



BOLLYWOOD Workshop

with Dhrvin Naik



WHAT IS BOLLYWOOD DANCE?



The term **Bollywood** was created by combining two names, **Bombay (the city now called Mumbai) and Hollywood.**

Bollywood based in Mumbai (Bombay), is India's – and the world's - largest film industry in terms of the number of films produced.



In the strict sense the term "Bollywood" refers to the Hindi culture, art, and film industry from Bombay but is generally extended to mean the entire South Asian film culture.

WHAT IS BOLLYWOOD DANCE?

It is important to understand the relationship between theatre, music and dance in South Asia...

- Unlike the West, where the "musical" is considered to be just one of numerous genres, South Asians have a very difficult time conceiving of any theatrical or film endeavour that does not have music and dance.
- Films that are produced along the Western vein (*sans* music and dance) are consigned to the "art-film" category and generally meet with very limited commercial success.
- The unbroken tradition of linking theatre, music, and dance is traceable all the way back to the [Natya Shastra](#) (circa 2nd century BCE.) - Therefore, [Bollywood films](#) must have song and dance, so it is reasonable to look into the styles of these dance forms.



WHAT IS BOLLYWOOD DANCE?

Bollywood Dance style has a **fusion of dance style influences** including Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Bhangra, Arabic, Indian Folk, Belly-dancing, Disco and Modern, Jazz, Hip-hop and Western dance.

Choreography is inspired by these classical and modern influences as well as earlier Hindi filmi dances.

It is not unusual to see Western pop and pure classical dance numbers side by side in a Bollywood film.

However, Bollywood dance is always changing and adapting and dances with a greater Hip Hop influence is called **Bolly Hop**.



BOLLYWOOD DANCE STYLE

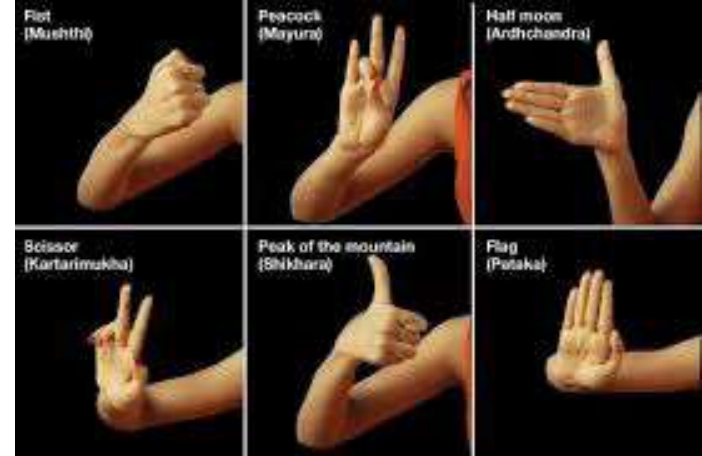


Today, Bollywood dancing is rising in popularity in the US, Canada and Europe.

- With the success of films such as the Oscar winning movie “**Slumdog Millionaire**”, Bollywood films and dance have taken the world by storm and have now come into the global spotlight.
- Be it their lavish sets, production value, or extravagant costumes, stars like **Madonna, Shakira & Britney Spears** have incorporated the Bollywood style of dance or music into their songs, videos and stage shows.

Bollywood dance movements and steps include a **significant amount of neck and head movements, as well as facial expressions, feet placements, and hand movements** (see diagram).

- Furthermore, **thumka** is the familiar hip movement that **Dhrvin Naik** refers to in his workshop.
- Facial expressions are also a key part of Bollywood dance because they assist in telling the story of the dance.



Bollywood Costumes

- Clothing and costume are an extremely important element of the Bollywood dance.
- To a very great extent, costumes will determine the **"feel" that the dance will have in the film.**
- With the right costume, one can do many things.
- If the film is a period piece, the proper costume goes a long way toward giving the feel of that period.
- If one is trying to make the dance scene dream-like or surrealistic, then obviously one goes for costumes that in no way relate to the clothing found in real life.
- Costumes can also be used to **reflect the latest fashion, thus reinforcing the topicality of a dance number.**



Proper costumes contribute to the overall "feel" of the dance



HINDI FILM INDUSTRY



Bollywood dancing developed in the Hindi film industry. Bollywood film's story is centered around lively music and dance where the movements are quick with high energy. The highlight of Bollywood movies are elaborate dance sequences and original soundtracks. Over the years Bollywood movies have developed their own signature style of song and dance, which combines the rich texture of India's many classical and folk dances, fused with elements of Jazz, Hip – Hop, Arabic and Latin Forms.

The dances in older Hindi movies represented dances of the common people and involved original choreography. Bollywood dances have evolved as a unique and energetic style and since are group dances.

The style of dance has also highly influenced international artists and appears in songs such as "Don't Phunk with My Heart", "Come & Get It", "Legendary Lovers", "Bounce" and "Never Give Up" as well as EDM hit "Lean On", "Biba", "Goosebump" (which is soundtrack of Kung Fu Yoga) and Eurovision-winning song "Toy".

While Hindi dance music forms part of the music of Bollywood, the wide-based genre songs became popular after the worldwide success of the song "Mundian To Bach Ke" which charted in various international music charts, and other famous dance songs such as "Kajra Re". By the late 2000s, Hindi dance music attained worldwide recognition following the success of the Oscar-winning song "Jai Ho". By the 2010s, due to the growing fan base of EDM, Hindi dance music began incorporating EDM, prompting the recognition of songs such as "Baby Doll". The style of music was also an influence for British singer M.I.A. and her album *Matangi*.

The international appeal of Bollywood dancing is something that has been many decades in the making. A few years ago it started to become chic in Europe, and today it is rising in popularity in the US, and Canada. Today, dance schools that teach this style may be found in most major cities such as Toronto where **Dhruv Nail, our workshop leader** teaches at Jadoo Entertainment.

TEN BEST BOLLYWOOD DANCE SCENES

“A Bollywood film just ain’t right until someone’s dancing. These are the greatest shape- throwing moments in Hindi movie history. We have picked some of the most memorable and jaw-dropping dance scenes from Bollywood movies old and new. So take a look, start copying these routines in the mirror, and soon you too might be able to dance like Shah Rukh Khan on top of a moving train (although we’d prefer it if you didn’t try that). Cue music!

The Ten Best Bollywood Dance Scenes by Anil Sinanan and Ashanti Omkar
Time Out Film posted: August 20, 2019

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Scene with Shah Rukh Khan



Scene from "Pyar Ke Side Effects"



THE EVOLUTION OF BOLLYWOOD

The style of dancing in earlier Bollywood films was based on Indian Classical Dance or Folk Dances from various parts of India. These dances included the classical art forms of Kathak and Bharata Natyam.

In the late **1950's & 60's** group dances began to evolve in Bollywood films and choreographers started managing larger groups of dancers, with influences from folk dances.

Then came the era of color films, and by then Indian Cinema was blessed with great dancers like Geetanjali, Sandhya, Helen & Mahipal who with their outstanding energy and performance mesmerized the audiences and took dance to the next level. There was no change in the style of dance, as choreographers still followed the classical and semi classical styles of dance.

Bollywood Dance began to change in the **1970s**. The Cabaret style of dance became more mainstream and was implemented in many movies. Later on Cabaret was replaced by Disco, which was a worldwide phenomenon at the time.

After experimenting with Classical, Semi Classical, Folk, Cabaret and Disco styles of dance, came an era which introduced Bollywood Free Style of dancing which was well represented by dancers like Govinda who developed their own signature style of dance.

Since the **1980's** and the inception of MTV , Bollywood dancing has been heavily influenced by Western dance styles, and incorporates elements from the West. In many cases, the musical numbers are released as separate music videos, and the soundtracks are released prior to the film, in order to further advertise the upcoming feature films. In modern Bollywood films, the musical numbers are often based on the Hip-Hop style of dance as well as other variations of Hip-Hop dance.

In the **2020s**, Bollywood Dance is still influenced by Western culture, perhaps even more so today than when it began. Elements include the use of frequent costume and location changes during dances, as well as the use of larger dance troupes. And the movements have become more bold and extroverted to capture the audience's attention. The Evolution of Bollywood Dance is a process that is entirely Indian and yet cross-cultural at the same time.

Choreographers

Choreography is not a field that gives a lot of fame. It is a demanding job, and one that is largely out of the public eye. But one must never forget that the actors and actresses do not just get in front of the camera and dance spontaneously. Someone has to create the dance number.

The Indian film industry has been graced with many great talents in the past. Some notables were, B. Sohanlal ("*Sahib Bibi aur Ghulam*", "*Jewel Thief*", "*Chaudhvin ka Chand*"), Lachhu Maharaj ("*Mahal*", "*Pakeezah*", "*Moghul-e-Azam*"), Chiman Seth ("*Mother India*"), Krishna Kumar ("*Awaara*", "*Madosh*", "*Andaaz*") and a host of others.

Today there are a number of choreographers who continue this tradition. Some who come to mind are Shiamak Davar ("*Taal*", "*Bunty aur Bubli*", "*Dil to Paagal Hai*"), Saroj Khan ("*Baazigar*", "*Soldier*", "*Veer Zara*"), Ahmed Khan ("*Rangeela*", "*Pardes*", "*Mere Yaar ki Shadi Hai*"), Raju Khan ("*Lagaan*", "*Krrish*"), Vaibhavi Merchant ("*Dhoom*", "*Swadesh*", "*Rang de Basanti*"), Remo ("*Jo Bole So Nihal*", "*Pyar ke Side Effects*", "*Waqt*"), or Farah Khan ("*Kabhi Khush Kabhi Gham*", "*Monsoon Wedding*", "*Dil Chahta Hai*").

Assignment:

Research an Indian dance choreographer "from the past" and a recognized current Bollywood choreographer and compare how they approached creating their choreography for a dance. Find an example of each dance number (video) and present the comparisons to the class or in a project to hand in for assessment.

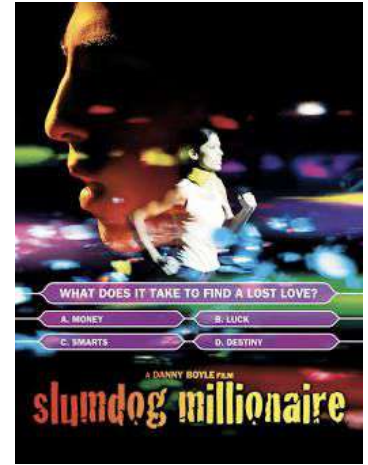
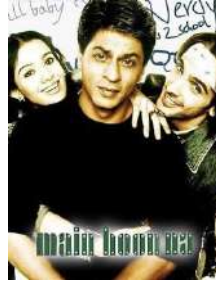
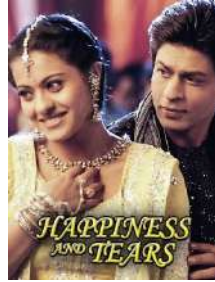


Farah Khan, choreographer for "Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai", "Dil Se", "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Dil Chahta Hai", "Asoka", and "Monsoon Wedding"

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Bollywood Dance

(a) Select a song or dance number from a Bollywood film. Some suggestions are:



(b) Learn a Bollywood dance recognizing that this dance style, like others, are always creating new movements that blend a variety of styles, use a high level of athleticism, increasingly advanced tricks, and incorporate all the Elements of Dance: Time, Shape, Space, Energy and Relationship and Principles of Composition.

2. Choose an influential Bollywood dancer or choreographer from the previous slides, or from your teacher's suggestion. Research the following:

1. Their birthplace and where they grew up.
2. When and where they started to dance.
3. Their dance experience, challenges and start professionally.
4. Their Bollywood style and unique contributions to the artform of dance.
5. Dances they have choreographed; videos, concerts, or movies they have made.
6. Awards they have earned or other special accomplishments they have made in their career.
7. A photo of the choreographer.



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DHRUV NAIK, our BOLLYWOOD WORKSHOP LEADER

Dhruv Naik is a Toronto-based, Bollywood fusion dancer who has been dancing for 15 years. He attended Ryerson University, where he was the lead Bollywood choreographer and co-captain of the University's dance team, SAA Ryerson for three years. For the past four years, Dhruv has been heavily involved with Aluminati, an all-star alumni Bollywood fusion team, and considers them his international dance family. In 2009, Dhruv and his brother co-founded a Bollywood fusion dance company called Jadoo Entertainment, which started out performing at cultural festivals and weddings. As Jadoo grew, it began offering dance classes all across the Greater Toronto Area, and has most recently found success with its critically-acclaimed Bollywood Dance Musical Production, 'Devdas', which sold out four times over in the past year with Dhruv as one of their principal choreographers and creative directors. Dhruv's dance experience centers around Bollywood, hip hop, jazz, and Indian classical, but his aim has always been to expand his skill set to ensure he is able to explore the realm of dance in its entirety. Dhruv was happy to be able to share his unique passion for dance when he was invited to be a master instructor at the Desi Dance Convention 2018, in Austin, TX.

