Communicating ideas of science through the language of Classical Indian Dance

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Chitrakaleka Dance Company

- Artistic Director: Chitrakaleka Bolar

- “startling and entrancing, powerful and harmonious, an extraordinary and yet natural phenomenon.”

  [The Guardian]
Chitrakara Dance Company

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[The Guardian]
Bharatanatyam

BHAv (expression) + 
RAga (music) + 
TAla (rhythm) + 
NATYAM (dance)
Natyasastra
-the science of dance
Dance & Hinduism
-a science of living
Science & Hinduism
Primo Levi’s Epic
The Periodic Table

“the atom in question, is in charge of my writing, in a giant miniscule game which nobody has yet described.”
Levi’s Carbon Cycle

‘This story of C jumped out at me because it was given as a story not as science—as a story to be told in any form—not as science equations.’
Graphical Representations
The carbon cycle on Earth

Air

Volcanism
Weathering erosion
Burning, decay
Uptake

Land
Limestone, oil, gas, coal
Burial, fossilization

Ocean
Making shells
Evaporation
Photosynthesis
Respiration

The carbon cycle on Earth
Dance’s Carbon Cycle - a portrait
Levi’s Photosynthesis

“The atom we are speaking of, accompanied by its two satellites which maintained it in gaseous state, ... had the good fortune to brush against a leaf, penetrate it, and be nailed there by a ray of the sun.”
Dance’s Photosynthesis

‘The action of photosynthesis-to me is the activity of the bodies and creating a different dynamic and shape inside. It is not just flat-the sun beating down on leaves and photosynthesis happening....The exciting things happen inside of the plant to make photosynthesis happen.’
Dance Science
Living Dance

Living Science
With grateful thanks to

[Image of a person in traditional clothing]

[RSC logo]

[University of Birmingham logo]