



Sarah Trist
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PLAY BALL



Bend It

Three Srishti classics touring in
Spring 2025

“Rajarani’s take on classical Indian dance is invigorating.” Sunday Times

Nina Rajarani is an award-winning choreographer of classical Indian dance with over 30 years’ experience as a dance-maker. She fuels traditions of Bharatanatyam and Kathak with a love of storytelling and a firm desire to reflect contemporary life in her productions. With her performing company **Srishti – Nina Rajarani Dance Creations**, she is equally at home working with readable western characters and traditional archetypes, and cleverly weaves sophisticated forms of dance with recognisable narratives and themes. A unique trait of Nina’s work is how **Srishti** musicians and dancers are choreographed together so that they are all characters in the story. This strikes a collective chord within the ensemble and further transforms the audience experience.



Play Ball is an evening of three of **Srishti**’s most well known works performed by four Bharatanatyam / Kathak dancers and four musicians. All created between 2005 and 2008, these classic originals will be given a digital makeover, and updated content to reflect today’s society.

QUICK! – the piece that won Nina Rajarani the Place Prize in 2006 - opens the evening. The piece was originally performed by an all-male cast, portraying a fast-paced corporate world. Will they play ball & close the deal? With more women heading the financial world these days, and technology altering the face of the workplace, the reworked version of *QUICK!* will address the shift in gender expectation and increased dependency on digital technology. [Excerpts from original version.](#)





Kadala...Is it love? portrays a woman in love doubting her absent lover's commitment. **Srishti** will adapt the original production to reflect a new age of "love", exploring ingredients necessary to play ball when loyalty and fidelity are questionable. [Excerpts from original version](#)



The final piece *Bend it...* is a fun-filled ensemble piece with dancers and musicians as players on the field. With live streaming and social media now the most popular ways to view professional football, **Srishti** will create a digital experience of live football that meets current spectators' expectations.

[Excerpts from the original version](#)



Nina Rajarani MBE

Nina Rajarani trained in Bharatanatyam with Prakash Yadagudde at Bhavan, Chitra Visweswaran of Chennai and with Shanta and VP Dhananjayan in Chennai and in Karnatic vocal music under Sivasakti Sivanesan and Karpagam Balasubramanian.

As Artistic Director of **Srishti**, Nina has created dance productions since 1992, and together with vocalist/composer husband Y Yadavan since 2002. The work has been performed extensively within the UK, in many European cities, in India, Morocco, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, the US and Canada. In 2006, Nina won the Place Prize with QUICK!, Europe's largest choreographic competition sponsored by Bloomberg.

Nina is renowned as a teacher and has a thriving school of dance and music based at the Harrow Arts Centre. She has been closely involved in devising the syllabus for Bharatanatyam with graded examinations by the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD). Nina is a founder committee member of the ISTD's Classical Indian Dance Faculty, was the Secretary of the Faculty for 15 years, has been a senior examiner for 25 years and previously served as its Vice Chair. She is now the ISTD's Lead Examiner for Bharatanatyam vocational and teaching qualifications. Her role involves training examiners, devising syllabi and mentoring teachers.

Nina Rajarani was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2009 Birthday Honours, in recognition of her Services to South Asian Dance.



BOOKING DETAILS

Available for touring	Spring 2025
No. of performers:	8-9 Performers
Total no. on the road:	10 - 11
Min. stage area:	Ideally 10m x 8m depth
Get-in:	Day before get in required.
Outline Technical requirements:	See separate tech. spec.
Technical staff required:	2 theatre technicians to set up and operate sound (live music) and lighting
Running time:	Total 90 minutes QUICK! (15 minutes) Kadala (30 minutes) Interval (20 minutes) Bend It (25 minutes)
Fee:	£2000 inclusive of travel and accommodation
Wraparound:	activity ranges from one off workshops in school and community settings to longer projects culminating in curtain raiser performances.
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