



South Street Arts Center  
21 South Street, Reading  
RG1 4QU

Drishti Dance presents

# Utsav

## The Celebration

celebrating an evening of dance, music and literature through mesmerizing and enchanting Indian classical dance - Kathak.

Thursday, 3rd March 2011, 7.30 pm

Tickets: £9, £7 concessions, Box Office: 118 960 6060  
web: [www.readingarts.com](http://www.readingarts.com)  
[www.drishtidance.com](http://www.drishtidance.com)

"Anuradha is a highly talented dancer, who has mastered the expressive Kathak style, with its fast turn, stamping feet and expressive arms and face..."

"...an inspired choice..."

David Ballen, *Oxford Times*, 8th October 2009

The Indian city of *Lucknow*, previously known as *Awadh*, is fondly remembered by historians for its rich cultural heritage in the arts of literature, music, and dance. *Utsav* is a jubilant celebration of the famous city's musical traditions through an interpretive performance of an Indian classical dance, *Kathak*.

*Awadh* has left a strong legacy in the form of the *Lucknow* school of *Kathak* also known as the *Lucknow Gharana* - a unique blend of two distinct styles- the devotional Temple *Kathak* and the exotic *Darbari* *Kathak*. Encompassing the narratives from ancient Sanskrit texts, mythology, medieval love poetry to Sufi mysticism and delicate romanticism and philosophy of Urdu poetry, *Kathak* is the most secular dance style of India.

Dancers from Reading and surrounding areas led by dancer-choreographer Anuradha Chaturvedi come together in an evening of exquisite and inspired *Kathak* works with elaborate narrative sequences, richly interwoven with intricate footwork patterns and sweeping abstract movements.

Transcending the traditions....

The evening features a new innovative piece "A host of Golden Daffodils", a dynamic interpretation of Wordsworth's immortal poem through narrative elements of the dance form. Using Indian Classical music as a backdrop in a form of traditional compositions in well known spring *ragas*, *Raga Basant* and *Bahar*, Oxford based improvisation musician Malcolm Atkins narrates and improvises the poem in his own distinct style.

This new work is framed by more traditional pieces representative of both Temple and *Darbari* styles, exemplifying the background and roots of the dance style and the seamless integration of mathematics of rhythm.

## Choreography

Anuradha Chaturvedi

## Vocals and Music

Ustad Gulshan Bharati

Ravi Nagar

Pt. Dharamnath Mishra

Malcolm Atkins

