

I make dances that knit together classical and folk Indian styles with street dance, Western contemporary dance, and Africanist aesthetics. I am interested in organic fusion - how things come together and break apart. I trace this across cultures, in search of new structures for honoring heritage and exploring individuality, while also recuperating truths of what I see as at the root of Hindu mythology. I do this through movement because I am investigating how to embody what we believe.

As an Indian Hindu woman living in the United States, how and who do I ask for permission to do this work? How do I locate agency inside myself? I often make dances with dancers trained in styles outside of the Indian Diaspora, and so much of my work as a choreographer is about finding links between culture, experience, and histories. My dances ask my dancers to expand in every direction and work with the forces moving through them. What they circulate back to me inspires the creative choices I make. The result is polyrhythmic, textured, athletic, and ever shifting.

My long term study and immersion in Bollywood dance has deeply shaped how I frame my process and these questions. And so has my experience sharing this work with Western audiences. The stereotypes I push up against inside of my work are often funneled back to me by the Western gaze receiving it. Being willing to continue to search for and locate my agency inside of this maze is my life's work.