

Kathak



Kathak is the traditional dance form of UTTAR PRADESH.

The word 'Kathak' has been derived from the word 'katha' which means a story.

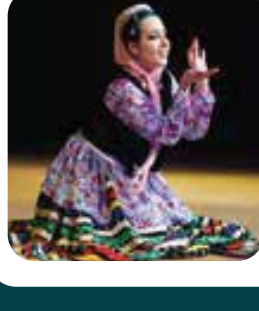
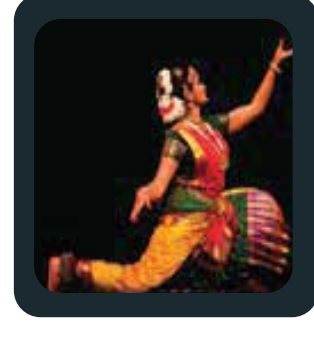
Kathakars or story tellers are people who narrate stories largely based on episodes from epics, with gestures and music.

EVOLUTION



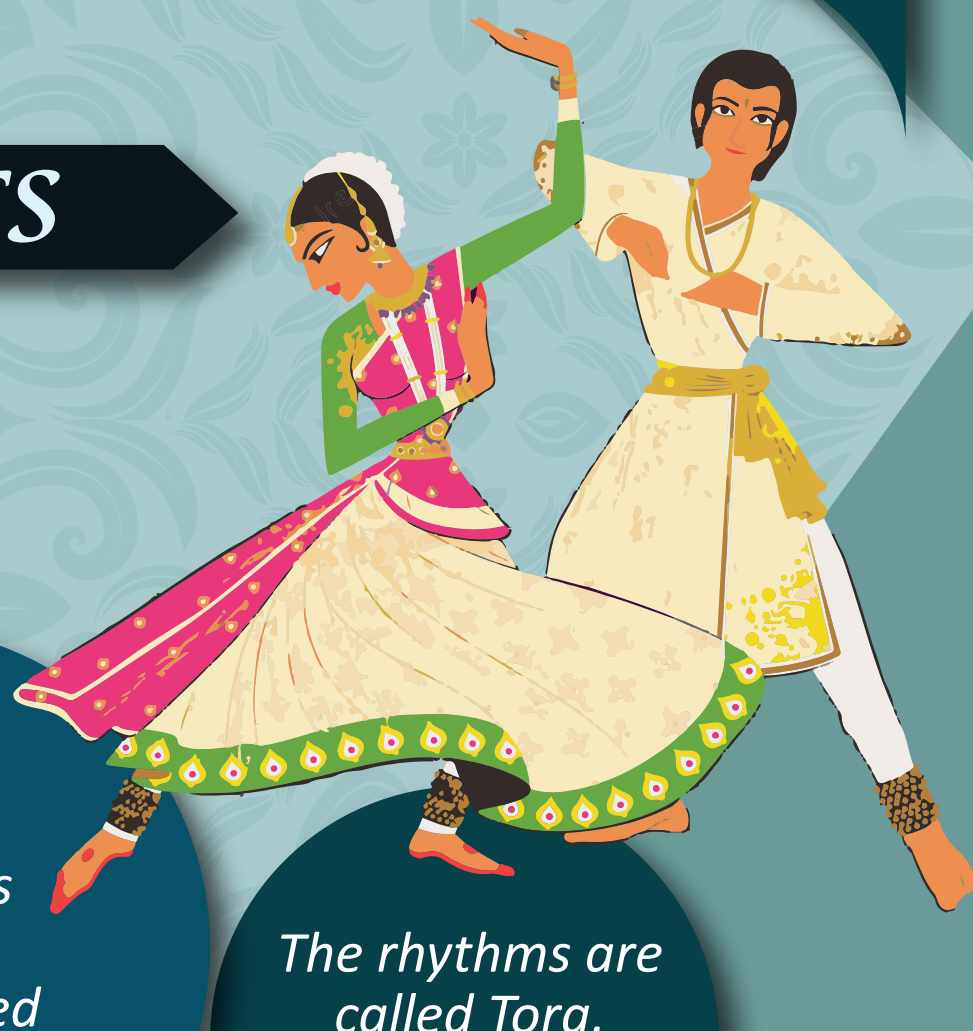
The VAISHNAVITE CULT and the BHAKTI MOVEMENT contributed to a whole new range of lyrics and musical forms.

During the mughal period the dance form transitioned from temple dance to court dance.



It started emulating persian costumes and styles of dancing.

ELEMENTS



Thaat constitutes soft and distinguished movements.

The rhythms are called Tora, Tukra and Parana.

Kramalaya is the last piece, in which complex and rapid footwork is performed.

Gat bhaav- Different mythological chapters are highlighted without music or chanting.

A competitive play between the dancer and tabla player is called Jugalbandi.

Pure rhythmic movement before the end is called Tarana.

In Padhant, complex bols are recited and demonstrated.

IMPORTANT FEATURES



Dhrupad music is played in kathak.



Tarana, Thumris and Ghazals were introduced by the Mughals.



Various gharanas that developed were:

LUCKNOW

Culminated under Nawab Wajid Ali Khan; more emphasis on expression and grace.



JAIPUR

Was started by Bhanuji; more importance on speed fluency and long rhythmic patterns.



BANARAS

Janakiprasad led its growth. A lot more floorwork is done and symmetry is important.



FAMOUS PROPONENTS



Birju Maharaj



Lachhu Maharaj



Sitara Devi



Damayanti Joshi