

# Uday Shankar performance programs and ephemera

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circa 1930s-1950s



## Title Statement

Uday Shankar performance programs and ephemera  
Guide to Uday Shankar performance programs and ephemera C0444

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0444

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/737

**Unit Date**

circa 1930s-1950s

**box**

1 (folder)

**Language**

English .

**Abstract**

A collection of performance programs and ephemera created and collected by Indian dancer and choreographer Uday Shankar.

**Creator**

Shankar, Uday, 1900-1977

**Extent**

.01 Linear Feet 1 folder

**Physical Location**

R 71, C 1, S 7

**Repository**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

There are no access restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

**Acquisition Information**

Donated by William McFarlane.

**Processing Information**

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**Preferred Citation**

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## Biographical Information

Uday Shankar Chowdhury (known professionally as Uday Shankar) was born in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India on December 8, 1900, the eldest of five sons, including brother Ravi Shankar, a sitarist and composer. Shankar is best known for his global popularization of classical Indian dance through his fusion of the elements with European dance and theatrical styles. His career as a dancer and choreographer began in London in 1923 as the partner of Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova, for whom he choreographed two ballets inspired by classical Indian dance, "Hindu Wedding" and "Radha-Krishna", the second of which was a duet performed by Pavlova and Shankar. After touring throughout Europe, Shankar returned to India in 1929 where he formed his own dance company known as "Uday Shankar and his Hindu Ballet" and in January 1933 played his first performance in the United States in New York City. Shankar and his troupe of dancers and musicians toured globally, including regular performances in cities throughout the United States, for the next 30 years. He passed away on September 26, 1977 at the age of 76.

## Scope and Content

A collection of performance programs, photographs, newspaper clippings, and ephemera created and collected by Indian dancer and choreographer Uday Shankar, most related to performances by "Uday Shankar and His Hindu Ballet." Other items include newspaper clippings about Uday's brother, sitar player Ravi Shankar, an advertisement for The Isle of Paradise, a 1932 documentary film about Bali, a poster advertisement for Ragini Devi, and promotional programs for Ruth St. Denis with Ted Shawn and the Denishawn Dancers.

## Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other dance collections, including the Jacob's Pillow dance photograph collection.

## Keywords

Dance

Ballet

Dance -- United States

Performing arts

Indian dance

Shawn, Ted, 1891-1972

St. Denis, Ruth, 1880-1968

## Bibliography

Kisselgoff, Anna. 1977. "Uday Shankar, Indian Dancer, Dies; Popularized Hindu Works in West." *The New York Times*, September 27, 1977, sec. Archives. <https://www.nytimes.com/1977/09/27/archives/uday-shankar-indian-dancer-dies-popularized-hindu-works-in-west.html>.

"Uday Shankar." 2024. In Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Uday\\_Shankar&oldid=1252271858](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Uday_Shankar&oldid=1252271858).

"———." n.d. *The Open University: Making Britain*. Accessed February 19, 2025. <https://www5.open.ac.uk/research-projects/making-britain/content/uday-shankar>.

## Arrangement

This is a single folder collection.