

Title: The Act of Kathak: A traditional classical dance

Abstract: *“Where the hand goes the eyes follow, where the eyes go the mind follows, where the mind goes there is feeling, where there is feeling there is emotion.”* Natya Shastra

Kathak is one of the eight forms of Indian classical dance which is practiced in countries like Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. The term Kathak is derived from the Vedic Sanskrit word *Katha* which means ‘story’, and Kathakar which means ‘the one who tells a story’, or ‘to do with ‘stories’. It draws from Hindu mythology and scripture and is said to explore the very complex ideology of spirituality. Kathak believes in the philosophy of Advaita which means 'oneness' or whole. In the context of Kathak, it is implied that male Kathak dancers perform both the male and female acts of the dance. This is usually performed as an opening act or as a way to worship or honor God before starting an event or a ceremony. This presentation will demonstrate the act of Kathak as performed by a student from Nepal.

Student Name: Purnima Khanal

Format: Demonstration

Times not available: Before 1 p.m.