

Arts for Learning CT PROGRAM GUIDE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn to interpret meaning through, and communicate with, this inspiring dance.
- Students will study rhythm as it pertains to storytelling through dance. They will study how meaning is created through footwork, for example, and bell sounds.
- Students will connect meaning to various hand gestures found in classical Indian dance.

Dances of India

with

Rachna Agrawal

Performances, Workshops and
Residencies, Grades K-12

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Kathak is the art of telling stories through dance. Originally a temple dance over 2000 years ago in Northern India, Kathak has since evolved into the dramatic dance we see today. Although Kathak combines complex footwork and spins, much of the dance is improvised in time with the music.

“Kathikas” were the original storytellers in India; their stories and dances formed part of the daily ritual of worship.

PROGRAMS

- Kathak Dance
- Culture of India
- Classical Indian Music
- Visual Art of India
- Folk Dances of India, Yoga
- Indian Literature



ARTS FOR LEARNING CT
1 EVERGREEN AVENUE
3RD FLOOR
HAMDEN, CT 06518



Arts for
Learning
Connecticut



About the Artist & Program Preparations

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rachna has intensively studied the Lucknow style of Kathak. She has also received a Master's Degree in dance from Pracheen Kala Kendra in India, a Senior Diploma in Classical Indian vocal music from Prayag Sangeet Samiti and a Masters degree in Hindi Literature from Delhi University.

PRE PROGRAM

- What is a story? How can a story be related?
- How can you use your body to express emotion?
- Try to express a story using only your hands.
- Now, tell the same story using your entire body.

POST PROGRAM

- How does Hindi storytelling differ from American storytelling?
- What elements do Hindi and American storytelling share?
- Are there dances similar to Kathak that we perform in the United States?
- How can art be used to tell stories?
- Name two forms of art and demonstrate how, separately, they are used to tell stories.
- Now, think how these art forms can be used together?

RESOURCES

Books:

"Kathak: Indian Classical Dance Art" by Sunil Kothari

Web:

<http://www.kathakusa.com/>
<http://www.artindia.net>

RESIDENCY

Here, students will be given the opportunity to study the customs, practices, and history of Indian culture. Students will investigate the geographic conditions of India, including the nation's economy, and analyze how they impact everyday life. A minor study of India's national language Hindi is included.

CURRICULAR LINKS

National Core Arts Standards: Anchor Standards

10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

"Rachna mesmerized the audience with her twinkling footwork and graceful style. Although the seating provided sightlines, the audience was compelled to stand and move positions to be able to see her performance even more clearly, such was the beauty of her dancing."

– Weekly Spotlight, Chicago



Website:

<http://www.aflct.org>



Contact:

203.230.8101



Email:

info@aflct.org