

Kathak Summer Immersion Programs 2024

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Now in its 5th year, join our popular immersion program in New York City in the unique and dynamic style of legendary kathak master and guru, Pandit Chitresh Das, under the direction of renowned kathak artist and educator, **Rachna Nivas**. We are now offering two distinct summer training programs.



3-WEEK OPEN IMMERSION PROGRAM

Open to all levels including beginners, students will delve deep into rigorous training in kathak technique, movement, taal, expression, and North Indian classical music, along with education in South Asian history, and special guest artist talks.

Wed, Aug 7 - Tue, Aug 27 (weekdays) | 6:30pm-9:30pm
Manhattan (exact address TBD)

Leela Students: \$765

Non-Leela Students: \$865 + theory booklet

3 WEEK OPEN IMMERSION APPLICATION

2-WEEK PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

An exclusive and rare opportunity to pursue immersive intermediate/advanced studies of kathak that focuses on developing high-level kathak technique, vocabulary, repertoire, rhythmic play, and knowledge of taal/music.

Students with a minimum of five years prior kathak training/study are invited to apply.

Wed, Aug 14 - Tue, Aug 27 (weekdays) | 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Manhattan (exact address TBD)

Leela Students: \$525

Non-Leela Students: \$725

2 WEEK PRE-PROFESSIONAL IMMERSION APPLICATION



Guidelines

- Participants **must submit an application** for either program.
- **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, first-come, first-served until May 31, 2024.** Accepted applicants will be notified as they come in. You must submit payment to secure your spot.
- Ages 16 and up
- **Both** programs are intensive experiences and designed for aspiring dancers, practitioners, and/or enthusiastic students of the Indian arts.
- Students who complete the program will have the opportunity to continue their training at an accelerated pace at Leela's Training Centers in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Denver.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q I have had previous kathak training. Which program is better for me? The 3-week program or the 2 week pre-professional?

A The **3-week program** is designed and taught based on the experience level of the participants and the wide ocean of knowledge that Indian classical dance has to offer - every student will be challenged to their individual capacities. The **Pre-Professional program** will be taught at a fast pace and not cater to individual levels. Students will be expected to pick up the material quickly. Most importantly the pre-professional program is for students with an interest in training in this lineage on a path towards professional development, performance, and becoming an educator of the art.

Q Is there a showing at the program? When is it and can I invite my friends?

A Yes! There will be a showcase performance on the last day (**August 27**) during **class time**. You will have the opportunity to share your hard work with friends and family!

Q I am only able to do part of the program. Can I still do it?

A No, this program is designed to be for its full course and builds on itself throughout the program. Thus it is important that participants attend the full program. Missing a day or two due to special circumstances is manageable, but missing half of the program, especially the first half, is not possible.

Q Can I perform with Leela Dance Collective after the immersion program?

A We are so happy you are interested in this path! Our company consists of dancers who have been training in kathak for 10+ years. We also have apprentice dancers who are highly committed to their practice and training with us and receive numerous performance opportunities. Whether you do the 3-week open immersion or the 2-week pre-professional program, you will have the opportunity to develop the technique and style of this lineage of kathak to eventually be part of the professional company if that's your aspiration.

Q I have other dance experience but have never studied kathak. Can I still apply?

A Absolutely, the **3-week program** is perfect for you! And we encourage it. Dance experience of any kind will be helpful. Having a music background can also be very helpful because of the nature of kathak dance being seamlessly intertwined with music and rhythm.

Q I do not have any dance experience at all. Can I still apply?

A Yes you can **apply to the 3-week program**. If you are passionate about learning, have an open mind, and are willing to roll up your sleeves and work hard, sky's the limit.

Q What is the age range for this program?

A The minimum age is 16. While we do not have a maximum age limit, it should be noted that this is a very rigorous program! It is meant to push students beyond their comfort zone and boundaries - physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If you are looking to stand in the back and be unnoticed, this is not the program for you.

Q What is the dress code for classes?

A Students should wear a kurta (preferably cotton) to class with churidar or salwar. Hair should be tied back in a neat bun or a braid. Long braids should be pinned to kurtas to avoid injury during swift turns.

Q Can I take videos of the classes?

A A critical skill for all kathak dancers is the ability to improvise. Improvising requires a highly aware and attuned mind, as well as the ability to grasp and retain material quickly. At Leela we aim to begin developing this skill early. Utilizing videos as an aid to learning interferes with the ability to train a sharp mind and memory. As a result, we do not allow students to video classes. We do however provide ample tools and materials to help students in their study and practice.

Additional questions? Send an email to newyork@leela.dance

Q I cannot afford the program but I am very passionate about doing the program. Do you have any scholarship programs?

A We do not offer scholarships for this program but our fundamental principle is that money should not come in the way of anyone's strong desire to acquire knowledge of this incredible art. If you have a financial hardship to pay your tuition, we may be able to offer you a work-study opportunity if there is alignment. Please indicate your interest in your application.

Q I do not live in New York City, but I would like to come and attend the program. Will I be able to continue my studies with your school once the program is over?

A Yes! We hope that you do! If you live in one of the four cities that we offer classes - New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Denver - then you will be able to attend classes in person, building on what you learned in the immersion program.

Additional questions? Send an email to newyork@leela.dance