



thesapaninstitute

The South Asian Performing Arts Network and Institute

The South Asian Performing Arts Network and Institute (“The SAPAN Institute” or “SAPAN”) is a D.C.-based, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating all genres of South Asian performing arts, including dance, music and theatre. More info at: www.sapanarts.org.

Mission and Vision Statement:

Our mission is to inspire collaboration and innovation in South Asian performing arts.

In line with this mission, SAPAN’s vision is to:

- Foster a community of talented artists across dance, music and theater;
- Share our talent and ideas through performances and productions; and
- Engage audiences to explore the diversity of South Asian culture.

Areas of Expertise:

Through our Performance Company, SAPAN offers expertise in the following areas:

- Productions: SAPAN brings ideas to life through small and large scale productions that explore thought-provoking concepts while creatively weaving together dance, music and theater.
- Performances: Our resident artists regularly showcase their talents at various public and private events.
- Instruction: We offer instruction in various styles of South Asian dance and music.

Awards:

- John Lipsky Playwriting Award for our production entitled “Living Beyond Bollywood” [2015]
- Tamasha NYC Arts Festival – Best Musical Variety Show for our production entitled “Forces” [2016]

Notable Productions and Performance History:

- **Journeys: A Series of South Asian Stories [2019, 2020]**
A SAPAN Original Production, JOURNEYS explores South Asian-American experiences through diverse styles of music, dance, and theater that draw from South Asian and American traditions. This show is an JOURNEYS of intricately crafted vignettes that were developed collectively by SAPAN resident artists to reflect their personal experiences as South Asian-Americans. The show initially debuted in June 2019, and was reprised at the Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival in February 2020.
- **SAPAN Presents: Ramita Ravi**
SAPAN hosted a contemporary dance workshop, led by Ramita Ravi, in Washington, DC.
- **Around the World Embassy Tour [2019]**
SAPAN Dance had the opportunity to entertain an audience with an interactive performance right outside of the Embassy of India in Washington DC during the Around the World Embassy Tour and Open House in May 2019.
- **HACSI Annual Fundraiser [2018]**
SAPAN had the opportunity to partner with HACSI, the Hindu American Community Services Inc, a nonprofit that has the mission to facilitate community, charitable, educational and relief services throughout the DMV. SAPAN was able to put on a full length collaboration showcase with our Dance, Music and Theater branches and was the featured performance at the HACSI annual fundraiser in December 2018.
- **H Street Festival [2018]**
The annual H Street Festival is one of the most anticipated and highly attended single day festivals in Washington DC, which features music, dance, fashion, heritage arts, poetry, and youth based performances from groups across the DMV. SAPAN Dance had the opportunity to perform a lively bhangra and Bollywood fusion medley at the festival in October 2018.
- **Six Degrees Singers Concert [2017, 2018]**
Our dancers had the opportunity to accompany the Six Degree Singers choir group in their annual concert in January 2017 and June 2018
- **SPRINGBOARD Performance Series [2018]**
SAPAN Dance performed as a part of Dance Loft's SPRINGBOARD performance series to bring together DC dance artists from a wide range of dance backgrounds. Our dancers put together new original Bollywood choreography for this performance in April 2018.
- **Fracture (Reprise) [2018]**
SAPAN performed a reprise of Fracture, at the 2018 Intersections Festival, hosted by the Atlas Performing Arts Theatre.

- **An Evening of Music with Pratham [2017]**
SAPAN Music had the opportunity to partner with Pratham DC Young Professionals to put on a full length musical showcase and raise money and awareness for Pratham. Pratham is a nonprofit that is striving to eradicate child illiteracy in India. SAPAN Music put on this sold out show at the Busboys & Poets on 14th St in DC in December 2017.
- **International Cultural Festival [2017]**
Sponsored by the Asian Pacific Catholic Network, this showcase of performance art pieces from around the world was a fundraiser for youth projects, disaster relief and community development. Our dancers had the opportunity of performing at this festival in October 2017.
- **Two of Us: A Showcase of Duets [2017]**
Hosted by Rachel Turner's Errant Movement group, this night of duets celebrated Valentine's Day. Our dancers had the opportunity to perform two dance duets as part of this event in February 2017.
- **FRACTURE [2017]**
A SAPAN Original Production, FRACTURE explored the themes of war and conflict. Through dance, music and theater, SAPAN depicted the emotions felt by two warring nations that in the end saw that their conflict was futile, yielding the overarching theme of: when you look deeper than the surface at two conflicting parties, are they more similar than they are different?
- **FORCES [2016]**
A SAPAN original production exploring the emotional range and two-face nature of the four elements: Earth, Wind, Fire and Water. Performed at Dance Place, this two-day sold-out show featured a cast of nearly 30 resident artists that collaborated across all three disciplines of dance, music and theatre.
- **FORCES (Reprise, Tamasha NYC Arts Festival) [2016]**
SAPAN was invited and performed its award-winning show at the Tamasha NYC Arts Festival.
- **Music on the Mall [2016]**
SAPAN participated in the DCCA Music on the Mall program, feature lunchtime performances by D.C. musicians on the National Mall.
- **Kennedy Center Millennium Stage [2016]**
SAPAN musicians showcased their skills on the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage as part of MetroPerforms!
- **National Cherry Blossom Festival [2009 - 2016]**
SAPAN performs near annually for hundreds of locals and visitors at the Jefferson Memorial Tidal Basin.
- **A Concert for HER (Hope. Empowerment. Recognition) [2016]**
SAPAN performed alongside the world's first and premier Hindi acapella group Penn Masala to raise funds for Talentnomics and the Pratham Foundation.

- **Pratham USA Gala [2016]**
SAPAN performed at the annual Pratham USA gala, raising money to fund the organization's efforts to fight child illiteracy in India.
- **Sacred Profane [2015 & 2016]**
A multi-company collaboration, under the executive direction of Erica Rebollar of Rebollar Dance, this production explored women from diverse cultural traditions through various genres of dance. The show included original choreography and participation by the SAPAN dancers.
- **Dance Place New Releases Choreographers Showcase [2015]**
SAPAN dancers were selected to perform at Dance Place's annual curated choreographer's showcase, featuring the best identified works by established and emerging choreographers in the Washington, D.C area.
- **SAPAN at the Style if Forward Fashion Show [2015]**
SAPAN dancers performed at an Indo-Parisian fashion installation hosted at the Manor Club in Washington, D.C.
- **SAPAN Theatre at the Indian Embassy [2015]**
SAPAN was invited to perform the play – "Here We Are!" – for a select audience at the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C.
- **SAPAN Comedy Night: Fundraiser [2015]**
SAPAN hosted a sold-out comedy night fundraiser, showcasing the comedic talents of local stand-up comics.
- **House of NAACH Competition and Charity Event [2015]**
SAPAN hosted and performed at this nationally renowned dance competition. All proceeds were donated to the Indian American Foundation's (AIF) Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative (MANSI).
- **Here We Are! [2015]**
SAPAN resident artists directed and performed this one-act play at the Natya Bharati 30th Anniversary Play Festival.
- **Arts for Kids: An Evening of Music and Theatre [2015]**
SAPAN collaborated with the Pratham DC Young Professionals Organization to present an evening of music and short plays at Busboys & Poets.

- **The Smithsonian Institution (“Smithsonian”) [2014 – 2015]**
 - **Living Beyond Bollywood [2014 & 2015]**
SAPAN’s “Living Beyond Bollywood” production brought to life the Indian American experience as captured in the Smithsonian’s historic exhibit entitled, *Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation*. Through a series of in-exhibit theatrical scenes created in collaboration with the exhibit’s curator, we explored the Indian American identity from early migration to contemporary culture.
 - **Smithsonian Wonder Starts Here [2014]**
SAPAN dancers performed at the launch of the Smithsonian’s Wonder Starts Here fundraising campaign.
 - **Smithsonian Folk Life Festival [2014]**
SAPAN musicians performed as part of the Busboys & Poets Potluck Poetry event.
 - **Smithsonian Congressional Night [2014]**
SAPAN performed for members of Congress and their families during this annual event hosted at the National Museum of the American Indian.
 - **Asia After Dark [2014]**
SAPAN performed at the Smithsonian Sackler Art Gallery for one of the most anticipated events of the year.
 - **Dance Workshops at the Smithsonian [2014]**
SAPAN kicked off Asian Pacific American Heritage Month through a series of dance workshops celebrating the historic opening of the Beyond Bollywood Exhibit in the Smithsonian’s Natural History Museum.

- **SAPAN Live: Music to Your Ears [2014]**
A music showcase performed in front of a sold-out crowd at Busboys & Poets, featuring SAPAN original compositions, covers, and mashups.

- **Joy of Motion Dance Project [2013]**
SAPAN was one of eleven groups selected to participate in this annual showcase of the best dance companies in the Washington, D.C. area.

- **Ek Kala: One Art, Many Rhythms [2013]**
Presented to a two-day sold-out audience, the SAPAN dancers presented a unique dance repertoire, celebrating modern pop rhythms, nostalgic Bollywood tunes, and the bhangra beats of DJ Rekha.

- **SAPAN Presents: A Doll’s House [2013]**
SAPAN performed a South Asian spin on a Henrik Ibsen classic, adapting the characters for a new audience and setting the play in 1970’s Toronto, Canada during one of the early South Asian diasporas.

- **Tapestry [2012]**
SAPAN musicians presented an evening length showcase at Bloombars, featuring original compositions exploring our classical and indie rock sides.

- **For the Love of Cricket [2012]**
Performed at the annual Artomatic festival, this one-act comedy was written, directed, and performed by SAPAN resident artists.
- **The Ekatva Oneness Tour [2012]**
SAPAN sponsored and performed in the Washington, D.C. leg of Manav Sadhna's Ekatva Oneness Tour – an inspiring show featuring 16 children from the slums of India who presented a 90-minute dance drama around Gandhi's ideals of strength, peace and oneness.
- **The Eleventh Face: Ravana's Untold Story [2011]**
SAPAN's first full length production telling the story of the ancient Hindu epic – The Ramayana – through the eyes of the infamous antagonist Ravana. A year in the making, the show featured an original script, musical underscores, and dance choreography, and premiered for a three-day sold-out audience.
- **Sangeet [2010]**
SAPAN's first music showcase, which presented original compositions fusing South Asian classical music with modern Jazz and Bollywood.
- **Naach [2010]**
SAPAN's first dance showcase, which presented original choreography of classical, folk, and modern South Asian dance styles.
- **The SAPAN Mela [2009]**
SAPAN hosted a community festival at the Navy Memorial to celebrate South Asian performing arts. The evening featured interactive dance and music demos by SAPAN resident artists, and performances by the SAPAN Performance Company.
- **Salsa and Samosas [2009]**
SAPAN collaborated with a local Salsa group for an evening of Indian and Latin performances.

Media:

See a collection of our performance media at www.sapanarts.com/portfolio.