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Kanopy Dance Company Announces Two Stunning Productions in March  
at the Overture Center for the Arts.

PURE.DANCE

Premiere New Voices in Contemporary Dance and A Fusion Performance of American Modern and Classical Indian Dance ... all presented by Kanopy Dance this March at the Overture Center for the Arts.

*Watch. Art in Motion.*

*Featuring the Work of Critically Acclaimed Guest Artists*

*Lloyd Knight and Jamar Roberts*

*Premiere Voices in Contemporary Dance*

*In Kanopy's **Connexions***

*March 9-12, 2023*

*Overture Center for the Arts*

**Connexions** features guest dancers/choreographers Lloyd Knight and Jamar Roberts, who are recognized as premiere voices in shaping the future of American Modern Dance and important artists of color.

Lloyd Knight presents his world-premiere "Commune" ---a new work commissioned by Kanopy and choreographed to an electronic mix by the Signal Band---that deeply resonates in our society today. How does each of us find a path to community and experience a sense of togetherness or unity? Knight, a principal dancer with Martha Graham Dance Company, is also a guest Principal artist for The Royal Ballet of Flanders.

Another highlight of the concert is "Born to Love", a video performance by the mesmerizing Knight and choreographed by Jamar Roberts, that explores the heightened emotions of love, indelible remembrances, and inevitable loss. It is set to Dianne Warwick's hit "(There's)-Always Something There to Remind Me". Roberts, whose choreographic voice has been described as an "uncommon force and originality" by Dance Magazine, is the Resident Choreographer of the internationally renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in NYC.

Also on the **Connexions** program is Lisa Thurrell's, "For Persephone ate the Pomegranate", a solo inspired by the Greek myth of Persephone- the ancient Greek Goddess of Spring and Innocence who was spirited away by Hades to become Queen of the Underworld. The poignant work is set to music composed by the late Vicky Tzoumerka Knoedler-- a composer and founder of the Mesoghios Dance Troupe and honors her art and her memory. Finally, Robert Cleary presents his "Fear is the Enemy", a political dance about the loss of trust and silencing the voice of protest.

## **Connexions**

Performing at Overture's Promenade Hall, Reception Following Friday Night Performance

THU Mar 9, 7PM

FRI Mar 10, 7:30PM

SAT Mar 11, 5 & 8PM

SUN Mar 12, 1 & 4PM

Tickets (reserved seating): \$40

Groups: 4 or more \$35

Ages 18 & under \$20

Students \$20

(608) 258-4141

[Overture.org](http://Overture.org)

ON SALE Sept 20, 2022

Kalaanjali Dance Company and Kanopy Dance Company

Present a World Premiere

### **Starry Nights: Painting with Dance**

A Fusion Performance of Bharatanatyam Classical Indian Dance

and

American Modern dance

Inspired by the Art of Vincent Van Gogh

Sunday, March 19, 2023, 3PM & 6pm

Two Performances Only

Overture Center for the Arts

The Overture stage becomes a canvas when Kalaanjali Dance Company and Kanopy Dance Company premiere **Starry Nights: Painting with Dance**, a fusion production inspired by the art of Dutch Post-Impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh. The companies will combine principal modern dance techniques and classical Bharatanatyam Indian dance in three original choreographies that evoke the expression, rhythm, and passion of Van Gogh's iconic works.

Sixteen dancers will move against projections of Van Gogh's masterworks and will artfully "paint" the curved silhouettes of Van Gogh's **Iris**, the entrancing stars and mysterious night sky in **Starry Nights**, and the rich colors and joy of Van Gogh's **Sunflowers**--- with a sensuous palette of dance forms.

The Kalaanjali Dance Company, based in Madison and San Francisco, will also present three traditional Bharatanatyam dances. Kalaanjali Dance was founded by Kanopy's guest artist,

Meenakshi Ganesan, to promote and showcase Bharatanatyam, the oldest classical dance tradition in India that dates back nearly 3000 years. Bharatanatyam encompasses music, rhythm and expression and strictly adheres to the Natyashastra, (a Sanskrit treatise on performing arts).

A modern work rounds out the **Starry Nights** program, with Lisa Thurrell's **Prayer**, performed by the Kanopy Dance Company. The sweeping Graham-based work is set to the music of Estonian Arvo Pärt, a composer of minimalist style classical and religious music, and features elegant costuming in vibrant colorways of plums rose, copper, and magenta.

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SUN Mar 19, 3PM & 6PM Two Shows Only

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the fusion dances

### **MALLARI & POEM**

Traditional Bharatanatyam classical Indian Dance

Music: Traditional

Costume: Traditional

Poem: by the Mahakavi (grand poet) by Shri Subramanya Bharathiyar

Performed by Guru Meenakshi Ganesan and Lisa Thurrell with the Kalaanjali and Kanopy dancers

Mallari is played in the temples and is considered to be an auspicious start to an event. The poem by the Mahakavi / grand poet, is appealing in its simplicity. The mention of stars, the sky and cloth where he wishes for the cloth of Heaven... paints a beautiful picture of colors, emotions, and love.

### **IRISES- BEAUTY**

Bharatanatyam classical Indian Dance and Modern Dance

Choreography: Robert E Cleary, Meenakshi Ganesan, Lisa Thurrell

Music: Traditional

Lighting Design: Brad Toberman

Costumes: Traditional and Contemporary

Dancers: Yogitha Rajkumar, Saatvika Gadi, Miye Bishop, Stormy Gaylord, Edward Salas, Alex Trofka

In 1889, only a year before his death, Van Gogh created what many consider to be his most renowned flower picture. The piece is simply named "Irises" and depicts a rich, green bed of flowers topped with the distinctive royal blue hue of irises. This dance reveals the beauty in contrast.

### **SELF PORTRAIT- FACETS**

Bharatanatyam classical Indian Dance and Modern Dance

Choreography: Robert E Cleary, Meenakshi Ganesan, Lisa Thurrell

Music: Shruthi Rajasekar, excerpt from "Searching for Sanctuary"

Lighting Design: Brad Toberman

Costumes: Traditional and Contemporary

Dancers: Robert E Cleary, Meenakshi Ganesan, Lisa Thurrell

Van Gogh painted several self-portraits. To Van Gogh the self-portrait is a study on himself and his own anguish. The Artistic directors of Kanopy and Kalaanjali present the turmoil of emotions, the colors and shades of Vangogh's thoughts through this dance.

## **STARRY NIGHT - DREAMS**

Bharatanatyam classical Indian Dance and Modern Dance

Choreography: Robert E Cleary, Meenakshi Ganesan, Lisa Thurrell

Music: Traditional

Lighting Design: Brad Toberman

Costumes: Traditional and Contemporary

Dancers: Miye Bishop, Joshua Brumm, Carolyn Fitzgibbons, Saatvika Gadi, Stormy Gaylord, Ishwari Gregory, Kendyll Hazzard, Hannah King, Lena Komar, Saanvi Kondoju, Hanshika Jaipravin Kumar, Noopur Patel, Ishika Pulimamidi, Dhriti Putti, Ella Quinn, Yogitha Rajkumar, Preesha Rock, Edward Salas, Katie Sovik, Alex Trofka, Sowmya Venkat.

“Starry Night” is one of the most recognized pieces of art in the world, resonating with so many people, it is a testament to how its beauty is timeless and universal. Painted in 1889 the whole effect is ethereal and dreamlike.

Kanopy and Kalaanjali dancers bridge the gap and merge the two styles of dance inspired by this beautiful painting of Vincent VanGogh.

Kalaanjali Dance Company has been directed by Guru Meenakshi Ganesan since 2003, in an effort to propagate Bharatanatyam – Indian Classical Dance to the community and generations to come in Madison, WI and recently also in San Francisco, CA. Kalaanjali's objective of promoting Indian Classical Dance is accomplished through multiple means including workshops, performances, ballets, collaborations, lecture demonstrations, fundraisers and outreach programs. Kalaanjali's students get a rigorous training in the theoretical and practical aspects of this ancient art form, frequently perform at various events and participate in fundraisers.

Meenakshi Ganesan, is the Founder & Artistic Director of Kalaanjali Dance Company in Madison, WI & San Jose, CA. She was conferred the prestigious title of Nritya Mayuri by the Ministry of Education and has performed at several prestigious events such as the Cleveland Aradhana Festival, The World Music Festival. She has trained more than 100 students around the globe and has successfully conducted 35 Arangetrams / student graduation recitals under Kalaanjali. She has been awarded a grant as a Master Artist by the Wisconsin Arts Board since 2015 and has trained more than 20 apprentices for the same and is extremely happy to serve as a panelist from 2022 to help preserve and support the community of artists.