

## VIPLAV

### Moments of revolution in Indian mythology

Akademi presents an evening exploring revolution in Indian mythology. Featuring classical dances from South India - Bharatanatyam and Mohiniattam – and the martial art Kalaripayattu.

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#### Vijayam | Victory

*Upahaar Dance, led by Shalini Shivashankar*  
35 mins

The concept of Victory is explored in the *Rama Saptham* - a unique work of the Mohiniattam repertoire, telling the story of Lord Rama's victory over the demon King Ravana.

A revolutionary piece, *Rama Saptham* was resurrected by the late Smt. Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma in the late 1900s. Traditionally, *Rama Saptham* was performed through the entire evening but Kalyanikuttyamma pursued the idea of including it into the modern repertoire whilst retaining some salient features.

*Vijayam* is presented in three parts. A *Ganesha Shuthi*, an introductory salutation, opens the piece which is followed by *Rama Saptham*. *Upahaar Dance* will conclude with a *thillana* (a rhythmic piece in Carnatic music), highlighting the soft gentle movements characteristic to Mohiniattam.

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#### Upahaar Dance School | Shalini Shivashankar

Upahaar School of Dance was founded by Shalini Shivashankar with the simple desire to share the joy experienced from expressing and communicating through dance. It was started in Croydon in 2003 and now has branches in Sutton, Croydon, Twickenham and Crawley. Upahaar offers training in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Mohiniattam and Carnatic music.

**Performers** | Shalini Shivashankar, Daniella Zak Varghese, Pallavi Anand, Anekha Pillai and Rani Shenoy.

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## Kavacham | Armour

*Natyasri, led by Geetha Sridhar. With live Mridangam.*

24 mins

A portrait in dance that crowns the warrior Boy-God Lord Muruga, this poetic hymn urges the Lord to design an armour; a protection from various predicaments of life, both mental and physical.

Though this 16th century text is pertinent to a by-gone era, its themes continue to be relevant today's situation, be it human violence, epidemics, injustice or suffering.

A peaceful revolution against repression of any kind, expressed through Bharatanatyam and the nuances of Kalaripayattu, a martial art with origins in Kerala.

## Natyasri | Geetha Sridhar

Geetha is a professional dancer, performer, tutor and choreographer with a career spanning over 20 years. Whilst she is firmly established in the conventional style of Bharathanatyam, her expertise extends in to new experimental choreographic works, giving it a contemporary touch. Geetha combines other disciplines of yoga, Kalari and free style movements with Bharathanatyam.

**Performers** | SaiSupriya Sreecumaar, Deepti Umashankar, Aditi Bhatt

**Mridangam** | Abhiram Sahathevan

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND STAFF

**Performance Coordinator** | Nina Head

**Stage Manager** | Beth Hoare Barnes

**Lighting Designer** | Jai Morjaria

### Akademi Team |

Mira Kaushik, Tim Foxon, Antareepa Thakur, Christina Christou, Sydney Rae, Joe West, Claire Farmer, Pia Zicchi, Rohanne Udall, Holly Morris and Catherine Ibbotson.

**Akademi**



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