

# International Dance Day

The Shanti Niketan School

# Serendipity



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# Introduction

- ▶ *Founded in 1982, **International Dance Day** seeks to promote the art of dance around the world. The founding body, the International Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute selects a special personality each year to create an International Dance Day Message to be shared around the world.*
- ▶ *Dance is practiced by both amateurs and professionals and is enjoyed in theatres everywhere. This special day is all about the history of dance and the recognition of its place in society.*
- ▶ *Dance is both an art form and a method of communication in cultures around the world, and is practiced by millions of people. Celebrate this International Dance Day by learning about the history of dance.*

# Folk dance

- ▶ *These are dances practiced at social functions by people with little or no professional training, often to traditional music or music based on traditional music.*
- ▶ *They are not designed for public performance or the stage, although traditional folkdances may be later arranged and set for stage performances.*
- ▶ *Their execution is dominated by an inherited tradition rather than by innovation (although like all folk traditions they do change over time).*
- ▶ *New dancers often learn informally by observing others.*
- ▶ *Not all ethnic dances are folk dances; for example, ritual dances or dances of ritual origin are not considered to be folk dances.*

# Spanish folk dance

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- ▶ *Though traditional dance in Spain summons up iconic images of flamenco, there are many variations widespread across the country. From the gypsy communities of the south, to the Celtic heritage of Galicia in the north, the rich and diverse culture of Spain is perfectly captured by these ten traditional dances.*

- **Sardana**

*The origins of the Sardana are not entirely traceable – some believe they date back to Ancient Roman times – but most agree that by the 19th century the dance was widespread in the Catalan regions of Empordà, Roselló and Garrotxa. The dance is performed by a circle of alternating men and women who hold hands and dance in rhythm to a live band called a cobla. It's a popular group dance which is performed at celebrations and public gatherings and has become a symbol of Catalan identity.*

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- **Flamenco**

*Undoubtedly one of the most famous cultural exports from Spain, Flamenco is in fact so much more than just a dance – it's an art-form recognized as part of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. It emerged among the gypsy communities of Andalusia and is performed by a mixture of singing, guitar playing, dancing, finger snapping and hand clapping.*

- **Muñeira**

*A dance found in the north-western region of Galicia, the Muñeira is an example of the Celtic influence on the local culture in this part of the world. One of the most obvious parallels with Celtic music is the use of a type of bagpipe known as a gaita to perform the accompanying music. There are regionally differing types of Muñeira, such as Muñeira de Chantada or the Muñeira de Ludo.*





# Mexican folk dance

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- ▶ *Traditional Mexican dances provide a glimpse into the culture of the region. Not only do these dances from Mexico express the rhythms of the music, but they also display the vital colors woven into Mexican clothing and decoration, as well as themes important to the region, such as Catholicism and communion with nature.*

- **Jarabe Tapatío**

*Jarabe Tapatío is typically and weirdly, referred to as the Mexican Hat Dance in English, Mexico's national dance is intricately linked with national pride. One aspect that possibly aids the enduring popularity of this courtship dance are the distinctly Mexican outfits; the male dancer wears a charro suit and the female dancer a china poblana dress.*

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- **La Conquista**
  - ▶ *La Conquista is a traditional Mexican dance that, unsurprisingly, narrates the story of the Spanish conquest. Masked dancers play all of the key historical players, from Hernán Cortés and La Malinche to Moctezuma, before depicting the death of the latter at the hands of the former.*
- **Los Voladores de Papantla**
  - ▶ *Another iconic dance is Los Voladores de Papantla, which is considered by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage. Prepare to be terrified, because the event begins with all five participants scaling a 30-meter high pole, from which four of them then proceed to drop; one lucky member remains at the top playing a flute and drum.*



# Russian Folk dance



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- ▶ *Traditional Russian folk dance is as broad and diverse as the nation itself. While most foreigners identify traditional Russian dance with the stomping and and knee bending characteristic of Eastern Slavic dance styles, many forget about traditions of dance that originated from Turkic, Uralic, Mongolic and Caucasian peoples who are also native to Russia.*

- **Barynya**

*Barynya, which literally means “landlady”, is a traditional Russian folk dance that combines chastushka (a traditional folk poem that is often in the form of satire) with spirited dancing. The dancing usually has no set choreography and consists mostly of fancy stomping and squatting. The refrain “Barynya, barynya, sudarynya-barynya” (landlady, landlady, madam-landlady), is also typically repeated throughout the course of the dance.*

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- **Komi Dance**

*This folk dance was originated from the Komi peoples of north European Russia and northwestern Siberia (mostly west, but also east of the Ural mountains). While long amalgamated into the broader Russian culture, many remnants of the Komi culture still exist.*

- **Kalinka Dance**

*Kalinka originated as a Russian song written in 1860 by the composer and folklorist Ivan Laringov. The song had simple lyrics and a speedy tempo; therefore it soon became popular along with the knee-bending dance of Preesyadka. Since then, the dance of Preeyadka has been well-known as Kalinka. Like any other traditional dance, Kalinka shows the Russian cultural values through its fast and agile movements, upbeat rhythms, and beautiful costumes.*





# Mongolian folk dance

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- ▶ Mongolian traditional dance is divided into two categories: **Western Mongolian** Folk Dance and **Eastern Mongolian** Folk Dance.
- **Western Mongolian** Folk Dance-Biyelgee-has several varieties including Uzemchin, Torguud, Uriankhai, Zakhchin, Kazakh, Uuld and Durvud. The general characteristics of Western Mongolian Folk dance is the movements of head, shoulders and chest, which is performed inside the ger when everybody sits in circles.
- **Eastern Mongolian** Folk Dances include Buriad, Darkhad, Barga and Khalkha dances. The common characteristics of Eastern Mongolian dances are those circle dances such as “khatir”, “yekher” and “yohkhor” that involve many people to express the features of land, mountains, horses or warriors. The women on the other hand show their daily chores such as milking, wool handling and treading.



# Conclusion

- ▶ *In a world where people of different cultures are becoming increasingly exposed to one another through technology and immigration, different forms of dance are constantly being created that reflect this fusion of these different cultures. Therefore, dance is a powerful reflection of the cultural changes that are taking place in our world.*

***“Dance creates a bridge for traversing cultural borders because fundamentally it involves the human body, something that all people have in common” -Pegge Vissicaro***