



Lok Chhanda: Dashanan/Kabeera

A thrilling double bill of dramatic, atmospheric and elegant Indian dance by internationally acclaimed company

Choreography by Maitreyee Parahi

Internationally acclaimed Indian dance company Lok Chhanda present *Dashanan/Kabeera*, an exhilarating double bill of inventive, dramatic and lyrical dance which combines martial arts skills, acrobatics, folk dance, colourful costumes, thrilling choreography and atmospheric lighting.

Choreography is by company founder Maitreyee Parahi, with evocative lighting by co-founder Gautam Bhattacharya and Anoop Joshi, with music by Sharat Chandra Srivastava.

Dashanan: Ravana is traditionally a villain. Most interpretations of the epic Indian poem, 'Ramayana', show Rama (righteousness) prevailing over Ravana (nadir of evil). **Dashanan** offers a different viewpoint, and sets out to retrieve the traditional villain's reputation, as seen through the eyes of his devoted wife, Mandodari, who sees the other side of his nature – the epitome of wisdom, strength, determination, love and devotion.

Kabeera: This spiritual journey is like the flowing water of the rivers and their final union with the sea. Our life should be crystal clear, like the river water, where there is no place for caste, class or creed. Kabeera is elegant, abstract dance, based on Sufi poet Kabeer's dohas (couplets). This is a contemporary dance presentation combining Kathak and Mayurbhanj Chhau.

Based at Midnapur in West Bengal, Lok Chhanda have danced to popular and critical acclaim, since forming in early 1990s. They have performed at the famous Republic Day Folk Dance Festival (India), and in Bangladesh, Turkey, Syria, Cyprus, Germany, South Africa, Russia and the UK, including an appearance at Edinburgh Mela in 2013 – uniting the world through dance. The organisation seeks to preserve and explore traditional Indian folk dance, combining it with contemporary dance forms in productions which are engaging, accessible, dramatic and elegant.

Choreographer Maitreyee Parahi has had a fascination for the arts, and especially dance, from childhood. She trained in classical dance including Khatak, joining Khatak Kendra in Delhi, before studying at Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata, majoring in Manipuri Dance (for which she was awarded a gold medal) but her passion is for the preservation, promotion and propagation of the folk culture rural India. Since then she has traveled widely throughout India and abroad. Awarded the Charles Wallace Fellowship in 2003, she visited England and Scotland for dance workshops, choreographic collaborations and performances. She is the director of Lok Chhanda Cultural Unit, an institution dedicated to the rapidly depleting folklore of India.

Video preview <https://youtu.be/kUYPJi0Pyq4>

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos etc, please call **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** (email info@scarybiscuits.com)

Lok Chhanda website www.lokchhanda.org

LISTINGS

Lok Chhanda present *Dashanan/Kabeera*
Grand Hall, New Town Theatre (Stand Comedy Club)
Mon 13 Aug – Sat 25 Aug, 15:40 (16:40)

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