

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM OF ART

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CELEBRATE INDIA: A Feast for the Senses!

Dance, Music, and Film in honor of *Gandhi Jayanti*, the birthdate of Mahatma Gandhi, and in conjunction with the exhibition, *Faces of India: Sculpture from the Collection of the Callahan Family*. FREE ADMISSION.

Friday, September 30, 6 pm, Film: *Sholay*

Sunday, October 2, 2-4 pm, Indian Dance and Music Program

Sunday, October 2, 4:30 pm, Film: *Pather Panchali*

These FREE programs are made possible by Merrill Lynch Wealth Management



Gamaga-Shruti is a collection of local talents from the greater Birmingham area. Its members represent multiple states and languages of India, with some trained in classical music. The group meets once a month to have fun and has an amazing range in its performance styles. The group is more interested in fusion, particularly incorporating elements of Indian classical music into tonal qualities that mimic a western instrumental band.



Bhangra is a high energy folk dance that comes from Northern India. Traditionally this dance is performed during the harvest season and spring around the time of Baishakhi. Many of the dance steps come from the village life experience and the farmers work in the fields. The main beat of bhangra is set by the Dhol.



Notinee Indian Dance Group (www.Notinee.com) was founded in 2006 by Pia Sen, and is the only group in Alabama that specializes in the unique style of Indian Classical-fusion dance that was first envisioned by India's Nobel Laureate poet, Rabindranath Tagore. This dance form blends together two contrasting Indian classical dance styles (Manipuri and Odissi), with elements of folk dance from various parts of India.



Natyananda Dance School and Company, founded in 1980, performs both traditional and original choreographic works in the classical Bharatanatyam style of Southern India. Through student, professional, and guest artist presentations, Natyananda promotes understanding of universal artistic and cultural themes, while showcasing the rich and unique heritage of Alabama's Asian Indian-American community. In this performance Natyananda dancers explore the colorful tribal qypsy tales of South India.

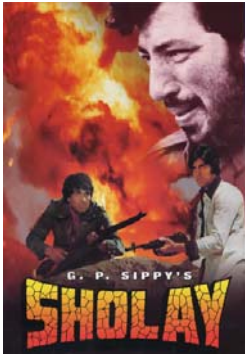


The Bollywood Jammers have been studying dance for three years under the guidance of choreographer and teacher Dibya Singh at the Bollywood Groove Studio in Tuscaloosa. Singh studied under Sheila Rubin and began her own dance practice in 1982. The Bollywood Jammers have won numerous awards at dance competitions throughout the state and will be performing complete Bollywood dance, a style that mixes classical Indian dance with Western flair and a touch of gymnastics!

CLASSICAL INDIAN FILM at the Birmingham Museum of Art

Celebrate India! A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

As part of a city-wide celebration of Indian culture, the **Birmingham Museum of Art**, with the support of the Indian Cultural Society is proud to present classical Indian film to coincide with local exhibitions including the exhibition, ***Faces of India: Sculpture from the Collection of the Callahan Family at the Museum through October 2.***



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 6 pm

Sholay (1975, 192 minutes, Hindi with English subtitles) is an Indian action adventure film produced by G.P. Sippy and directed by his son Ramesh Sippy. It is considered among the greatest films in the history of Indian cinema. Shot in the rocky terrain of Ramanagara, Karnataka, the film tells the story of two criminals hired to capture a ruthless gangster by the name of Gabbar Singh. *Sholay* achieved a still-standing record of 60 golden jubilees (50 consecutive weeks) and it was the first film in the history of Indian cinema to celebrate a silver jubilee (25 weeks) at over a hundred theaters across India.

In 2005, Indiatimes ranked the movie amongst the "Top 25 Must See Bollywood Films." That same year, the judges of the 50th annual Filmfare Awards gave it a special award — Best Film of 50 Years. The film topped the British Film Institute's poll of "Top 10 Indian Films" of all time.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 4:30 pm

Pather Panchali (1955, 115 minutes, B&W, Bengali with English subtitles) is a Bengali drama film written and directed by Satyajit Ray and produced by the Government of the Indian state of West Bengal. Based on Bibhutibhusan Bandopadhyay's Bengali 1929 novel of the same name, the film was the directorial debut of Ray. The first film of *The Apu Trilogy*, it depicts the childhood of the protagonist Apu in the rural countryside of Bengal in the 1920s. Though the film had a shoestring budget, featured mostly amateur actors, and was made by an inexperienced crew, *Pather Panchali* was a critical and popular success.

Influenced by Italian neorealism, Satyajit Ray developed his own style of lyrical realism in this film. The first movie from independent India to attract major international critical attention, *Pather Panchali* won "Best Human Document" at the 1956 Cannes Film Festival, establishing Satyajit Ray as a major international filmmaker. *Pather Panchali* is today considered one of the greatest films ever made.

The *Faces of India* exhibition and programs are generously sponsored by Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. Additional support for programming is provided by the Indian Cultural Society of the Birmingham Museum of Art

General exhibition support is provided by the City of Birmingham and the Alabama State Council on the Arts, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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