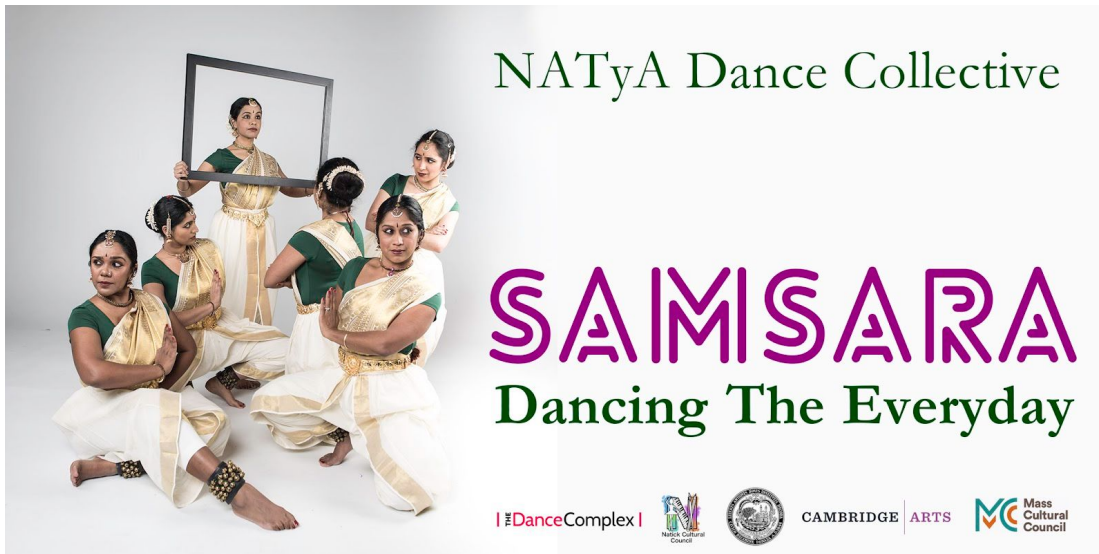


NATyA Dance Collective's *Samsara: Dancing the Everyday*



Cambridge, MA- March 14th 2019: On May 31st and June 1st, 2019, Natick based NATyA Dance Collective will premiere *Samara: Dancing the Everyday* at The Dance Complex. This collaborative Bharatanatyam project brings together a talented group of dancers and musicians to question the inherent suffering of everyday life by interpreting the beauty and pain of human relationships. The work is supported by a grant awarded from the Cambridge Cultural Council, a grant program of the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Bharatanatyam, a popular classical dance form from India, combines abstract percussive movements with praises of gods from the Hindu pantheon through storytelling. Audience members familiar with the style will recognize the signature geometric lines and complex rhythms of Bharatanatyam, often alternating with lyrical passages that convey intimate emotions and interactions. Those who are new to the style will find the visual spectacle and emotional resonance of the evening captivating. In this production, NATyA choreographers leverage the aesthetic traditions of Bharatanatyam to explore stories and themes that are seldom portrayed in this style. For example, the program features a section on a romance between two women and another on alienation and war in the age of individualism and pervasive social media.

The members of the collective collaborated with California-based Carnatic saxophonist, Prasant Radhakrishnan to create the signature piece for this production. Radhakrishnan composed an original piece of Carnatic music for this production and renders his composition on saxophone for the dance, *Sambandha*. Radhakrishnan joined forces with percussion virtuoso Rohan Krishnamurthy and vocal solkattu artist Malavika Kumar Walia to bring *Sambandha* to life.

The featured artists, Smitha Radhakrishnan, Aditi Subramaniam, Divya Satishchandra, Usha Narayana, Gowri Vijayakumar, and Kavya Prasad, have been rigorously trained in the Indian Classical style of Bharatanatyam and other dance forms for decades. Radhakrishnan is the artistic director of the NATyA Dance Collective, a collaborative performance group based out of the NATyA Dance Studio, which Radhakrishnan founded in 2015. The collective aims to strengthen the practices of Bharatanatyam performance while reimagining its traditional themes in new, creative ways. *Samsara: Dancing the Everyday* will mark the group's fourth collaborative effort.

Tickets and more information available at dancecomplex.org.

This performance will take place in the loft-style Julie Ince Thompson Theatre where thousands of companies and dancers of international acclaim have explored, created, and shared work for over 30 years. Beer, wine, and beverages are available for purchase. For accessibility/ADA information, please visit our website.

Choreography and Performance by Smitha Radhakrishnan, Aditi Subramaniam, Divya Satishchandra, Gowri Vijayakumar, Kavya Prasad, and Usha Narayana. Original music by Prasant Radhakrishnan, Rohan Krishnamurthy, and Malavika Kumar Walia. Lighting Design by John Randell.



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