

NY & NJ E-FESTS : DANCE, MUSIC, TALK

BY MABEL PAIS

".....Bringing (artists) together on an online platform was not only the most responsible and exciting way of showcasing their work but also displaying the virtuosity of diversity." - Deepsikha Chatterjee, Festival Director



Dancer-Participants at EB Dance Fest 2020
Photo / Courtesy IAAC

**Indo-American Arts Council Presents
Virtual Erasing Borders Dance Festival
September 20-27, 2020, 8:30 pm EST**

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) presents the Erasing Borders Dance Festival from September 20-27, 2020 at 8:30pm EST each day for free on Facebook Live at

facebook.com/iaac.us

The Erasing Borders Dance Festival (EBDF) for the twelfth year has been expanded by the IAAC. For the first time, eleven artists trained in Indian dance forms from across the world will be brought together in a virtual borderless festival.

Program**Sunday, September 20, 2020**

Shambhu Nath Karmakar/Ashpara Care Club
(Purulia Chhau)

Monday, September 21, 2020

Neha Mondal Chakravarty (Kalakshetra
Bharatanatyam)
Krishnakshi Kashyap (Sattriya)

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Ganesh Vasudeva (Bharatanatyam)

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Divyaa Unni (Bharatanatyam)
Arun Mathai (Bharatanatyam)

Thursday, September 24, 2020

Sandhya Raju (Kuchipudi)

Friday, September 25, 2020

Damir Tasmagambetov (Kalakshetra Bharatanatyam)
Barkha Patel (Contemporary Kathak)

Saturday, September 26, 2020

Mesma Belsaré (Shilpa Natana)

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Vishwakiran Nambi (Contemporary)
Workshops by Nahid Siddiqui (Sufi Kathak)

The Festival dancers, turned away from traditional performance spaces, take the time to reflect, activate, and energize through other forms of healing. Mesma Belsaré seeks inspiration in the fluid lines of India's

ancient architecture while Singapore-based Neha Mondal Chakravarty meditates on a tiny seed sprouting into the fullness of womanhood in Bharatanatyam. Vishwakiran Nambi collects his contemporary group in the urbanscape of Bengaluru to use their bodies in deeply felt and original ways. Arun Mathai draws power and energy from The Great God Shiva against the Black Lives protests in US for his Bharatanatyam performance. New Yorker Damir Tasmagambetov from Kazakhstan, trained in Kalakshetra Bharatanatyam in India bridges many cultures, and concludes his creative presentation through a prayer for Shanti or peace. US based Kathak dancer Barkha Patel is nourished by her week-long walk in Gujarat in prayers for Goddess Bahuchara Maa, a deity for the transgender community in India. Divyaa Unni in Bharatanatyam depicts the unusually calm Goddess Kalika, who appears with neem leaves and holy water this one time to bring balance and tranquility back. Kuchipudi dancer Sandhya Raju's solo presents Lord Krishna, the one who lifted the Govardhan mountain to provide much needed shelter. Her Tarangam dance piece on a brass plate, built through years of training provides much needed charm. Ganesh Vasudeva's Bharatanatyam depicts the Ganga River flowing down from the icy Himalayas, believed to be Lord Shiva's locks of hair, into nourishing rivers and streams. Assam's Satriya dancer and social entrepreneur Krishnakshi Kashyap reflect on the centuries old meditative performances of the region while Purulia Chhau artist Shambhu Nath Karmakar marches with his ensemble in the traditional acrobatic martial art form to show Goddess Durga vanquishing Mahishasur, the bull demon to restore peace and prosperity. To learn more about each artist and performance, visit iaac.us/erasing-borders-dance-festival-2020

To learn more about IAAC, visit iaac.us

US YOUTH ORCHESTRAS E-FEST



Top Row: Music-Director-Participants
Bottom Row: Youth-Participants in the E-Fest
Photo / Courtesy WIPA

**US YOUTH ORCHESTRAS E-PRESENT 'WE NEVER STOPPED MAKING MUSIC'
September 20, 2020, 8 p.m. Est**

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) will be joined by the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, Hawaii Youth Symphony, Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, and Youth Orchestras of San Antonio for the U.S. Youth Orchestras eFestival on September 20, 2020.

The NJYS, a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA), hosts the U.S. Youth Orchestras eFestival "We Never Stopped Making Music" on September 20, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. EST via Zoom and YouTube Live. Celebrating American youth orchestras across the country during the global pandemic, the eFestival is FREE and open to the public. For more information, visit njys.org

NJYS Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo partnering with Russell Steinberg, Music Director of the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, invited music directors across the country to

share how their youth orchestras responded to the global pandemic.

Allen Tinkham, Music Director of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras; Joseph Stepec, Symphony Program Director of the Hawaii Youth Symphony; and Troy Peters, Music Director of the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio, will join together to celebrate the vitality of American youth orchestras and raise awareness of the importance of performing arts education, especially during social distancing.

In addition, each youth orchestra will feature a student representative who will share how continuing to make music throughout the pandemic has had a positive impact on their lives. The student musicians will also introduce a virtually coordinated performance video, demonstrating the innovative ways their youth orchestras have continued to connect, perform, and amplify the creative voices of young musicians during the COVID-19 outbreak. "In the midst of this global crisis, we must do everything we can to keep music and creative arts alive in the lives of young people," said Cha-Pyo. "On behalf of over 400 youth orchestras in the U.S., we want to take a moment to celebrate and encourage our student musicians to keep making music and spread the message of hope in their communities and beyond."

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) is a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA). To learn about the WIPA, visit whartonarts.org To learn more about NJYS, visit whartonarts.org/njys

JOHN LEWIS: "GOOD, NECESSARY TROUBLE"

"Conversations about justice, equality and access have always been an integral part of NJPAC's role as an anchor cultural institution. As America's most diverse performing arts center in terms of programming, staff and audiences, these values are embedded in the Arts Center's DNA." - John Schreiber, NJPAC's President & CEO

Celebrate Icon Who Spent Life Getting "Good Trouble"!

National Free Panel Discussion:

Lewis' History, Impact on Today's Social Justice Struggles

Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7PM

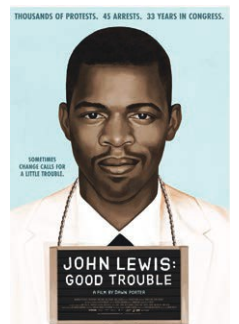
The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) organizes a nationwide watch, inviting over 60 of the nation's arts and cultural institutions to participate in a virtual viewing of the riveting new documentary "John Lewis: Good Trouble". The documentary takes a look at the impact of Lewis's life and work.

NJPAC encourages every participant to rent the documentary at <https://bit.ly/3c1ncsh> which is also available now from Magnolia Pictures at <https://bit.ly/3hzs1dE> before the conversation on Monday, September 21, 2020. Take part in the national live virtual conversation about John Lewis's remarkable legacy on Monday, September 21, at 7PM by registering at <https://bit.ly/3c0EUvX>. The FREE virtual event will take place on Zoom. The discussion will also be broadcast on NJPAC's Facebook Live feed.

The interactive online panel discussion will be about Lewis's history and impact on the social justice struggles of today. Representative John Lewis of Georgia -- Freedom Rider and Congressman, Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree and conscience of the nation -- served the cause of social justice for decades, both as an elected representative and as a groundbreaking activist whose fervent belief in getting into "good trouble, necessary trouble" for the cause of racial equality changed America.

Panelists include director Dawn Porter, Ras J. Baraka, Mayor of Newark, NJ, Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Professor of History, Race and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and Director of the Institutional Antiracism and Accountability Project, and Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution -- who worked extensively with Lewis to establish the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. US Senator, NJ Cory Booker, will provide opening remarks. To learn more, visit njpac.org

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)



"John Lewis: Good Trouble" poster
Photo / Courtesy NJPAC