



# PROGRAM NOTES

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M-DO/KathakToronto presents

## MOONSHADOWS

Kathak dance inspired by the  
phases of the moon

Dec 13-14 2025, 2-4pm

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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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## 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 Haudensuane.

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 a 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, Aamna Kanji, Divya  
Muthu, Vidyashree Balagangadhariah,  
Soraiya Kassam, 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 21<sup>st</sup> century- in style!