



LEHIGH  
UNIVERSITY

Library &  
Technology  
Services

The Preserve: Lehigh Library Digital Collections

# Exploring Human Emotion & Vulnerability through Indian Classical Dance

## Citation

Agarwal, Udit. *Exploring Human Emotion & Vulnerability through Indian Classical Dance*. 2024, <https://preserve.lehigh.edu/lehigh-scholarship/undergraduate-publications/eckardt-scholars/exploring-human-emotion>.

Find more at <https://preserve.lehigh.edu/>

*This document is brought to you for free and open access by Lehigh Preserve. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of Lehigh Preserve. For more information, please contact [preserve@lehigh.edu](mailto:preserve@lehigh.edu).*

# Exploring Human Emotion & Vulnerability through Indian Classical Dance

**Udita Agarwal**

Advised by Professor Swapna  
Suresh  
Lehigh University - 2024

# What does it mean to be human?

---

*flawed, emotional & vulnerable*

# Kathak

---



# Sadness

---

*Muskurahat by Arijit Singh*

I am very sad, my smile is gone..  
.. given my sadness, I'm waiting for  
happiness to come...  
all around me, I see sadness  
..I'm trying to form my lips into a  
smile but its subdued..

*slow, controlled, nuanced  
movements to depict sorrow*



# Love

---

“The conversations of the heart  
beloved, keep them in your heart  
I won't open my lips  
I've said everything through my eyes  
My beloved is saying something  
I don't know what he's saying  
My heart is swaying slowly  
I don't know why it's swaying”

*happy, light-hearted, soft  
movements*

*Piyu Bole by Shreya Ghoshal*



# Love

---

*Piyu Bole by Shreya Ghoshal*

“I asked the river, where are you flowing in style?

Your beloved lives far, nimbly where are you going?

It was slightly worried and slightly shy

It jumped from here to there

The dream it had of meeting the ocean

Was just like my dream..”

*happy, light-hearted, soft movements*

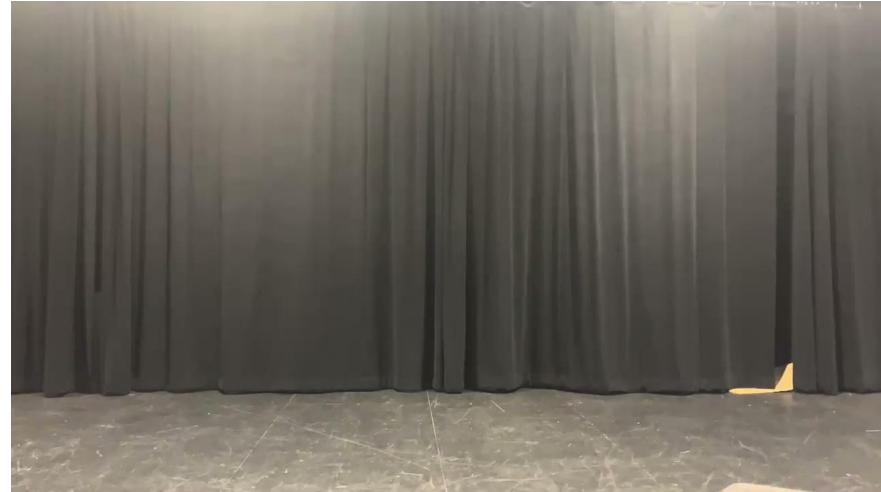


# Anger

---

- *aggression depicted through sharp movements with emphasis on footwork and rounds*
- *traditional kathak 'bol' in the music*

*Tandav by Pt. Birju Maharaj & Kumar Sharma*





# Beauty

---

- *external beauty through a woman adorning herself with jewels*
- *boldness by emphasis on payal (anklets) to show a woman taking up space, making noise and exuding confidence*

*Payaliya Jhankaar by Abhijit Pohankar*

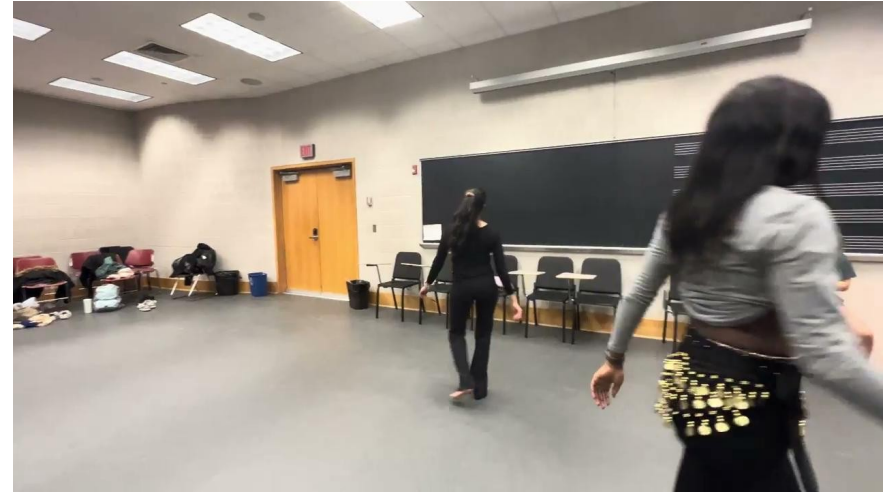


# Beauty

---

- *compassion depicted by soft movements*
- *electric beats in the music to show a modern woman of today*

*Payaliya Jhankaar by Abhijit Pohankar*



# Gratitude

---

.. world around us is full of music, colors, & fragrance

wind is blowing, so many directions for us to take

...awakenings of the heart, dreams in my eyes

the flowers are blooming, the moon is hidden behind the clouds and is peeping at night..

in the morning, the sun is shining and light is falling on my ocean of dreams..

*lyrical choreography exuding contentment and gratitude for the world around us*

*Breathless by Shankar Mahadev*



Thank you!

---

*It is our ability to emotionally connect and be vulnerable that makes us human & irreplaceable.*