



# Public Energy

THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

Public Energy is Peterborough's animator of contemporary dance, theatre, performance and interdisciplinary work. Since 1994 we have presented a mainstage series of artists drawn from across Canada, commissioned new work in concert with other Canadian presenters on the CanDance Network, and supported the development of the local dance, theatre and performance community by presenting area artists and arranging specialized classes and community workshops.

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## CONTACT

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Photo: Brenda Clews



PUBLIC ENERGY PRESENTS

ARZOO DANCE THEATRE (Ottawa)

# *THE LION'S ROAR* *SNOWANGELS*

DEEPTI GUPTA

April 6-7, 2018  
Market Hall Performing Arts Centre  
Peterborough, Ontario

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PERFORMING ARTS

## ARZOO DANCE THEATRE

### **THE LION'S ROAR** (2015)

Choreography, performance: **Deepti Gupta**

Score, sound design: **Nick Storring**

Voice: **Kristen Jain**

Costume Design & Construction: **Sonam Dubal / Sanskar Studio**

*The Lion's Roar* is based on a 5th century Buddhist text,  
The Sutra of the Lion's Roar of Queen Srimala.

— Pause —

### **SNOWANGELS** (PREMIERE)

Choreographer: **Deepti Gupta**

Composer, sound design: **Nick Storring**

Lighting Design: **Simon Rossiter**

Dancers: **Noah Damer, Parul Gupta, Aastha Khajuria, Barkha Patel**

Production Manager: **Kennedy Brooks**

Photographer: **Brenda Clews**

Administrative Assistant: **Allison Burns**

Special Guest Artist, Vocalist: **Vidhushi Meeta Pandit**

Costume Design: **Deepti Gupta**

Costume Construction: **R.S. Tailors**

*Snowangels* explores the sacred geometry of snow and is inspired by the grandeur and sensuality of snowscapes painted by Canadians Lauren Harris and Franklin Carmichael.

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Kathak is the classical dance form of North India. It has its roots amongst the wandering bards and minstrels who roamed the countryside telling stories to villagers and wealthy patrons alike. From there it evolved into a nuanced form worthy of connoisseurs and intellectuals at royal courts. In current times it is enjoying a vibrant renaissance that is nurtured by a confluence of ancient lineages of music, percussion, dance and literature.

In Canada I am fortunate to be able to dip into the deep flowing river of this rich aesthetic tradition and reconfigure it any which way I like. I am challenged to turn the form and look at it through the prism of post-modernism or contemporaneity or neo-romanticism.

Tonight's works are mostly the result of my ongoing exploration with composer Nick Storring. We began a dialogue with *The Lion's Roar* in which we tried to devise a way to see through each other's aesthetic lens. This dialogue expanded in *Snowangels*, which is a piece about homecoming for me. With this I plant my feet in the earth even as I spread my wings.

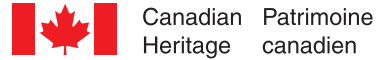


Proud to support Public Energy.

TD proudly invests in initiatives across Canada that provide youth exposure to music, bring families together to enjoy the performing arts, and create access to vibrant cultural offerings.



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MANY THANKS TO OUR APRIL 6 POST-SHOW RECEPTION FOOD SPONSORS



mysterious entity presents

Written by Em Glasspool  
Directed by Linda Kash  
Script development by Tomson Highway  
set and lighting design by Andy Moro and Esther Vincent

May 2-4, 2018, 8pm  
May 4, 2pm

Market Hall  
140 Charlotte St. N  
Box Office: 705-775-1503

mysteriousentity.com

PUBLIC ENERGY PRESENTS  
**INTRODUCTION TO KATHAK DANCE  
WITH DEEPTI GUPTA**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 7**

**LEARN KATHAK DANCE FROM A MASTER TEACHER.  
APRIL 7, 1:30PM - 3PM. AT THE MARKET HALL. \$12.**

Please register in advance by email:  
admin@publicenergy.ca.

I want to thank Parul, Aastha, Barkha, Noah and Reshmi for being my wings.

- Deepti Gupta

### ABOUT ARZOO DANCE THEATRE

Arzoo Dance Theatre is a not-for-profit professional dance company founded to provide a structural basis for the work of choreographer and dancer Deepti Gupta. Its mandate is to create and present contemporary dance theatre using dance forms from East and West, seeking a new choreographic voice that blends cultural aesthetics, ancient knowledge and contemporary artistic thought. The company brings to life a new vision of Indian classical dance, including Kathak, Chhau and contemporary movement. It celebrates the vision of cultural diversity in all art forms. Arzoo Dance Theatre is grateful for ongoing support from the following funders and well-wishers from the community. Mrs. Kamlesh Gupta, Mrs. Robin Vaile-Robinson, Ms. Wendy Reid, Mr. Piyush Gupta, AA Pharmachem, Public Energy (Peterborough).



### BIOS

Brought up in Ottawa, **Deepti Gupta** (choreographer, dancer) is a dancer and choreographer of the elegant Kathak style of Indian dance. A disciple of Sri Munna Lal Shukla, renowned guru of the Lucknow Gharana, she has recently been training and working under the guidance of Kathak legend Pundit Birju Maharaj. Deepti holds an MA in Dance from York University, Toronto and is a noted scholar, teacher and choreographer both in Canada and in India. Over the years she has received many grants, awards and commissions to support her creative work, including a Chalmers Award, NAC commissions and a Banff Centre for the Arts Residency. A relentless experimentalist with a variety of theatrical interests, she has received a Dora Award for costume design and has worked extensively in Indian theatre as an actor, dramaturge and script writer.

Deepti's choreographic work is at the cutting edge of contemporary South Asian dance and she has collaborated with a diverse range of international musicians, designers, digital and new media artists. Her work has been presented by the National Arts Centre, National Gallery of Canada, the Canada Dance Festival, Kalanidhi Fine Arts, Raga Mala of Canada, Danceworks, Peterborough New Dance, Banff Centre for the Arts, Tangente, Harbourfront Centre as well as many community presenters across Canada. Her work has also been presented by Danspace Project, DTW, New York; Anila Sinha Foundation, International House and Kalapriya, Chicago; Vasantotsav, Delhi; and the Panchatstva Festival Mumbai among others. Her choreographies have been critically acclaimed in the New York Times, the Village Voice and Dance Connection Magazine. Deepti has performed extensively in Canada, India, the US and the UK both as a soloist as well as with her company.

**Nick Storning** (composer, sound design) is a Toronto-based composer, musician, writer, and curator. Winner of the Canadian Music Centre's 2011 Toronto Emerging Composer Award, he also placed first in the 2008 Jeux De Temps competition for electroacoustic composition. His music has been presented and performed by the Esprit Orchestra, Eve Egoyan (a 24-minute commissioned solo work) Quatuor Bozzini, Beijing's Musicacoustica Festival, Thin Edge New Music Collective and Vancouver New Music. An avid collaborator, Storning has composed for films by Terrance Odette, Ingrid Veninger and, in collaboration with Dafydd Hughes, for the National Film Board's award-winning web documentary *High Rise : Universe Within*, directed by Katerina Cizek. He's also scored productions by Litmus Theatre and MT Space, worked with celebrated choreographers such as Yvonne Ng, Marie-Josée Chartier, and Brandy Leary, and created music for 'ambient gaming environment' *Tentacle* which was mounted at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 2011.

As one of the co-founders of cherished, now-defunct venue, Ratio, he helped facilitate the Toronto debuts of artists such as Sarah Hennies, Susan Alcorn, Sarah Davachi and Diatribes—spearheading its three years of events. Storning now presents concerts under the moniker Riparian Acoustics and was hired to program the Canadian Music Centre's 2018-9 season. He has also guest-curated for New Adventures In Sound Art and the Music Gallery.

Storning is a Contributing Editor with Musicworks, for whom he has written since 2008. Last year, one of his profiles from the publication was nominated for a National Magazine Award. He has also contributed liner notes and essays to several noted recordings including Alga Marghen's reissue of 1960's pioneers Intersystems' entire catalogue, Syrinx's triple LP reissue *Tumblers from the Vault* on RVNG Intl. and UK label Another Timbre's Canadian Series.

**Simon Rossiter** (lighting designer) is a Toronto-based lighting designer who occasionally designs scenery. He is Lighting Director of *Fall for Dance North*, presented annually at the Sony Centre, and has created more than two hundred original designs with companies throughout Canada, including works with Citadel + Compagnie, National Ballet of Canada, Soulpepper Theatre Company, and Toronto Dance Theatre. The recipient of three Dora Mavor Moore awards and seven nominations for Outstanding Lighting Design, he also sits on the Board of Directors of the Associated Designers of Canada.

**Noah Damer** (dancer) is a dancer and an actor based in New York. He is a graduate of Hunter College where he majored in Dance, Theater and Media Studies. After graduation, he attended Merce Cunningham School of Modern Dance and recently Anart Foundation for Kathak Dance in Ahmedabad. To name a few, Noah has performed works by prolific companies and choreographers namely: Pearson Widrig Dance Theater, Larry Keigwin, and Charles Moulton of the movie *Matrix Reloaded*. As for Kathak, Noah's initial training in New York has been with Parul Shah and Rachna Agarwal. He also has had the privilege of taking workshops with Padmavibhushan Smt. Kumudini Lakhia and Shri. Rajendra Gangani. For his advanced training in Kathak, he has studied under Gurus Shri Maulik Shah and Smt, Ishira Parikh in Ahmedaba.

**Parul Gupta's** (dancer) training includes Kathak, Bharatha Natyam, Urban Dance, Ballet/Jazz and Hatha Yoga. Since 2008, she has been particularly focused on her study of Kathak, in both Canada and India. Her initial training has been under Sandhya Desai and Sudeshna Maulik. For her advanced training she has studied under the esteemed guidance of Pandit Jai Kishan Maharaj & Ruby Mishra, and the renowned Kumudini Lakhia. Parul is the artistic director of *Parul Gupta Dance Works* and *Infusion Dance Studios*, based in Toronto. Her choreographies are part of the Cirque du Soleil productions *Love, Kooza & Totem*.

**Aastha Khajuria** (dancer) is a dancer, choreographer and the owner of *Root: School of Kathak* in Edmonton, Alberta. Aastha joined Manohar Performing Arts of Canada and participated in many dance productions and had the opportunity to tour across Canada with the Kathak and Bharatanatyam production, *La Bayadère*. Aastha trained with Shoba Koser of the Pracheen Kala Kendra. She has completed her fourth year certification in Kathak from the Prayag Sangeet Samiti. She has also advanced her training with Savita Sharma from Upasana Dance Company and School in Toronto and with Janaki Patrik from The Kathak Ensemble & Friends in New York.

**Barkha Patel** (dancer) is an Indian Classical Kathak dancer and Artistic Director of Barkha Dance Company based in New York City. She began her formal training in Kathak at a very young age and has been practicing and performing the art form for more than two decades. Barkha has been trained in the Jaipur and Lucknow style of Kathak by her Guru, Rachna Sarang. Barkha completed her Master's in Kathak Performing Arts from the Kalidasa Sanskrit University in Nagpur, India (2014-2016). To further deepen her understanding of other dance forms and complement her training in Kathak, Barkha is training in Bharatanatyam with Deepak Mazumdar and Hindustani rhythm with Pandit Divyang Vakil. [www.barkhadance.com](http://www.barkhadance.com)

**Kennedy Brooks** is a professionally trained production manager and stage management originally from Ottawa. In addition to free-lance corporate work and theatrical architectural consulting, recent show credits include: Stage and Production Manager, *Solo Dance Xchange*, Kaeja d'Dance; Lighting Designer and Technical Director, *P.S. We Are All Here*, Toronto Love-In; Stage Manager, *Porchview Dances Longbranch*, Kaeja d'Dance; Stage Manager, *Crave/Defiant*, Kaeja d'Dance, Stage Manager, *Room #7/Birds Nesting in Fingers in Bloom*, Moonhorse Dance.

**Allison Burns** is a dance artist and administrator. She is the artistic manager of the Ottawa StoryTellers, is a co-founder and former artistic producer of the Bouge d'ici Dance Festival, has a history of self-producing and working with variety of dance collectives, and founded, produces and hosts the dance podcast, Dirty Feet She graduated from Concordia University with a degree in Contemporary Dance with distinction in 2010.