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## THE MAKING OF 'SURYA: THE ETERNAL RHYTHM'

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ARTICLE RATING

For most audiences, the creative process is often a mystery – the months of intricate planning and experimenting are rarely seen, over shadowed by the polished spectacle of opening night. This week, the Miami Book Fair International aims to pull back that curtain with special presentation of *The Making Of "Surya: The Eternal Rhythm"* at MDC's Wolfson Auditorium, which will feature excerpts from the original performance as well as an interactive conversation with choreographer Ranjana Warier and poet Adrian Castro.

"It's a combination of excerpts from the production and an artistic conversation about the process of creating it," Warier explains about the unique program. "We talk about the collaboration and how we came about creating the show. We'll have time for questions from audience, anything people might want to know about the process, or the end product or the Indian dance or the poetry."

Created with the support of a Knight Arts Challenge grant, *Surya* originally premiered in January at the Miramar Cultural Center, and marked the first collaboration between Warier and Castro. Introduced to his poetry by the Book Fair staff, Warier found connections in the themes between Castro's work and her own.

"Adrian is known for his rhythmic work. Some of his poems were really catchy to me, in relation to what I do. They just spoke to me right away. There was one where he talks about red, white and black colors and what they represent, and that was more spiritually natured too," Warier explains.

"So we talked about the colors – and which had symbolism and which had emotions, and it reminded me of morning, day, night or the change in seasons and the process of creation, sustenance and disillusion; all that kind of relating back to Indian mythology. It was very similar to the theme of *Surya* or the Lord of the Sun. The sun is like a visible, divine form that gives the eternal rhythm which sustains our life on earth."

As she began to create *Surya*, and work more closely with Castro, she noted symmetry between her faith and work and what she found in Castro's words. "The piece that we have is a collaboration between the Indian and the Afro-Cuban stories and the fundamental theme is the human spirit. We might speak different languages, wear different types of clothing, but when you dig in a little bit deeper, the human spirit is exactly the same all over the world."

For Castro, who is currently on a bit of a hiatus from writing as he pursues a doctorate in acupuncture and oriental medicine, this type of collaboration was one he was very open to. "When the subject matter came up, all these mythic elements that she wanted to make, that bridge between our cultures, it was a perfect fit – it's something I've been writing about for like 20 years. It was great to come up with this project."

By having this program take place during National Poetry month, Warier is able to connect with new audiences who may not otherwise know her work or about Classical Indian Dance and the importance of artistic collaboration. "It's an opportunity for everyone to come in and ask questions and understand better how productions like this work, and conversely, understanding what people think of our work helps us too. So sharing this process is really mutually beneficial."

Castro agrees, adding, "I think that it is insightful to see how it came about, I think it will be interesting for other artists to learn about the collaborative process and what goes into making something."

*The Making Of "Surya: The Eternal Rhythm" featuring Ranjana Warier and Adrian Castro, 4 p.m., Saturday, April 2, Auditorium at Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, 300 NE 2nd Ave., Miami; tickets: free, info at [www.miamibookfair.com](http://www.miamibookfair.com).*