

Jham!



**An upbeat performance of classical Indian
dance and music for outdoor settings**

***“creativity and professionalism shone out I have had visitors tell me it was a
highlight for them.... a real jewel in the programming crown.”***

Stella Hall, Creative Director, Festival of Thrift

Artistic Director of **Srishti**, **Nina Rajarani MBE** is an award-winning choreographer of classical Indian dance with 30 years' experience as a dance-maker. She fuels traditions of Bharatanatyam and Kathak with contemporary artistic practice and ideas.

Rajarani's latest outdoor work **Jham!** is an upbeat, playful and energetic musical collaboration between dancers and musicians that uses creative improvisation - or "jamming" - to initiate a rhythmic interplay between classical and modern forms of music and dance. **Jham!** has a relaxed, distinctly contemporary feel, with four musicians - including a beatboxer over a traditional Karnatik vocalist, as well as a saxophonist and flautist - performing alongside four Kathak and Bharatanatyam dancers.



Jham! was originally created by **Rajarani** as a full-length performance for indoor theatre spaces. The title refers to one of the dance syllables used for recitation in Indian classical dance, as well as alluding to improvisation. It was adapted to be presented outdoors in 2022, and toured widely, including to Birmingham International Dance Festival, Festival of Thrift, Kings Cross Summer Sounds, Dancing Days, Swansea and Sibfest in Romania.



NEW for 2025: Srishti is creating an opportunity to learn some simple Indian folk dance routines on stage after the company has performed. **Srishti's Jham! Jam** is 45 minutes' public participation in Indian dance taught on stage by the cast and accompanied by live music.





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 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.

Nina 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.

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 Secretary of the Faculty for 15 years and later Vice Chair, has is now lead examiner for ISTD's Bharatanatyam vocational and teaching qualifications.

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	on request
No. of performers:	8 Performers
Total no. on the road:	10
Performance space:	Minimum 8m x 8m covered in professional white dance lino (black has potential to heat up on hot days and burn bare feet)
Outline Technical requirements:	Sound system required with radio microphones as follows: 2 x hand held (cordless) vocal mics 2 radio mics (clip on) for flute and saxophone 2 mics on short stands for tabla and 1 mic stand for beatboxer to place his vocal mic when he is beatboxing and playing the tabla at the same time (sometimes he walks around and does only beatboxing) 1 mic on short stand to amplify drone box
Technical staff required:	1 technician to set up PA for live music. Company tours its own sound engineer
Running time:	30 minutes
Jham! trailer:	https://youtu.be/3bwXObJUv3g
Full length performance:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=378XN7_zlHk
Fee (UK only):	£3750 for one day; £4950 for two days (maximum two per day) plus travel, per diem and hotel accommodation.
Wraparound:	Fee includes Srishti's Jham Jam, 45 minutes' public participation in an Indian folk dance routine taught on stage by the cast and accompanied by the musicians, performing live. Everyone welcome.
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