

DIFFERENT FORM OF NEPALI DANCE

- **Maruni dance**-It is one of the oldest and most popular dances of the Nepalese. Though this dance is associated with the festival of Tihar (Hindi tyohar) or Diwali, it is now performed even on occasions like marriages. Tihar is celebrated to mark the return of Lord Rama from exile. During this festival Maruni dancers dressed in colourful costumes, and resplendent with ornaments and nose-rings called dungis, go calling from house to house. The dancers are usually accompanied by a clown called Dhatu Waray. Sometimes Maruni dances are performed to the accompaniment of a nine-instrument orchestra called Naumati Baja. It is one of the most loved dances in which a male dancer, himself as a woman disguising and wearing long frock like dress, takes the charge of dancing while other male members take the charge of song and music. A dhatuware (jester) accompanies the team.

Damphu is traditional Tamang drum. In tune with Tungna, accompanying string musical instrument, Tamangs perform their beloved Tamang Sello, their most original dance. Dampu Saanjh is mainly nomenclature to denote that the Evening (Saanjh) with Damphu (the Tamangs traditional drum), or in other words the evening of merriment and joy.

Tamang Selo, - basically performed by the Tamangs beating a damphu (a small drum) - either solo or in a group - is also known as damphu-natch. The Tamangs call it tam-syaba. Today, Tamang-selo has become the strongest pillar of the Nepali culture.

Juhari (gambling) or dohori (dual) dance is performed in group during festivals, fairs or in community house

Chutki belongs to the Chhetris, Bahuns, Gurungs and Magars. The Chhetris and Bahuns perform Chutki to the rhythmic beats of Khaijadi (a kind of dampu like drum) while the Gurungs and Magars use madal (a traditional drum). It is a form of dance with full of speed and movement of body.

Dhan nach is performed by the Limbus. Young boys and girls hold each other, sway to and fro and swing their feet in the beat of Chyabrung (a traditional drum).

Karua dance is performed by the Magars and Tamangs in groups - either by men and women or women only.

Balan, especially performed by the Chhetris and Bahuns during religious ceremonies, mainly centers on different "Lilas" (acts) of different gods.

Bethi dance is performed during transplanting time with panche baja (a traditional band consisting of five instruments).

Sorathi, like maruni, is also a madalay-nach (dance with a traditional drum) performed once in a year especially in the rodighar (community house for the young ones).

Sakela-Sili, a dance performed by Rais during their festival sakela, is perhaps the longest group dance which sometimes continues for days together.

Lakhe, is a dance performed by the Newars wearing masks during festivals.

Matrikastam, is another form of mask dance performed by Newars during dashai festival.

Jungwa, is a ceremonial dance of the Tamangs, is performed by their priest.

Mhendomaya, a Tamang dance, is also similar to Kaura and Cholmu dances where men and women dance together forming two separate rows.

Sangini, is a sophisticated dance performed by Chhetris and Bahuns during teej (a festival of woman), festival either holding plates of Kansha (branze) or diyo (ceremonial lamp) or carrying Kalash (vessel) on the head. It is a slow dance and depends entirely on movement of hand and feet.

Jhyaware, is a popular and extensively performed dance in the Nepali community.

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Deura, is a dance performed by Damai community in the tune of naumati baja (a traditional band consisting of nine instruments).

Khukuri nach (dance) is performed by the Gorkha soldiers taking khukuri in their hands. This dance depicts their valour and pride

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