



# **Gem Arts**

Creating and Profiling Diverse Arts

Autumn/Winter 2014

## Welcome to GemArts' Autumn/Winter 2014 Season

Well spring/summer certainly was an amazing season for GemArts, one which wrapped up nicely with the announcement that we were successful in our application for NPO funding from Arts Council England. This season GemArts continues to celebrate new talent alongside established masters, in music, dance, theatre, performance and much more.

We are delighted to be partnering with Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens to bring the much celebrated Sikh Fortress Turban to the region from August. It is a real honour to present this item on loan from the British Museum as part of their Spotlight Tour programme. With accompanying educational activity taking place during the exhibition, audiences will be able to learn about the turban and Sikh culture.

Kick starting a busy September, GemArts presents *The Shroud* at Gateshead's Caedmon Hall. This poignant production was the perfect work to start a series we were invited to programme at Caedmon Hall. We'll update our website and newsletters with info on further events at the venue.

Our regular concerts series with Sage Gateshead continues this September with the master of the sarod Debashish Bhattacharya, followed by Jyoti Hegde's UK debut on the rudra veena, and Grammy award winner Vishwa Mohan Bhatt brings us to November. It is a delight to welcome these artists to the North East, with audiences guaranteed a real treat at each and every performance. As always GemArts' special Family ticket is available for these concerts, encouraging and inspiring a love of music for all ages and backgrounds.

In October we bring Amina Khayyam Dance Co's *Yerma* to Newcastle College's Performance Academy. A Kathak interpretation of Federico Garcia Lorca's anguishing story *Yerma*, we are looking forward to working with the dynamic Amina Khayyam on this powerful performance.

GemArts start November with a party, celebrating Diwali and our popular annual celebrations at Gateshead Civic Centre. This event always attracts a large crowd, who can expect performances and entertainment alongside mouth-watering Indian food.

A real highlight, and something we are very proud to present, is a recent co-commission with Dance City, *The Sense of an Ending*, by local dance artist Nadia Iftkhar. This dance theatre piece presents a trio of female soloists, at different stages in life, performing stories based on real women from the North. GemArts has worked with Nadia for many years, supporting her development as an artist and choreographer, and we are thrilled to support this work, as she launches her new company Red Road Dance Theatre.

We are also particularly excited to welcome back ATMA Dance with two separate productions across the region, including *Erhebung* which GemArts co-commissioned. Mayuri Boonham, Artistic Director and Choreographer of ATMA Dance, continues her visionary approach to Bharata Natyam dance, pushing the classical South Asian art form into new territories, through collaborations with artists such as Bill Fontana, Jeff Lowe and The Midival Punditz. Mayuri's latest work *Ex Nihilo / The Human Edge* explores ancient questions of creation and human life through dance.

Alongside our season of performances GemArts will also run a busy schedule of workshops and participatory events across the north east. For more on this and all our projects check the website [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org) for the most up to date information.

On behalf of everyone at GemArts, thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to welcoming you to this fantastic season of events.

Vikas Kumar  
Director

## ATMA Dance / Mayuri Boonham: *Erhebung*

Thursday 14th August

Time: 1pm, 3pm & 5pm

Venue: mima,  
Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art,  
Centre Square, Middlesbrough, TS1 2AZ

Tickets: FREE

Info: [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org)

New classical Indian dance meets abstract sculpture in *Erhebung* – a collaboration between ATMA Dance's Artistic Director Mayuri Boonham and Sculptor Jeff Lowe. Boonham's increasing abstraction of the dancers' figures creates an expressive boundary with Lowe's striking sculpture – a place where form and abstraction merge. Every second of choreography, every viewpoint of the relationship between the sculpture and the dancers becomes a flowing living sculpture.

*Erhebung* is a dance-sonic-sculpture installation with two dancers. Inspired by T.S. Eliot's *Burnt Norton*, the work is devised in collaboration with a team of international artists that include the American Sound Artist Bill Fontana and Costume Designer Moritz Junge from Germany.

Co-commissioned by GemArts and Pavilion Dance South West, supported using public funding by Arts Council England.



Image: Chris Nash

Presented with Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance, and mima.

**GemArts** is a dynamic arts development organisation based in the North East of England. We produce and programme new and exciting culturally diverse arts, by creating and developing high quality concerts, events, festivals, workshops and commissions with regional, national and international artists across all art forms.

**Our Vision:** We believe that the arts enrich the lives of individuals and communities through celebrating our cultural diversity – raising aspirations, building stronger communities and breaking down barriers.

**Our Mission:** To increase equality of opportunity for everyone to engage with culturally diverse arts – as producers, participants and audience.



Image: Sikh Akali-Nihang turban (dastaar boonga), 21st Century © The Trustees of the British Museum

## Sikh Fortress Turban

**Saturday 23rd August to  
Sunday 16th November**

Time: Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm,  
Sunday 2pm–5pm  
Venue: Sunderland Museum  
& Winter Gardens,  
Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR1 1PP  
Tickets: FREE  
Info: 0191 553 2323  
museumlearning@sunderland.gov.uk

Unravel the stories of the Sikh turban and discover how and why turbans symbolise Sikh faith and identity. This display features the Sikh Fortress Turban on loan from the British Museum as part of the national museum's Spotlight Tour programme.

This unique item known as a Dastaar Boonga or fortress turban was worn by a group of skilled warrior Sikhs called Akali Nihangs which protected the head in battle, comprising original weapons including daggers, swords and metal throwing discs secured on a replica indigo dyed turban.

This is a rare opportunity for visitors to view an historic object from a world class national collection and to explore the intriguing story of the Sikh warriors.

The display is supported by a programme of events and activities for schools, families and community groups.

A Spotlight Tour from the British Museum.  
Presented with Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens.

The British  
Museum

## The Shroud

**Saturday 13th September**

Time: 7:30pm  
Venue: Caedmon Hall, Central Library,  
Prince Consort Rd, Gateshead, NE8 4LN  
Tickets: £7 (concessions £5)  
Box Office: 0191 433 6965  
www.gateshead.gov.uk/whatson

The Shroud is a two-man, miniature epic about loss, time and the things that connect us. A father writes letters to his homesick son. A Kolkata potter shapes clay goddesses from the silt of the Ganges. A young man circles the funeral pyre.

Drawing on Hindu rituals, memories and personal letters, The Shroud is composed as a series of interweaving dialogues between the poets and theatre-makers Siddhartha Bose and Avaes Mohammad. The ancient and the modern combine to create an inventive, quietly beautiful meditation on death, ritual, fathers and sons.

Performed by Siddhartha Bose & Avaes Mohammad, directed by Russell Bender.  
Produced by Penned in the Margins, supported by Arts Council England.

Presented with Gateshead Council.

Recommended age 14+



Image: Naomi Woddis

**Multi-buy Offer**  
**£2 off** each ticket  
when booking both  
**Debashish Bhattacharya**  
and **Jyoti Hegde**



## Debashish Bhattacharya

### Sunday 21st September

Time: 7.00pm  
Venue: Sage Gateshead,  
Northern Rock Foundation Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR  
Tickets: £10 (concessions available)  
£25 Family ticket  
For 4 people (at least one under 18)  
Multi-buy Offer £2 off each ticket when  
also booking for Jyoti Hegde (25th Sept)  
Box Office: 0191 443 4661  
[www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

Widely considered one of India's leading sarodiyas, in Debashish Bhattacharya's hands the sarod acts like a prism, dispersing a myriad of timbres and endless sub-note inflections. Bhattacharya's genius shines through in his portrayal of the raga.

UK based tabla maestro Shahbaz Hussain accompanies this great master of the sarod for an evening of truly beautiful Indian music.

(Please note this is Debashish Bhattacharya Sarod player, and not the Calcuttan slide guitar player of the same name).

Presented with Sage Gateshead,  
in association with Darbar.



## Jyoti Hegde

### Thursday 25th September

Time: 7.45pm  
Venue: Sage Gateshead,  
Northern Rock Foundation Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR  
Tickets: £10 (concessions available)  
£25 Family ticket  
For 4 people (at least one under 18)  
Multi-buy Offer £2 off each ticket when  
also booking for Debashish Bhattacharya  
(21st Sept)  
Box Office: 0191 443 4661  
[www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

Jyoti Hegde makes her UK debut on the spellbinding rudra veena, rightfully respected as the king of Indian classical instruments. Jyoti brings alive the essence of ragas through her expertise in the highly developed art form dhrupad. Surdarshan Chana accompanies her on the evocative Jori.

Presented with Sage Gateshead,  
in association with Darbar.



## Amina Khayyam Dance Co:

### Yerma

**Saturday 25th October**

Time: 7:30pm  
Venue: The Performance Academy,  
Newcastle College, Ryehill Campus,  
Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 7SA  
Tickets: £10 / Concessions £5  
Box Office: GemArts 0191 440 4124  
[info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

Amina Khayyam Dance Co present a Kathak interpretation of Federico Garcia Lorca's anguishing story of Yerma, who suffers heart breaking social torment of a childless marriage that forces her to commit a horrific and an irrevocable act.

Lorca's savage yet poetical lyrical play set in rural patriarchal and religiously repressive Spain is re-imagined as an Indian classical dance for an inner city British community.



The performance will be accompanied by live music including tabla artist Debasish Mukherjee and vocalist Lucy Rahman.

Amina Khayyam is one of UK's leading south Asian dance artists, who makes new work using Kathak as the main core of a piece, but uses cross-form mediums in her narrative.



## Diwali Celebrations

### Saturday 1st November

Time: 7pm  
Venue: Gateshead Civic Centre,  
Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH  
Tickets: £5 family ticket  
(group of up to 5 people)  
Box Office: 0191 440 4124  
Info: [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org)

Gateshead Visible Ethnic Minority Support Group (GVEMSG) and GemArts will be laying on a fantastic evening of music, food and celebrations at our annual Diwali Festival. Join in the festivities with friends and family with entertainment from regional musicians, performers and DJ's spinning the very best Bhangra and Bollywood tunes.

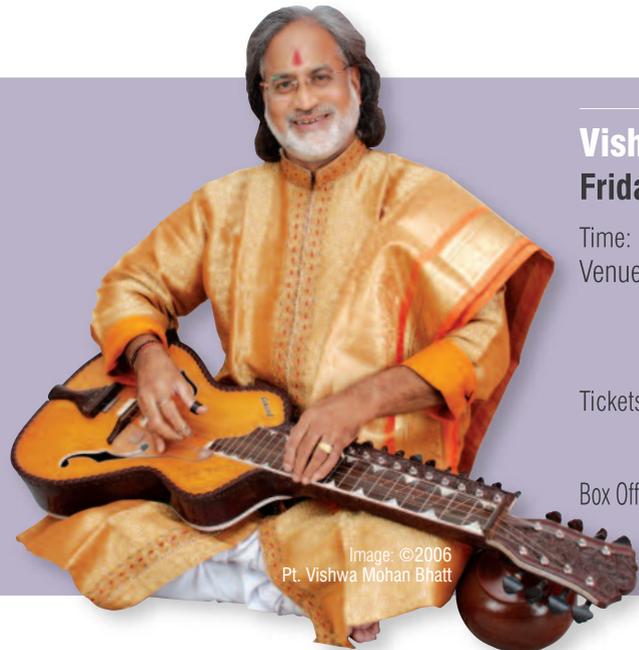


Image: ©2006  
Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

## Vishwa Mohan Bhatt Friday 7th November

Time: 7.45pm  
Venue: Sage Gateshead,  
Northern Rock Foundation Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays,  
NE8 2JR  
Tickets: £12 (concessions available)  
£30 Family ticket  
For 4 people (at least one under 18)  
Box Office: 0191 443 4661  
[www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

## The Sense of an Ending Saturday 15th November & Thursday 27th November

Date: 15th November  
Time: 8:00pm  
Venue: Dance City,  
Temple St, Newcastle, NE1 4BR  
Tickets: £5  
Box Office: 0191 261 0505  
[www.dancecity.co.uk](http://www.dancecity.co.uk)

Date: 27th November  
Time: 7:30pm  
Venue: Arts Centre Washington,  
Biddick Lane, Fatfield,  
Washington, NE38 8AB  
Tickets: £8.50 / Concessions £6  
Box Office: 0191 219 3455  
[www.artscentrewashington.co.uk](http://www.artscentrewashington.co.uk)

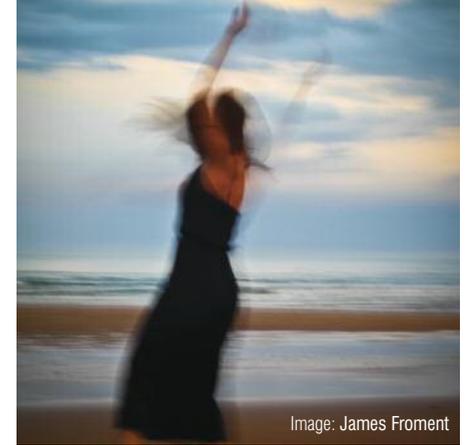


Image: James Froment

The Sense of an Ending tells the stories of one hundred women through the voices and bodies of three female performers. The multi-generational cast tell tales of loss, resilience and growth through honest, evocative and poignant dance theatre. This is choreographer Nadia Iftkhar's first full length work.

Presented by Red Road Dance Theatre. A Dance City commission, co-commissioned by GemArts. Supported by The Empty Space, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Arts Council England through This Way Up.

Running time 1 hour. / Recommended age 14+

To have your story told in this piece of work or find out more please email: [nadia@redroaddancetheatre.co.uk](mailto:nadia@redroaddancetheatre.co.uk)

Creator of the Mohan Veena, an Indian slide guitar reimagined to channel the sonorous sounds of Sitar, Sarod and Veena, Vishwa Mohan has mesmerized the world with his variously pristine pure, delicate and fiery music – winning a GRAMMY along the way for the album 'Meeting by the River', his 1993 collaboration with guitarist Ry Cooder. Vishwa's electrifying performances captivate all, whether playing in his motherland India or to audiences around the world. Vishwa is accompanied by tabla virtuoso Rajkumar Misra.

Presented with Sage Gateshead.

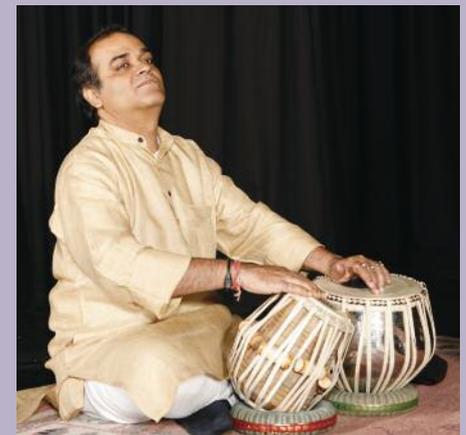




Image: Chris Nash

**ATMA Dance / Mayuri Boonham:  
Ex Nihilo/The Human Edge  
Saturday 29th November**

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: The Performance Academy,  
Newcastle College, Ryehill Campus,  
Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 7SA

Tickets: £10 / Concessions £5

Box Office: GemArts 0191 440 4124

[info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

[www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org)

Two brand new complimentary works, Ex Nihilo / The Human Edge, draw on the epic creation myths of sacred Indian texts to explore the ancient questions of creation and human life

through dance. Ex Nihilo is an expression of the poetic thinking and abstract imagery questioning the time before the Big Bang whilst The Human Edge draws inspiration from the aspect of the universe that is perceivably within our grasp – the human angle. Based on the story of Sati the choreography evokes the drama of Sati's life and death as a metaphor of a star.

Featuring sound installation from Bill Fontana's recordings of the Large Hadron Collider as part of his Prix Ars Electronica artist residency at CERN Geneva, and music composed by Boonham's long-term collaborators, The Midival Punditz.

Principally commissioned by The Royal Opera House, Royal Ballet Studio Programme and co-commissioned by Pavilion Dance South West, supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

# GET CREATIVE BE INSPIRED ENJOY EXPERIENCE LEARN PARTICIPATE!

GemArts delivers high quality arts projects with people of all ages and backgrounds, extending their experience of World Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts. Workshops enable participants to develop new skills and interests whilst working alongside professional artists.

## For Schools and Community Groups

Participants take part in workshops that can run from 1 hour tasters to longer term projects. Workshop examples include Bollywood and Street Dancing, African Drumming, Chinese and Indian Arts, DJ and Lyric Writing, Textiles, Photography and lot lots more.

Projects are tailored to the group's interests, needs, timescale and budget, providing educational, creative and enjoyable learning experiences whilst promoting a greater understanding of world arts and different cultures.

Workshop costs depend on the activity chosen and amount of materials needed for the art form.

## For Artists

GemArts is keen to hear from artists of all disciplines who are interested in working with us.

To be added to GemArts freelance artist database, please send us your CV, covering letter and examples of your work. Artists may require a current DBS check.

Visit [www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org) for further information or contact GemArts on **0191 440 4124** or email [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)



# GemArts PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

**Thursday 14th August**, 1pm, 3pm & 5pm

## Erhebung

mima, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art,  
Centre Square, Middlesbrough, TS1 2AZ

FREE

[www.gemarts.org](http://www.gemarts.org)

**Sat 23rd August – Sun 16th November**

Mon-Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 2pm–5pm

## Sikh Fortress Turban

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens,  
Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR1 1PP

FREE

0191 553 2323

[museumlearning@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:museumlearning@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Saturday 13th September**, 7:30pm

## The Shroud

Caedmon Hall, Central Library,  
Prince Consort Rd, Gateshead, NE8 4LN

£7 (concessions £5)

0191 433 6965

[www.gateshead.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/whatson)

**Sunday 21st September**, 7pm

## Debashish Bhattacharya

Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays, NE8 2JR

£10 (conc available) / £25 Family ticket

0191 443 4661 / [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

**Thursday 25th September**, 7:45pm

## Jyoti Hegde

Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays, NE8 2JR

£10 (conc available) / £25 Family ticket

0191 443 4661 / [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

**Saturday 25th October**, 7:30pm

## Yerma

The Performance Academy,  
Newcastle College, Ryehill Campus, NE4 7SA

£10 / Concessions £5

0191 440 4124 / [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

**Saturday 1st November**, 7pm

## Diwali Celebrations

Gateshead Civic Centre,  
Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

£5 family ticket (group of up to 5 people)

0191 440 4124 / [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

**Friday 7th November**, 7:45pm

## Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

Sage Gateshead, NRF Hall  
St Mary's Sq, Gateshead Quays, NE8 2JR

£12 (conc available) / £30 Family ticket

0191 443 4661 / [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

## The Sense of an Ending

**Saturday 15th November**, 8:00pm

Dance City, Temple St, Newcastle, NE1 4BR

£5

0191 261 0505 / [www.dancecity.co.uk](http://www.dancecity.co.uk)

**Thursday 27th November**, 7:30pm

Arts Centre Washington,  
Biddick Lane, Fatfield, Washington, NE38 8AB

£8.50 / Concessions £6

0191 219 3455 / [www.artscenrewashington.co.uk](http://www.artscenrewashington.co.uk)

**Saturday 29th November**, 7:30pm

## Ex Nihilo/The Human Edge

The Performance Academy,  
Newcastle College, Ryehill Campus, NE4 7SA

£10 / Concessions £5

0191 440 4124 / [info@gemarts.org](mailto:info@gemarts.org)

For further information and to join our mailing list please contact: **GemArts**, Old Town Hall, West St., Gateshead, NE8 1HE

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