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Indian Classical Dance: The Tradition of Heritage

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Poster Presentation P59

INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE: THE TRADITION OF HERITAGE

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Indian Classical Dance teaches Indian cultural traditions and passes down important aspects of Hindu philosophy from one generation to the next. Uma Vyjayanthimala Kallakuri, who bears the “Singarmani” title of distinction, teaches Indian Classical Dance to members of the Indian immigrant community here in Bloomington-Normal. Through participant-observation and collaboration with Dr. Kallakuri and her students, this poster displays how Uma teaches the hand gestures, eye movements, and body positions that dancers use to tell the myths, legends, and fables that communicate important moral lessons and Indian values. Through Sanskrit texts, Indian classical music, and sacred movements of devotion, Uma transmits Indian culture to Indians and non-Indians alike, through their participation as students and audience members.