

Call of the Flute

BY AMRITA LAHIRI AND SHAN BHATNAGAR

a coming together of Pichwai Paintings from Nathadwara
and Kuchipudi Dance from Andhra Pradesh



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The arts in India- both performing arts and visual arts- are deeply inspired by Lord Krishna. There are vivid descriptions in poetry of his distinctive dark body, his yellow clothing, the flower garland around his neck, the peacock feather in his hair. All of these provide rich visual imagery and endless possibilities for artistic imagination. But the most prevalent is the concept of the divine flute player. The sound of Krishna's flute pervades the psyche of nearly every Indian artist.

Pichwai painter **Shan Bhatnagar** and Kuchipudi dancer **Amrita Lahiri**, come together to explore the captivating sound of Krishna's flute, which enchants everyone-causing gopis to abandon their chores and even lotus flowers to bend towards its call.



ABOUT THE ARTISTES

Shan Bhatnagar

Shan Bhatnagar is a painter and versatile interior designer, known for reimagining traditional Pichwai art using mixed media. His work often features Rajasthani embroidery and jewelry, creating a distinctive style that captivates art lovers. Shan's clients include the royal families of Jaipur, Udaipur, and Gwalior, and he curated the Krishna Art Pavilion for the Ambanis. Shan has received the Pt. T.N. Mishra Achievement Award and the Maharaja Sawai Jagat Singh Award for excellence in art and restoration.

He specialises in restoring historical properties and creating boutique hotels. Shan owns and has designed Laalee - a boutique hotel with each room and space depicting Krishna's leelas.



ABOUT THE ARTISTES

Amrita Lahiri

Amrita Lahiri is a celebrated Kuchipudi soloist known for blending traditional roots with contemporary forms. Trained under legendary gurus like Vempati Chinna Satyam and Leela Samson, she has performed globally, including at Dancing the Gods NYC, Esplanade Singapore, and NCPA Mumbai. Awarded the 'Kala Bharat Ratna' in 2024, Amrita is also a seasoned curator, having organized over 300 shows for NCPA and NMACC.

Her productions include: Chitra, Murchhana: the Spirit of Music, Nritya Tarang, Samudra: the Ocean mother, Converse: a duet, Mandala and Ananta.





Call of the Flute celebrates the arts, inviting the audience to experience Krishna's leela and bhav through music, dance, and painting.

This collaboration showcases the connection between Pichwai paintings from Nathadwara and Kuchipudi dance from Andhra Pradesh, both of which hold significant importance in the Vaishnavite tradition. Despite their geographic distance, they converge beautifully in their interpretations of the divine.



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Duration: Between **45 -90 mins** | Can be designed as needed .

Technical Requirement: an **LED screen** approximately 16 ft by 9 ft.

Theatre lighting and sound equipment as required for dance performances.

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Call of the Flute was originally curated by Manjot Chawla for Siyahi, Jaipur

