



GEMARTS

MASALA

FESTIVAL

11TH - 17TH JULY 2016

A mix and blend of the finest
South Asian arts and culture

WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST GEMARTS MASALA FESTIVAL - A MIX AND BLEND OF THE FINEST SOUTH ASIAN ARTS AND CULTURE.

Adding to GemArts yearlong programme, over 7 days this summer, we bring you the spirit, spice and vibrancy synonymous with the Indian subcontinent, and which is now part of British culture too. From a specially curated programme of trailblazing short films to award winning poets from the UK, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Exhibitions exploring the beauty of Turban culture, to new commissions and incredible collaborations spanning traditional and contemporary music, and ancient stories retold through dance and beatboxing on the banks of the Tyne - we have something for everyone!

For those of you who want to immerse yourself in the whole Masala Festival experience, you can take part in Bollywood dance, cooking demonstrations, meditation, yoga, dog (yes, that's yoga with dogs!).....and to really spice things up, the festival culminates with a spectacular family fun day of free workshops, performances and delicious Indian street food at Live Theatre's new outdoor space.....it's going to be epic!

We would like to say a massive Thank You to all the artists, producers, participants, volunteers, partners, funders and everyone who has contributed their support, effort and creativity to our very first GemArts Masala Festival.

We look forward to seeing you, and hope you'll join us for what promises to be an unforgettable experience.

The GemArts Team

Vikas, Alexandra, Sinéad and Jade

GEMARTS IS SUPPORTED BY:



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



MASALA FESTIVAL PARTNERS:

ATMADANCE
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JAM JAR CINEMA



JAZZ 50
North East

**live
theatre**



Newcastle
City Council



ALIVE!

Date: Monday 11th July
Venue: Gateshead Old Town Hall, West St, NE8 1HE
Time: 7pm
Tickets: £5 (plus handling fee)
Box office: 0191 443 4661, www.sagegateshead.com
Age: 14+ (one film contains brief nudity)
Running time: 120 minutes

GemArts Masala Festival launches with a ground-breaking evening of short films, featuring the Love Works Duology (Little Elephant and Chariot Riders), Diana, Big Time – My Doodled Diary, I Am and Poshida.

ALIVE! is a celebration of being South Asian and lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in the world today, through live action drama, digital animation and documentary genres.

These films portray homosexual and transgender lives, set in 1980s urban India, an historic day in 90s Britain, and contemporary Pakistan and the West Midlands.

These are stories of childhood innocence, first love, growing pains; of hardship, brutality and self-acceptance; stories of hope, resilience, a better tomorrow, and ultimately about being ALIVE!

Independent producer Bobby Tiwana, the curator of ALIVE! will facilitate this specially selected programme of shorts including his Love Works Duology.

Post-event discussion with filmmakers, academics and LGBT sector representatives.

Presented with Sage Gateshead. With special thanks to The Gateshead Housing Company.



MANJULA

Date: Tuesday 12th July
Venue: The Black Swan
Newcastle, NE1 1SG
Time: 8pm
Tickets: £8 / £6 Concession
Box office: www.seetickets.com

Manjula (meaning melodious) bring their eclectic sound to Masala Festival, exploring, innovating and combining rhythms from different cultures, to create a beautiful mix of sounds from around the globe. This Leeds-based project is an example of forward thinking global music, incorporating Portuguese, African and Latin jazz influences, with the haunting ambience of Indian vocal training and the rhythmic attack of jazz improvisation.

Manjula will take your mind on journeys to faraway places, whilst making you feel at home.

Presented with Jazz North East and Jazz North.



SHRI'S JUST A VIBRATION

**SHRI SRIRAM FEAT. THE NASUWT
RIVERSIDE BAND WITH SPECIAL
GUEST KATHRYN WILLIAMS**

Date: Wednesday 13th July
Venue: Sage One, Sage Gateshead
NE8 2JR
Time: 7:30pm
Tickets: £15 / Family ticket available
(plus handling fee)
Box office: 0191 443 4661
www.sagegateshead.com

Just a vibration brings together two distinctly diverse musical forms: Indian classical music and the traditional brass band. The brainchild of composer / producer / musician Shri Sriram, this incredible performance at GemArts Masala Festival, features the great NASUWT Riverside Band, the highly accomplished Jasdeep Singh Degun on sitar, powerhouse drummer Marc Layton-Bennett and a guest appearance from Newcastle-based singer songwriter, Kathryn Williams.

Presented with Sage Gateshead.



IDENTITY, POLITICS AND MYTHOLOGY

AN EVENING OF POETRY WITH MONIZA ALVI, AMALI RODRIGO AND ARUNDHATHI SUBRAMANIAM

Date: Thursday 14th July
Venue: Newcastle University, NE1 7RU
Reading: Culture Lab
Workshop: Percy Building
Time: Reading 7pm / Workshop 1pm - 3pm
Tickets: Reading £6 / Workshop £5 (£4 Concession)
Combined Workshop & Reading ticket £8
Box office: www.ncl.ac.uk/ncla/events

Celebrating contemporary South Asian poetry at Masala Festival, poet and producer Dr John Challis, curates an evening of readings by three prize-winning poets. Followed by a discussion led by Dr James Procter of Newcastle University.

Moniza Alvi was born in Pakistan and grew up in Hertfordshire. Her collections include *The Country at My Shoulder* (1993), and *Europa* (2008). Moniza's *At the Time of Partition*, was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot prize, and is a book-length poem set at the time of the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947.

Amali Rodrigo was born and grew up in Sri Lanka. She recently completed new translations based on the graffiti song-poems inscribed at Sigiriya, Sri Lanka, A UNESCO World Heritage Site. Her first collection *Lotus Gatherers*, was published by Bloodaxe Books in 2016.

Described as 'one of the finest poets writing in India today' (The Hindu, 2010), Arundhathi Subramaniam's recent book of poems is *When God is a Traveller* (Bloodaxe Books, 2014). Also shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, it explores life in a Third World megapolis, myth, and the politics of culture and gender.

WORKSHOP: POETRY AND IDENTITY WITH ARUNDHATHI SUBRAMANIAM

Arundhathi will also deliver a freewheeling workshop that will address the process of making poetry, as magic and manual labour, and explore the question of Identity – the business of cultural politics, as well as the challenging journey of growing into oneself.

Both reading and workshop presented with Trashed Organ and NCLA.



SOUTH INDIAN COOKING DEMONSTRATION

Date: Thursday 14th July
Venue: Ury Restaurant,
Newcastle, NE1 3UG
Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm
Tickets: £30 per person
Contact: Ury Restaurant,
0191 232 7799

Come along and take a culinary journey to Kerala, as head chef at Ury shows you how to create authentic South Indian vegetarian cuisine. Includes demonstration, top tips, and a delicious meal.

Presented with Ury Restaurant.



FILM: GOLIJON KI RASLEELA RAM-LEELA

Date: Saturday 16th July
Venue: Jam Jar Cinema,
Whitley Bay, NE26 1DG
Time: 4pm
Tickets: £5
Box office: www.jamjarcinema.com

With a nod to the Bard, Masala Festival marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, with this modern Bollywood adaptation of William Shakespeare's 'Romeo & Juliet'.

Set in violent times the film tells the story of Ram, a man from a crime family, who falls in love with Leela, a woman who is resistant to her family's choice of a husband for her. Follow Ram and Leela's love, lust and the drama afterwards.

Golijon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela, Dir: Sanjay Leela Bhansali | India 2013 | 151mins

Hindi with English Subtitles.

Presented with Jam Jar Cinema.



TURBANISM

AN EXHIBITION BY REHMAT RAYATT

Date: Friday 15th July - Saturday 3rd September
Venue: The Gallery, Gateshead Central Library, NE8 4LN
Time: Open during Library opening hours
Tickets: **FREE EVENT**

“The turban is more than simply a hat; it is a state of mind.”

Every community has its own way of connecting and interacting, centred on a culturally important action. It might be the intricacies of language, food or even dance that tell people about a way of life, while for some communities messages are communicated through dress. The turban is so embedded into Rajasthani culture that it is impossible to tell whether culture precedes turban, or turban precedes culture. One look at a turban wearer can reveal a profession, a village or a caste. Delve a layer deeper, and a whole repertoire of conversation is revealed.

Complex ideals such as honour, respect and responsibility can be communicated through the turban, emotions can be expressed; certain colours are worn at weddings, others in the event of a family death.

Turbanism celebrates the diverse and complex world of the Rajasthani turban, its people and the incredible process of creating these intricate headpieces. As part of this exhibition Rehmat will also lead a *Portrait photography workshop: how to take a strong portrait that tells a story.*

For information please contact info@gemarts.org

Presented with Gateshead Council Culture Team.



RIVERSIDE RAGAS: THE MONKS OF MAJULI - SATTRIYA DANCE

Date: Saturday 16th July
Venue: Sage Two, Sage Gateshead, NE8 2JR
Time: Talk 7pm, Performance 8pm
Tickets: £10 / Family ticket and concessions available (plus handling fee)
Box office: 0191 443 4661, www.sagegateshead.com

GemArts Masala Festival bring audiences a unique opportunity as Monks from the beautiful island of Majuli, in Assam, India, are travelling to the UK for the very first time to perform Sattriya, a joyful classical dance. The monks trace the origin of their art form to Sankardeva, the 15th century founder of Assamese 'Neo-Vaishnavism', a religion that venerates the Indian god Vishnu, particularly in his incarnation as the flute-playing Krishna. The monks dance in his honour and narrate playful, sensuous and fantastical episodes of his life as recounted in the ancient epics. Supported by Arts Council England, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Sound Travels, King's College University of London, London Arts and Humanities Partnership, and The British Museum.

Join us for a fascinating pre-concert talk with King's College PhD candidate Georgie Pope who has organised the tour, and will give an insight into her research and time spent with the monks.

Presented with Sage Gateshead.



MINI MELA AND THE MAGIC FISH

MINI MELA

Date: Sunday 17th July
Venue: Live Garden, Live Theatre,
Broad Chare, Quayside,
Newcastle, NE1 3DQ
Time: 11am - 3pm
Tickets: **FREE EVENT**

GemArts Masala Festival culminates with a spectacular outdoor event as we bring Live Garden to life with all the fun, hustle and bustle of an Indian bazaar. Families can take part in Indian Rangoli, get beautiful Henna, and enjoy Indian dance, storytelling, Dhol drumming and other amazing workshops.... and of course mouth-watering Indian street food!

Presented with Live Theatre.



THE MAGIC FISH BY ATMA DANCE

Date: Sunday 17th July
Venue: Swirl Pavilion Sculpture,
Newcastle Quayside,
NE1 3DX
Time: 11:30am and 3pm,
Performance length (45mins)
Tickets: **FREE EVENT**

Don't miss two very special performances along the banks of the River Tyne.

ATMA Dance's The Magic Fish, is a classic Indian tale retold through dance, storytelling and beatboxing for young thinking minds.

Vishnu, one of India's shape-shifting Supergods, wakes up after sleeping for thousands of years to find a greedy demon called No-Knowledge has taken earth's most precious treasures for himself. Enlisting the help of King Manu to save the essentials for life, Vishnu changes his form into something quite unexpected! In this interactive performance, boys and girls are invited to join King Manu's adventure in a new production to enchant all children aged 5+.

Supported by Arts Council England.
Commissioned by The Place,
Pavilion Dance South West & GemArts.



WORKSHOPS

As part of GemArts Masala Festival there are a variety of fun and enjoyable activities for you to come and try out!

MEDITATION

Date: Monday 11th July, 5:30 - 6:30pm
Venue: Newcastle Buddhist Centre
Cost: FREE, donations welcome

Drop-in introduction to meditation class for beginners and those who want to meditate with others.

MUM AND BABY POSTNATAL YOGA**

Date: Tuesday 12th July, 1 - 2pm
Venue: The Nest
Cost: £8 drop in
Discounts for block bookings
Contact: Caireen Hart
caireenhart@gmail.com

Connect, bond and have fun with your baby. Ease your way back into exercise with Yoga. Stretch, strengthen and tone your body and learn simple breathing and relaxation techniques to help you enjoy motherhood.

YOGA MONKEY'S** AGES 2 ½ - 4 ½ YEARS

Date: Tuesday 12th July, 9:30am
Age: 2 ½ - 3 ½ years
Date: Tuesday 12th July, 10:15am
Age: 3 ½ - 4 ½ years
Venue: The Nest
Cost: Adult £7.50 / Child £5
Discounts for block bookings
Contact: Robyn 07946413497
spiritlevellyoga@gmail.com

A creative and playful approach for children and young people to experience yoga. Yoga enables children to develop co-ordination, gross motor skills, sensory development and balance. It helps with memory and language development and facilitates co-operation, emotional and social development.

BOLLYWOOD DANCE

Date: Wednesday 13th July, 7 - 8pm
Venue: The Yoga Station
Date: Thursday 14th July, 4:30 - 5:30pm
Venue: The Nest
Cost: £5 Adult / £4 Child
Contact: GemArts 0191 4404124
info@gemarts.org

Come and try one of the most famous, fun modern dance styles from Indian Bollywood Film, fusing Indian classical dance, folk dance, Bhangra, Hip Hop, Salsa, Jazz and Belly Dancing!

IYENGAR YOGA** - IMPROVES SUPPLENESS, STRENGTH AND STAMINA


Date: Wednesday 13th July, 7 - 8:30pm
Venue: The Nest
Cost: £7, Discounts for block bookings
Contact: Nicola 07841514619
nicolascheel@hotmail.com

B.K.S. Iyengar's method of learning yoga is now the most widely practised in the world. Iyengar Yoga increases suppleness, strength and stamina, improves posture and concentration and quietsens the mind to promote well-being.

HATHA YOGA

Date: Thursday 14th July, 10 - 11:30am
Venue: Bensham Grove Community Centre
Cost: £4
Contact: Sue Clarke
daveandsue37@yahoo.co.uk

In this slow paced class, the focus is on releasing tension and building strength in the body and mind, practising postures, breathing, relaxation and mindfulness/ meditation techniques.



DOGA: YOGA FOR YOU AND YOUR DOG

Date: Friday 15th July
DOGA with Q&A 2:30 - 4pm
Children's DOGA 5 - 6pm

Venue: The Yoga Station

Cost: Adult £7 / Children £5

Contact: GemArts 0191 4404124
info@gemarts.org

Interested in Yoga? Also a dog owner/lover? Mahny Djahanguiri, founder and author of international bestselling book DOGA - Yoga for you and your dog (Hamlyn) and director of Dogamahny TM will deliver insight into this rewarding, relaxing and ultimate bonding experience. Demonstrating with Robbie, her Maltese terrier, participants can join in this unique Yoga session with or without a dog.

Dogs must be social, neutered, vaccinated and owners must have personal liability insurance for their dog. Dogs must be owned by the participant attending the session.



FREE WORKSHOPS AT TRINITY SQUARE, GATESHEAD

We've teamed up with Trinity Square to bring vibrant and colourful pop-up workshops for shoppers, lunch breakers and families to try.

Bollywood Dance Workshops

Date: Wednesday 13th July,
12 - 12:40pm and 1 - 1:40pm

Indian Rangoli –

Decorative Arts Workshops

Date: Saturday 16th July
11:30am - 2:30pm

WORKSHOP VENUES:

Newcastle Buddhist Centre, 3rd Floor,
Broadacre House, NE1 6HQ

Gateshead Old Town Hall, West Street,
Gateshead, NE8 1HE

Yoga Station, Whitley Bay Metro Station,
Station Road, NE26 2QY

The Nest, 417/419 Durham Road,
Low Fell, NE9 5AN

Trinity Square, Gateshead, NE8 1AG

Bensham Community Centre,
Sidney Grove, Gateshead, NE8 2XD

BOOKING ESSENTIAL FOR ALL WORKSHOPS WITH COSTS LISTED

*restrictions may apply.

** mention GemArts Masala Festival
when booking for discounts.



GEMARTS

For more information
visit our website gemarts.org,
contact us on 0191 440 4124
or email info@gemarts.org