistant: Aarti Anand
DANCERS:Ashmita Roy, Tanisha Chakma, Shreya Prasad, Alisha Thawer,
Myuri Komaragiri, Amyna Kanji, Divya Muthu, Vidyashree Balagangadhariah, Soraiya Kasssam, Asmita Niraula

8. DARK OF THE MOON

Three things cannot be long hidden
The sun, the moon and the truth

We cannot look the sun in the eye
But we can gaze on her reflection off the moon
And sense the truth in our existence

Music Production: Ed Hanley, Ian de Souza, additional nagma: Jonathan Kay
Choreography: Joanna de Souza
DANCERS: Nishtha Sharma, Jessica Thadickal, Priyanka Shertukde, Gamsana Abayan, Priti Anand, Tanurina Datta, Sandhya Gopalakrishnan

9. RETURN TO THE LIGHT

The moon is still the moon, in all her phases
We are all under the same sky
Looking up at the same moon

Music Composition and Production: Ian de Souza

FULL CAST

Thank you to:
-The (Lt) Pandit Chitresh Das and Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri for your knowledge, guidance and love.
-Ian de Souza for all things - all the time
-Jane, Tippi & Sucheta for standing-strong with me all these years
-Mish and Tippi for your never ending graphic, website and back-end support
-Aarti for all your support, on and off the dance floor
-Ed Hanley for your deep integrity with this art form and for working with us in so many capacities
-Gurtej, Anand and Santosh for being my brothers and always picking up the slack
-Will for being part of the crew all these years – with such joy
-Adina Herling, for administrative and moral support- always
-Shreya Prasad, Jessica Thadickal, Minal & Preksha Vora, Amrit Phull for overseeing costume design and construction
-Kiran and Ameera for never missing a beat upon your return to Toronto
-Jane, Amrit, Aarti and Natasha for all your help in keeping the knowledge flowing and the school growing
- All the volunteers for helping with this production – we really appreciate you all
ALL the students for your commitment, passion, family-style love and artistry. Together we dance with Kathak into the 21st century- in style!