



NAVADAL

Rising Stars

Welcome to Rising Stars, the culmination of NAVADAL 2019, Akademi's National South Asian Youth Dance Competition and a celebration of 40 years of Akademi nurturing excellence in South Asian dance. Tonight's line-up, put together by Akdemi's YUVA 2016 winner and BBC Young Dancer 2015 finalist Vidya Patel, showcases this afternoon's competition winners and four exceptionally talented dancers from the across the UK.

PERFORMANCE CREDITS

Shree Savani

Shree is a 20-year-old Bharatantnyam dancer and physiotherapy student. She has a passion for dance and engaging with people artistically. Her recent success as the South Asian category winner and finalist in BBC Young Dancer 2019 has fueled her ambition to develop as a dancer.

Hari Tum Haro

Shree's performance depicts the traditional, yet intensely powerful story of Draupadi that is told in the ancient scripture of the *Mahabharata*. Through shifts in physicality and quality of expression many characters are portrayed by one dancer.

Choreography: Bhagya Lakshmi Thyagarajan
Teachers: Bhagya Lakshmi and Smita Vadnerkar
Composer: Meera Bai 16th century

NAVADAL competition winners

Akademi's National South Asian Youth Dance Competition winners.

13-18 group | Kirti Kala Mandir, Trivat

Choreography: Ashwini Kalsekar
Teacher: Ashwini Kalsekar

19-25 solo | Saloni Saraf, Maulik Shah *Tarana*

Choreography: Maulik Shah, Ankh, Sujata Banerjee
Teachers: Gauri Sharma Tripathi and Sujata Banerjee

13-18 solo | Aishani Ghosh, Pradosha

Choreography: Pashwanath Upadhyay
Teacher: Chitrалека Bolar

Jaina Modasia

Jaina is an up and coming Kathak dancer who has been dancing since the age of 4. She has completed the ISTD syllabus, training with Sujata Banerjee, and was twice category finalist for BBC Young Dancer. In 2017 Jaina was a Navadal winner (17-25yrs, solo).

Chaap Tilak

Jaina's piece is a remake of the poem originally written and composed by Amir Khusro. The poem describes complete surrender to love: 'You've intoxicated me, by just a glance ... You've made me your bride, by just a glance.'

Choreography: Sujata Banerjee and Jaina Modasia
Teacher: Sujata Banerjee
Music arrangement and vocalist: Anirban Bhattacharyya and Sujata Banerjee

Pallavi Anand

Pallavi is a Bharatanatyam and Mohiniattam dancer. She has trained in Bharatanatyam from the age of 5 and Mohiniattam from 24, both under her mother and Shalini Shivashankar. Pallavi graduated with a Fashion Design degree but has chosen to focus on dance.

Navarasaanjali

Pallavi's performance demonstrates the Goddess Mahishasura Mardini as a protector against evil and sorrow. She has deer like eyes and curly long hair as wild as bees. The dancer asks the Goddess to instil in her the Navarasas or nine states of emotions - love, valour, compassion, laughter, surprise, fear, disgust, anger and peace.

Choreography: Sreedevi Rajan

Teacher: Shalini Shivashankar and Smitha Rajan

Composer: Sri. Kesava Pillai

Shyam Dattani

Shyam has been training in Kathak since the age of 2 and is currently under the guidance of Urja Desai Thakore. In 2017 he was the winner of BBC Young Dancer's South Asian category and came second in the Kalashram Kathak Contest, European Leg. He hopes to take up dance professionally post-graduation from Cass Business School.

Udaan

Shyam's piece explores the masculinity of Kathak through the 14-beat time cycle of Dhamaar, showcasing the form's technicality in fast series pirouettes, intricate footwork, and sudden static poses.

Choreography: Urja Desai Thakore

Teacher: Urja Desai Thakore

Composer: Atul Desai

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Vidya Patel, Curator

Vidya Patel is a professional dancer based in Birmingham training in Kathak with Sujata Banerjee. She was the winner of the South Asian category at BBC Young Dancer 2015 and has since worked with world renowned companies like Richard Alston Dance Company, with whom she has toured internationally. She recently performed in Akademi's *The Troth* choreographed by Gary Clarke and is currently an Associate Artist at Déda Derby, taking the next steps in her practice, which includes teaching, choreographing and performing.

Event hosts:

Vidya Patel and Subratha Subramaniam

Producer: Nina Head and Meera Patel

Lighting Designer: Jai Morjaria

Akademi Team: Mira Kaushik OBE, Kirsten Burrows, Antareepa Thakur, Christina Christou, Sydney Rae, Claire Farmer, Rohanne Udall, Apollonia Bauer and Catherine Ibbotson.

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