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New Times

Surya: Unique Performance Mends Dance, Music, and Poetry in Miramar

BY LAUREN HARDIE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016 AT 8:05 A.M.



Poetry meets Indian classical dance.

Courtesy of Ranjana Warier

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Maybe you've seen an Indian classical dance performance, and maybe you've heard Afro-Caribbean poetry spoken or read aloud. But there's a really good chance you've never seen the two together, on the same stage. That's because it's never been done before.

"I haven't seen anything like this either," says Ranjana Warier, artistic director of *Surya: The Eternal Rhythm*.

An internationally recognized performer, choreographer, and teacher, Warier is also artistic director of Rhythms School of Dance, an Indian classical dance training center in Davie. Warier has won two Knight Foundation Arts Challenge awards: The first, in 2012, resulted in a collaborative interpretation of *Sleeping Beauty*; the second, received toward the end of 2014, is helping to fund *Surya*.

But it's a bit surprising that Warier has chosen to do this particular type of collaboration, with dance, music, and poetry all coming together onstage at once.

"I'm a pretty traditional Indian dancer," she says. "But I have been looking for all these opportunities to push the boundaries."

"I believe any art form should be educational, entertaining, and engaging."

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mario Cantone's Broadway Holiday

Sat., Dec. 3, 8:00pm

TICKETS

The FAU Classical Guitar Society

Sun., Dec. 4, 3:00pm

TICKETS

Dances We Dance Fall Showcase

Thu., Dec. 8, 7:00pm

TICKETS

Miami City Ballet- George Balanchine's Th...

Fri., Dec. 9, 7:00pm

TICKETS

Hasan Minhaj: Homecoming King

Sat., Dec. 10, 8:00pm

TICKETS

Primarily a dance show inspired by poetry, *Surya* is a joint project between Warier and Miami-born poet, writer, and artist Adrian Castro.

Widely recognized as one of the most important poets of his generation, Castro creates poetry that melds Afro-Caribbean rhythms and myths.

How the two artists came to cross paths was no coincidence. Warier has collaborated with literary artists before and had a working relationship with the Miami Book Fair team. The whole discussion got started when someone floated the idea of doing

something in conjunction with National Poetry Month. Warier got started on the project by reading the works of many people. That's how she got exposed to Castro's poetry.

Castro has said that although they have to do with spirituality, the poems he's shared with Warier for this project aren't necessarily his most rhythmic. Yet his words alone, steeped in mythology, often seem to dance on paper and off the tongue when spoken.