



*Exploring the holy city of Varanasi  
by the River Ganges,  
through traditional Indian Classical  
Dance form of Kathak*

# *Dashashwamedh* *Enchanting Stories of Varanasi*

*Based on Kathak Production*  
*Concept and Choreography: Jayeeta Dutta*

*60<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Dance Research*  
*Athens, July 2023*

# *Credits*

*While giving shape to this concept, I have explored classical works of Kathak masters, acclaimed poets and musicians, collaborated with select costume designer and photographer, interacted with people of Varanasi.*

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1

**I am the Shiva**  
(Spiritual Dance)

2

**Mehfil Andaz**  
(Dance on Urdu poetry-  
influenced by Islam  
culture)

3

**Hori**  
(Dance on Traditional  
Radha Krishna story-  
influenced by Hindu  
culture)

# *I am the Shiva*

*"Aham Nirvikalpo Nirakara Rupo,  
Vibhut Vatcha Sarvatra Sarvendriyanam,  
Na Cha Sangatham Naiva Muktir Na Meyaha,  
Chidananda Rupah Shivoham Shivoham."*

I am devoid of duality; my form is formlessness. I am everywhere and pervade all senses. I'm not attached, nor am I free. I am the manifestation of consciousness and bliss. I am the eternal Shiva.



7 priests perform the daily ritualistic ceremony with firelit lamps, bells, conch shells and incense. A Kathak work on rhythmic footwork depicting meter of 7 and 14 (7X2) beats conceptualized to symbolize this ceremony and offer worship to Shiva and the holy Ganges.

# *Mehfil Andaz*

*"Tere Mehfil Mein Kis Andaz se  
Baitha Hain Deewana,  
Zubaan Khamosh Hain Lekin  
Nazar Kehte Hain Afsana"*

In this gathering of music lovers as I sit down to present my music, I find myself face to face with my beloved. I do not say a word, yet my eyes tell my story of pure love



As the priests lift the heavy brass oil lamps to invoke the Hindu Gods, Muslim devotees would be unrolling their mats for dawn prayer a few ghats away. This coexistence is Varanasi. Exploring a mehfil (a gathering for musical entertainment) setup on a boat on the Ganges.

# Hori

*"Main To Khelungi Unhi Se Hori Guiyan*

*Laike Aabir Gulaal Kumkum*

*Rang se Bhari Pichkari Guiyan"*

I yearn to play colors with you, O my beloved Krishna! With vibrant colors and with sprays of beautiful colored water which are filled into my color guns... let us drench ourselves and our souls with all colors of life...



Rich tradition of Hori describing Krishna's revelries, deeply explored by the Benaras Gharana singers, through the unique poetic play of words and their embellishments. Kathak, the eternal story telling dance form, using such poetry to depict the festival of colors celebrated at Varanasi

More from the significant traditions of Varanasi...



Rubai



Bhajan



Kajri



Thumri



Sargam



JhapTaal

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