



GEMARTS

MASALA

FESTIVAL



18TH TO 24TH JULY 2022

A MIX AND BLEND
OF THE FINEST SOUTH
ASIAN ARTS AND CULTURE

WELCOME



Welcome to GemArts Masala Festival - A mix and blend of the finest South Asian Arts and Culture.

After two years of on-line and some live events GemArts is delighted to bring Masala Festival back into venues, places and spaces across the North East to re-connect with our amazing live audiences.

Now in its seventh year (lucky number 7!), we are proud to present another weeklong festival of classical and contemporary art forms celebrating South Asian culture and creativity; packed full of incredible performances, exhibitions, events, workshops, pop-ups, demonstrations, and of course, delicious Indian food!

On behalf of everyone at GemArts I would like to say a special Thank You to all our brilliant artists, volunteers, partners, funders and sponsors.

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

Vikas Kumar MBE
Director

GEMARTS IS SUPPORTED BY:



GEMARTS MASALA FESTIVAL PARTNERS:

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BALTIC



DANCECITY
DANCE FOR THE NORTH EAST



JAZZ
North East



GemArts is part of Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minorities Support Group. Registered Charity no 1008100



Image: Luci Barribal

MASALA FESTIVAL LAUNCH: SEVENS: SRISHTI

DATE: Monday 18th July
TIME: 7.30pm
VENUE: Dance City, Temple Street, Newcastle, NE1 4BR
TICKETS: £13.50 / £8.00 students / £11.00 concession
BOX OFFICE: www.dancecity.co.uk / 0191 261 0505

CELEBRATING ITS SEVENTH YEAR, GEMARTS LAUNCH THE AWARD-WINNING MASALA FESTIVAL WITH SEVENS, A NEW TRIPLE BILL OF BHARATANATYAM AND KATHAK DANCE WITH LIVE MUSIC FROM ONE OF THE UK'S LEADING CHOREOGRAPHERS NINA RAJARANI MBE.

SEVENS explores the sacred, and sometimes sinful, significance of the number seven. From playful and energetic, to soulful and contemplative, the show will take audiences on an emotion-filled and entertaining journey.

Presented by GemArts and Dance City



Image: Lore - Mani Kambo



Image: Narivad - Sofia Barton



LORE BY MANI KAMBO AND NARIVAD BY SOFIA BARTON

DATE: 18th July - 10th September
TIME: During Gateshead Central Library opening hours
VENUE: The Gallery, Gateshead Central Library, NE8 4LN
TICKETS: FREE - Just Drop In!

This exhibition showcases artwork by two North East artists of South Asian heritage.

Lore: Mani Kambo

Knowledge has been passed down from generation to generation, through spoken word, drawings, dance and objects. Who we are and where we come from is shaped by our experiences and those around us. Lore brings together ideas of superstition, protection and storytelling.

Kambo's practice explores the inner spirit by drawing on her own personal totemic symbols. Visuals are repeated throughout her work like markers linking to notions of spirituality, rebirth and the cyclical nature of life and death.

Narivad: Sofia Barton

Narivad (meaning Feminism in Sanskrit) is an exploration of the Indian suffragettes who helped shape feminism on a global scale. With the use of matchbox designs inspired by those in her grandfather's collection, Sofia Barton creates a homage of images to these influential figures.

Sofia Barton is a multidisciplinary artist exploring the ideas of heritage and culture. Inspired by ever changing nature and environment.

Commissioned by GemArts and presented with Gateshead Arts Team

Image: The Misfits' Varun Chopra

MOMENTUM

DATE: Tuesday 19th July
TIME: 7pm
VENUE: Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, NE8 3BA
TICKETS: £5 (includes welcome drink)
BOX OFFICE: www.gemarts.org / 0191 4404124

There's something so incredible that is you.

You, Me, Him, Her, They
We are what we - are
Stepping out - cautiously bold
We do what we - do
Into the night - and the light
Embody the spirit - that makes us whole
My life and - agency
Reverberates
Together - we wait
For the day - alone

Contemporary South Asian film shorts about facets of identity: inherent nature, physicality, values and purpose. How we are shaped by what we say, how we look and what we do?

Films include 'The Misfits' by Varun Chopra, 'The Lyrics That Took Me Home' by Jan Rufus and more. Curated by Bobby Tiwana.

Post-screening discussion with industry contributors.

Age 14+

Running time: 120 minutes

Presented by GemArts and BALTIC

Image: Amali Gunasekera c Sarah Muller

AN EVENING OF POETRY WITH AMALI GUNASEKERA AND SHAZEA QURAISHI

DATE: Wednesday 20th July
TIME: 6.30pm
VENUE: Culture Lab, Newcastle University, NE1 7RU
TICKETS: FREE (booking essential)
BOX OFFICE: www.gemarts.org / 0191 4404124

Join us to hear new poetry from two Bloodaxe poets. The Sri Lankan-born writer, Amali Gunasekera, will be reading from her second collection, *The Golden Thread*, which blends the sacred with the everyday in a search for grace; and the Pakistani-born Canadian poet, Shazea Quraishi, previews her forthcoming work, *The Glimmer*, a meditation on the time-span of life illuminated by many voices.

Curated and hosted by Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts with GemArts

Image: Shazea Quraishi c Jo Tyler



Image: Yaatri

YAATRI

DATE: Thursday 21st July
TIME: 8pm
VENUE: The Globe, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AD
TICKETS: £10.00 advance / £12 door
BOX OFFICE: www.theglobenewcastle.bar

Yaatri is an award winning five-piece art-rock/jazz crossover group formed in Leeds in 2018. Their blend of complex composition and ethereal soundscapes captivates the heart as well as the mind. Influenced by the momentum of the rhythms of India, immersive timbres of electronic music, and energy of rock and roll, their music has a strong sense of purpose and journey.

Led by Indian/American guitarist and composer Liam Narain DeTar, Yaatri is Felix Bertulis-Webb on keys, Rosie Miles on vocals, Joe Wilkes on bass and Dom Kilsby on drums.

*Presented by GemArts,
Jazz North East and
The Globe*



THE FOREST DREAMS: PAYAL RAMCHANDANI

DATE: Friday 22nd July
TIME: 3pm
VENUE: Caedmon Hall, Gateshead Central Library, NE8 4LN
INFO: www.gemarts.org

Payal's new work 'The Forest Dream' highlights the urgency of climatic trauma that is befalling us due to selfish acts of deforestation and industrialisation. This intergenerational work explores the beautiful relationship with the Goddess of Forests, 'Aranyani', whose very existence is now under threat. Weaving in Carnatic music with western soundscapes, the production is a stylistic blend of Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi (both South Indian classical dance styles) and contemporary dance.

As part of the current R&D phase, 'The Forest dream' team will be sharing excerpts of the work for a small audience ahead of the Premier in Spring 2023.



ANOMALY: JASDEEP SINGH DEGUN

DATE: Friday 22nd July
TIME: 8pm
VENUE: Sage Gateshead, NE8 2JR
TICKETS: £7.70 to £16.50
BOX OFFICE: www.sagegateshead.com / 0191 4434661

In May 2022, Jasdeep Singh Degun released his debut album Anomaly on Real World Records - a project showcasing an almost preternatural musicality, a way with technique, improvisation, composition and collaboration that will dazzle purists and newcomers alike.

For GemArts Masala Festival, Jasdeep will be joined by an ensemble of collaborators from across the Indian classical, western classical, and jazz traditions, showcasing his performance, composition, and collaborative prowess. Submit to the beauty and sorrow, the poetry and power, of the sitar.

Jasdeep Singh Degun - sitar
Upneet Singh - tabla
Kaviraj Singh - santoor
Liz Hanks - cello
Glenn Sharp - guitar
Kirpal Panesar - esraj
John Pope - bass
Pirashanna Thevarajah - mridangam
Aisling Brouwer - piano

Presented by GemArts and Sage Gateshead

Image: c Laura Lewis



HELEN ANAHITA WILSON AND SHAHBAZ HUSSAIN SILSILA ALBUM RELEASE - SATURDAY 23RD JULY

In conjunction with Masala Festival the regional record label New Jazz and Improvised Music Recordings are delighted to announce they will be issuing Shahbaz Hussain and Helen Anahita Wilson's performance from the Literary and Philosophical Society at last year's festival.

The 7-track album entitled 'Silsila' captures a unique snapshot of time, and a blistering electrified performance when live concerts had just begun following covid imposed lockdown.

The music will be available on CD and for Download from 23rd July via Bandcamp.

www.newjazzandimprovisedmusicrecordings.bandcamp.co

Image: Iris Ollier

JASHN

DATE: Sunday 24th July - 24th August
TIME: During Bensham Grove opening times
VENUE: Bensham Grove Community Centre, Gateshead, NE8 2XD
TICKETS: FREE - Just Drop In!

Masala Festival is proud to present Jashn, a group exhibition by students from Newcastle and Sunderland University. Reaching for the atmosphere of a South Asian wedding, Jashn will bring together people from all walks of life to celebrate the making and receiving of contemporary art. The artists will be displaying work that ranges from painterly exploration of immigration to fantastical small-scale sculpture, to fashion designs that explore tradition in modernity; the artwork reflects the diversity of experience naturally expressed in South Asian lives.

Jashn features art works by Sajil Kaleem, John Fernandes, Uxutvi Kapdee, Usmaan Ali, and Iris Ollier

Image: Sajil Kaleem



Image: GemArts Masala Festival c Anna Miller

MASALA FESTIVAL MINI MELA

DATE: Sunday 24th July
TIME: 11am to 3pm
VENUE: Bensham Grove Community Centre, Gateshead, NE8 2XD
TICKETS: FREE EVENT - Just Drop In!

The finale of Masala Festival culminates with our spectacular Mini Mela, and it's FREE and for all the family!

Take part in colourful and vibrant arts, crafts, music and lively performances from across the Indian sub-continent. We've got Bollywood dance workshops, peacock printing, Rangoli and kite making; and henna stations so you can get your own intricate design, plus loads of other fun activities and delicious Indian food and snacks.

Image: GemArts Masala Festival c Anna Miller



Image: GemArts Masala Festival c Anna Miller



Image: Dabbawal

MASALA FESTIVAL AT DABBAWAL

DATE: 18th - 24th July
VENUE: 69-75 High Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6BX
1 Brentwood Mews, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3DG
BOOKINGS: www.dabbawal.com

The award-winning Dabbawal and Masala Festival are delighted to team up once again. We'll be taking you on a flavour journey, capturing the sites, the tastes and the feels of the awesome Masala Festival! Look forward to seven days of culinary celebrations across both Dabbawal High Bridge and Dabbawal Jesmond branches. We're sure you can't wait!

Image: Dabbawal



Image: Dabbawal



Image: Dabbawal



WORKSHOPS AT MASALA FESTIVAL 2022

ART DIAMONDS AT MASALA FESTIVAL

GemArts is teaming up with Gateshead Art Diamonds and Gateshead Arts Team to engage people of retirement age in creative workshops at Gateshead Central Library to celebrate Masala Festival 2022.

Free to attend, pre-booking in advance is essential.

Tel: 0191 433 8420

Online at gatesheadlibraries.eventbrite.com

Image: Ceremony Medium Black Cotton fabric, White Cotton Hands. Year 2021



MYSTICAL PATTERN PRINTS

Date: Tuesday 12th July

Time: 11am – 1pm

Venue: Gateshead Central Library,
NE8 4LN

Taking inspiration from the Lore exhibition participants will learn new skills in block and mono printing. Join artist Mani Kambo to create a design inspired by superstitions and storytelling. Creating your own tales through mystical patterns.



Image: Chai n Chat Paper Tea cup

CHAI & CHAT: PAPER TEA CUP MAKING

Date: Monday 18th July

Time: 11am - 1pm

Venue: Gateshead Central Library,
NE8 4LN

Join artist Michelle Wood for this special Masala Festival workshop. Create unique paper tea cups using maps of South Asia, decorated with print and collage techniques, and have a nice cup of hot chai!



Image: Fabulous Peacock Prints - michelle wood Masala 2022

FABULOUS PEACOCK PRINTS

Date: Tuesday 19th July

Time: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Venue: Gateshead Central Library,
NE8 4LN

Be inspired to create your own peacock artwork with artist Michelle Wood of Sea Tern Print. Using feathers, inks and a traditional printing press, you can make and take away a vibrant and unique print to celebrate GemArts Masala Festival 2022. The session will include other creative activities inspired by this beautiful bird, using print, collage and colour.



Image: bollywood dance

BOLLYWOOD DANCE WORKSHOP

Date: Friday 22nd July

Time: 11am - 12pm

Venue: St Marys Heritage Centre,
Oakwellgate, Gateshead, NE8 2AU
Tickets: Free to attend, pre-booking in
advance is essential.

Tel: 0191 433 8420

Online at gatesheadlibraries.eventbrite.com

Join our Bollywood dance workshop, one of the most famous, fun modern dance styles from Indian film industry, fusing Indian classical dance, folk dance, Bhangra, Hip Hop, Salsa, Jazz and Belly Dancing!

Suitable for all ages.



Image: Pixabay

SANGHA NIGHT

Date: Wednesday 20th July

Time: 7pm - 8:30pm

Venue: Zoom and Newcastle Buddhist
Centre, 187 Westgate Rd, Newcastle,
NE4 6AA

Cost: FREE donations welcome.

No need to book, just drop in.

Contact:
newcastlebuddhistcentre@gmail.com

The sangha evening (meditation and Buddhism) is currently held both via Zoom and at the Centre. It runs on Wednesdays from 7pm-8:15pm (the Centre doors open at 6:00pm and the zoom room pens 6.50pm). There is usually a Dharma talk and a meditation.



Image: Pixabay



GEMARTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE GEMARTS.ORG

CONTACT US ON 0191 440 4124
OR EMAIL INFO@GEMARTS.ORG