

ODISSI ODYSSEY

Pliés and Pirouettes

Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Spiraling Echoes

Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Moving Praxis

Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Transforming Worlds

Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 7:00 pm

UNC CHARLOTTE
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

ODISSI ODYSSEY

PLIÉS AND PIROUETTES



BELK THEATER
ROBINSON HALL

2:00 PM
EST

 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE

COLLEGE OF ARTS
ARCHITECTURE
DANCE

RESERVE
TICKETS



Odissi Odyssey: *Pliés and Pirouettes*

Saturday May 2 at 2pm

Please [click here](#) for complete program notes and biographies.

Kamakshya

by Sriradha Paul

Ramashtakam

by Krishnaveni Putrevu

Dasamahavidya

by Bani Ray

Clothesline

by Jeevika Bhat

Keynote by Dr. Ileana Citaristi

Dr. Ileana Citaristi is an Italian Odissi and Chhau dancer, and dance instructor based in Bhubaneswar, India. She was awarded the 43rd National Film Awards for Best Choreography for Yugant in 1995 and became, in 2006, the first dancer of foreign origin to be conferred the Padma Shri for her contributions to Odissi. Citaristi studied Odissi under Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra and started her own school of dance in 1994. Citaristi is also an exponent of the Mayurbhanj Chhau, which she learnt under the tutelage of Guru Hari Nayak and holds the title of an acharya of Chhau from the Sangeet Mahavidyalya of Bhubaneswar. She founded the Art Vision Academy in 1996, which acts as a platform for sharing ideas between various artistic forms such as theatre, music, dance and painting. The Academi also conducts classes in Odissi and Chhau. Ileana Citaristi is noted for her innovative choreographic productions in Odissi and Chhau

that bring together themes and styles from both the West and the East. In Chhau, some of her notable productions are *Echo and Narcissus* based on the Greek myth in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, *The Journey* that draws on Japanese haiku, *Images of Change* based on the Chinese concept of Yin and Yang and *Still I Rise* based on Maya Angelou's eponymous poem. In Odissi, *Maya Darpan*, *Mahanadi: and the river flows*, about the history and cultural geography of Orissa, *Karuna*, based on the life of Mother Teresa and *Sharanam*, a piece on women from three faiths who attain salvation despite their dubious pasts, are some of her notable compositions.

Sabda Swara Pallavi

Music: Guru Gopala Panda and Sri Ramesh Chandra Das

Rhythm: Soumya Mohanty

Choreography: Ileana Citaristi

This pallavi has been composed in three different varieties of tala of 14 matra each. The first part of the pallavi is in sarimana tala with a division of 4-2-4-4, the second part is in jati tala with a division of 3-4-3-4 and the ending part is in adatali, 4-3-4-3. Each tala is introduced by a traditional 'sabda' or phrase belonging to the 'pala' tradition. The raga is Krushna Kedara, one of the traditional raga of the Odissi paddhati.

Lajare Sarigali Aaja

Music: Ghanashyama Panda

Raga Khambaj Tala: Ektali

Choreography: Ileana Citaristi

Radha describes to her friends how Krishna had followed her that day and with sweet words and a lot of cajoling made her feel ashamed because he made her sit on his lap. No matter how much she invented stories to keep him away, he would pretend for some time to ignore her and suddenly he would hold her hand as if by mistake. With him around all her fears to go to the forest had gone away. The friends laugh at her words and the poet Rai Indra join them while writing the song.

Sabari

Music: Sangita Panda

Rhythm: Niranjan Sahoo

Raga: Baradi

Tala: Khemta

Choreography: Ileana Citaristi

The Charya Pada are mystical poems from the tantric tradition of eastern India and are considered the first existent specimen of Odia literature. The poems glorify the female nature in the form of yogini, women from the lower strata of society, capable of leading the seeker to salvation.

In this pada the Sabari is described as residing on the top of the mountain. She is wearing colorful peacock feathers with a garland of gunja beads around the neck, she is roaming alone in the forest wearing the round ear ornaments and holding a vajira. The intoxicated Sabaro by spending the night with her is capable to find the secret path towards the top of the mountain and by making the words of the Guru his bow and his mind pointed as a single arrow he reaches the final salvation into the Nirvana.

UNC CHARLOTTE
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

ODISSI ODYSSEY

SPIRALING ECHOES



MAY 2
2026



BELK THEATER
ROBINSON HALL

7:00 PM
EST

 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE

COLLEGE OF ARTS +
ARCHITECTURE
DANCE

RESERVE
TICKETS



Odissi Odyssey: *Spiraling Echoes*

Saturday May 2 at 7pm

Please [click here](#) for complete program notes and biographies.

Bihag Pallavi

by Odissi Vilas

Odissi Vilas Dancers: Manasi Padhi, Maureen Nandini Mitra, Aparna Krishnamoorthy, Sunayana Basa, Seema Samantsinhar, and Arundhati Sethi

Shiva Panchakshari

by Rugmini Sreejith

Choreography: Kalamandalam Pushpalatha

Dance Teacher: Kalamandalam Chitra

Ragam: Bho Shambho in Ragam Revathy

Talam: Adi

Nritya Dhvani School of Performing Arts *presents*

Sattriya Dance (Ghosa)

Choreography: Priyadarshini Inman, Ashvidha Vimal, Savi Deshpande, Aadya Sharma, Adya Pant

Kathak - Saraswati Vandana

Choreography: Priyadarshini Inman, Abhilasa, Sharon, Nisha, Subhashree, Sangeetha

Sattriya Dance - Varsha Vanrnan

Mohe Rang Do Laal

Choreography: Priyadarshini Inman, Ruchi Kakkar, Alakananda Roy

Kathak Angikam Bhuvanam

Music & Choreography: Guru Hemant Kalita, Anvi Kakkar, Aarya Sant, Savi Deshpande, Ashvika Doshi, Sasha Saini, Diya Saini

Konark Kanti

(Open-Access)

Music: Guru Sachikanta Nayak, Surmani Ramesh Chandra Das,
Guru Sumanta Mohanty

Rhythm: Guru Gangadhar Pradhan, Guru Bijaya Kumar Barik

Choreography: Padmashree Guru Aruna Mohanty, Guru Gangahar Pradhan

Odyssey/Odissi is proud of its open access space where artists, students, and educators share stage presence in an intergenerational ensemble prioritizing learning and engagement more than production and visual aesthetics. 2026 has four open-access pieces across the whole conference; *Konark Kanti*, *Batu*, *Yugmadwanda Pallavi*, and *Saraswati Vandana*.

Geeta Govinda

by Arpita Rakshit Sabud

Pallavi Academy of Kuchipudi Dance

presents

Mandooka Shabdam

Ragam: Malika

Talam: Misra Chaapu

Choreography: Guru Vempati Chinna Satyam

Performers: Anika Kaukuntla, Anisha Tipparaju, Gayatri Metla,
Saanvi Madabushi, Himani Kovur, Nidhi Chennam, Hithyshna Pothuru,
Saanvi Kommineni, Amiksha Sampath, Moukthika Lakshmi Jetti,
Varna Muppuri, Sahasra Krishna Vemuri, Ashritha Mallapragada,
Saanvi Pittala, Anasooya Vennam, Sansa Bandari, Shreesha Vora

Bhoshambho

Ragam: Revati

Talam: Adi

Choreography: Guru Sobha Naidu

Performers: Anika Kaukuntla, Himani Kovur, Anisha Tipparaju,
Gayatri Metla, Hithyshna Pothuru, Nidhi Chennam

Yugmadwanda Pallavi

(Open-Access)

Raga: Bageshri

Tala: Ektali

Music: Pt. Raghunath Panigrahi

Dance Composition: Guru Sri Ratikanta Mahapatra

Ranjani Mala

by Dhanya Senthil Anand and Veda Penmetsa

Talam: Adi

Choreography: Smt. Sujatha Manjigani

Chandra-shèkaram

by Sujatha Manjigani

Talam: Adi

Composition: Bellari Seshagirichari

Sangeene Re Children's Dance with Odissi Steppings

by Tikli Odissi Kala Kendra

Composition and Choreography: Guru Meera Das

Ashwini Kathak Dance Academy

presents

Sadra

Hori

Rhydhun

Music: *An Odyssey of Rhythm* by Taufiq Qureshi

Choreography: Ashwini Gogate

Rhythm: Taufiq Qureshi

UNC CHARLOTTE
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

ODISSI ODYSSEY

MOVING PRAXIS

MAY 3
2026

BELK THEATER
ROBINSON HALL

2:00 PM
EST

 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE

COLLEGE OF ARTS
ARCHITECTURE
DANCE

RESERVE
TICKETS



Odissi Odyssey: *Moving Praxis*

Sunday May 3 at 2pm

Please [click here](#) for complete program notes and biographies.

Rooted

by Moving Spirits Inc.

Choreography: Tamara Williams

Dancers: Moving Spirits, Inc

Music: "As" by Stevie Wonder

Sarada Mangalacharan

(Open-Access-Odissi)

Choreography: Guru Poushali Mukherjee

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Batu

(Open-Access-Odissi)

Choreography: Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra

Saraswati Vandana

by Esha Goyal

Mira Bhajan

by Esha Goyal

Choreographer/Dance Teacher: Mrs. Esha Goyal

Trivat

by Esha Goyal

Composition and Choreography: Guru Pandit Rajendra Gangani, "RasRaj"

Dance Teacher: Mrs. Esha Goyal

Musical Gestures

by Guru Lalitha Chitra

Prana Sangini Re

by Monali NandyMazumdar

Choreography: Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra

Musical Gestures

by Guru Nalini Parimi

Ranjani Mala

by Rugmini Sreejith

Choreography/Dance Teacher: Rugmini Nair

Music Composition: Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna

Ragam: Ragamalika

Talam: Adi

Shiva - The Eternal Paradox

by Ramya Kapadia

Brahmam Okate

by Krishna Nagrajan

Choreographer/Dance Teacher: Krishna

Shiva Charanam

by Krishna Nagrajan

Choreographer/Dance Teacher: Krishna

Dance Face-Off:
Contemporary Touches!!

Superstars

by Krishna Nagrajan

Choreographer/Dance Teacher: Krishna

Sakhi

by Ana and Sudeshna

Kathak Fusion

by Esha Goyal

Music: "Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya" from the Bollywood Movie *Mughal-e-Azam*

Choreographer/Dance Teacher: Mrs. Esha Goyal

Dancers: Mehak, Viva, Manasvi, Pakhi, Shveta, Shuvani, Chinmay, and Anaisha; Sahaj School Of Dance

Semi-classical Stars

by Krishna Nagrajan

Music: "Namami" and "Pazhani Malai Aandava"

Choreographer/Dance Teacher: Krishna

NHSDA Induction

UNC CHARLOTTE
DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

ODISSI ODYSSEY

TRANSFORMING WORLDS



MAY 3
2026



Keynote lecture by
Swami Sarvapriyananda

BELK THEATER
ROBINSON HALL

7:00 PM
EST

 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE

COLLEGE OF ARTS
ARCHITECTURE
DANCE

RESERVE
YOUR SPOT



Odissi Odyssey: *Transforming Worlds*

Sunday May 3 at 7pm

Please [click here](#) for complete program notes and biographies.

Nondual Gestures: A Musical Invocation

by Guru Mallika Vadlamani

Youth Inaugural Ceremony

By UNC Charlotte Dance Townhall with Vedanta Center and NrityaDhwani

Music Composition: Vyasatirtha and Swami Vivekananda

Priye Charushile

By Guru Vishnu Tattva Das

Choreography: Padmavibhushan Guru Shri Kelucharan Mohapatra

Dance Teacher: Guru Shri Vishnu Tattva Das

Music Composer: Pandit Bhubaneshwar Mishra

Music: Kavi Surya Baladeb Ratha, 18th Century poet

Raaga: Desh

Tala: Khemata

Tri-M Music Society Spring 2026 Induction

Green Pledge

Keynote Panel:

**Dr. Eddy Souffrant, Swami Sarvapriyananda,
Dr. Mark Pizzato, and Dr. Trevor Pearce**

Vote of Thanks by Conference Directors:

Dr. Kaustavi Sarkar, UNC Charlotte

Dr. Sinjini Chatterjee, The Ohio State University

About the Department of Dance

The Department offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in Dance with concentrations in Dance Education, Applied Dance, or Performance, Choreography, and Theory. Dance study is enhanced by the interdisciplinary nature of our College of Arts + Architecture, study abroad opportunities, and the activities of a vibrant campus and the bustling, arts-minded city of Charlotte.

Faculty and Staff

Gretchen Alterowitz, Professor and Chair

Alyah Baker, Assistant Professor

E.E. Balcos, Professor

Dr. Ann Dils, Professor

Kim Jones, Associate Professor

Delia Neil, Associate Professor of Dance, Assoc. Dean for Academic Affairs

Dr. Marissa Nesbit, Assistant Professor, Dance Education Coordinator

Dr. Kaustavi Sarkar, Associate Professor

Ashley L. Tate, Assistant Professor, Concert + Events Coordinator

Tamara Williams, Associate Professor, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Hannah Harrell, Academic Advisor

Jennifer Jacobs, Office Administrator

Courtney Mervine, Arts Education Specialist

Adjunct Faculty

Kazuko Adachi, Accompanist

Esther Alcamo, Accompanist

Inna Amromin, Accompanist

Audrey Baran

Gene Bledsoe, Accompanist

Allen Boyd, Accompanist

Joshua Carr

Anna Edwards

Christine Fisher

Rodrigo Jimenez

Wendy Jimenez

Tod A. Kubo

Eric Mullis

Icaro Nascimento da Silva, Accompanist

Meg Schriffen

Lauren Skrabalak

Support the Department of Dance

The Dance Department Chair's Excellence Fund supports student welfare, educational supplies, scholarships, recruiting, guest artists, department events, and related needs. To make a gift and impact our students, [please visit this link](#). Thank you for your support!

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Dean Adams, Senior Associate Dean for Performing Arts

Hali Hutchison-Houk, Production Manager

Liz Paradis, Director of Audience Services

Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator

Liz Wooley, Performing Arts Operations Manager

Christina Beam, Costume Lab Manager

Meena Carr, Assistant Technical Director

Rachel Engstrom, Senior Lecturer, Costume Lab Supervisor / Designer

Matthew B. Fraiser, Senior Lecturer, Technical Director

Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Production Electrician

Gordon W. Olson, Senior Lecturer, Lighting Designer

Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Audio Engineer, Asst. Production Manager

Rachel Swenson Watkins, Senior Lecturer, Stage Management

Dan Mulder, Technology Engineer

Hazel Doherty, Chloe Shade, & Noah Tepper, Music Stage Managers

Tammy McNamara, House Management Supervisor

Alyssa Barry, House Manager

Odissi Production Team

Saturday 5/2

Stage Manager: Janise Rodriguez

Event Manager: Chloe Shade

Assistant Stage Manager: Naomi Diaz

Audio Engineer: Jason Stewart

Soundboard Operator: Lucy Burch

Lightboard Operator: Alex McLellan

Deck Crew: Evelin Golovashkina

Research Room Leads: Ethan Barros, Veronica Salas

Sunday 5/3

Stage Manager: Chloe Shade

Assistant Stage Manager: Naomi Diaz

Audio Engineer: Jason Stewart

Soundboard Operator: Lucy Burch

Lightboard Operator: Alex McLellan

Deck Crew: Naomi Wilson

Research Room Lead: Veronica Salas