

October 14-20, 2010

# You asked for it Bhangra dancing

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Date: August 19, 2010 5:04 PM To: inyc@timeoutny.com Subject: I asked for it

Where can I go to dance to Punjabi bhangra music?

Kate A.

## **Basement Bhangra**

At this bump-and-grind party, the music is "bhangra mixed with a bit of hip-hop and dance—it's a fluid mix of styles," according to founder DJ Rekha. Arrive early (7–8pm) for free frozen mojitos or at 9pm for a dance lesson. S.O.B.'s, 204 Varick St at Houston St (212-243-4940, djrekha.com). Nov 4 at 7pm; \$16, advance \$10.

#### Masala Bhangra

Even beginners and walk-ins will appreciate the flavor of this full-blown workout class. Creator Sarina Jain has a new routine for every session and says the dancing style is simple: "Pretend you're at an Indian wedding and get your groove on," she says. An upcoming treat: Choreographer Nakul Dev Mahajan of TV's So You Think You Can Dance will co-instruct on November 17 (\$30). The Ailey Extension, 405 W 55th St at Ninth Ave (212-405-9500, masaladance.com). Mon, Sat 8 pm; \$15.

## **Bollywood Axion**

"The classes offer a combination of traditional and modern forms of dance," says Pooja Narang, founder of the Indian dance school. Expect professionals in their twenties and thirties and students dancing to diverse beats, "from bhangra songs with a hip-hop beat to Bollywood songs with Latin flavor," says Narang, 257 W 39th St between Seventh and Eighth Aves (646-373-2555, bollywoodaxion.com). Schedule varies; register now for season beginning Dec 6; 10 hours \$160, 20 hours \$260.

#### **Desilicious**

This club scene for young, gay South Asians brings in a broad range of dancers who gyrate their hips to a mix of bhangra, Bollywood, pop and '80s music. "We often have drag performers who arrive in full Bollywood regalia including sequined saris, bindis and jewels," says cofounder Atif Toor. Touch, 240 W 52nd St between Seventh and Eighth Aves (212-713-5111, sholayevents. com). Oct 23 at 10pm; \$20, before 11:30pm \$10.

# **NYC Bhangra**

Members of this traditional dance troupe are known for performances of bhangra and giddha folk dances at key events such as the India Independence Day Parade. The organization also offers beginner classes for ordinary folks, which are as intense as any other hour of aerobics—bring gym clothes, not saris. 500 Eighth Ave between 35th and 36th Sts (212-372-8001, nycbhangra.com). Wed 20 7-9pm; \$85.—Sandra Plasse