



Jugnu

JUGNU BHANGRA
OVER
40
YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
GRAVESEND

Over four generations, Jugnu Bhangra Group has astonished audiences across the world with their spectacular and exciting performances. The group was formed in 1970 and currently has 80 members and musicians aged from 5 to 55. The name 'Jugnu' means a firefly. This name was chosen to symbolise the group's ability to shine at night.



BHANGRA, BHANGRA, BHANGRA!!!

Welcome from Jugnu's President



Dr Surjit Singh Randhawa
President and Founder

When I first came to Gravesend in the sixties, everything was strange and we had to work hard to maintain our religious and cultural identity.

I formed Jugnu Bhangra Group with six friends in 1970 and am proud that the group has grown from strength to strength and has demonstrated that we have looked after and enhanced our traditions in the UK.

Jugnu are, by far, the most established bhangra group this country has produced. Over the past four decades, many dancers have come and gone, and some go on to create their own groups – but Jugnu is as strong as ever!

The beautiful thing about Jugnu has always been that we have been a family. As with any family, it is natural that some of our youngsters will leave and move on – I am very happy for them.



I have danced bhangra since my school days in Punjab. When we started in Gravesend we only had six members, so I had to learn to play the dhol. However, three months later we entered the 1970 India World Dance Championship and won!

Soon after, Shaminder Bedi MBE joined us as a dhol player and we progressively built our local, national and international reputation. Jugnu is named after a fire-fly – perhaps because we shine at night!



The reason for Jugnu's success, aside from the dedication of the dancers, is that we stick to tradition. Bhangra dance comprises a series of harvest actions enhanced by athletic moves, driven by the rhythm provided by our singers and expert drummers. We stick to traditions because that is what people enjoy and expect from us.



We've won many trophies and awards and toured all over the world. Jugnu have even taught bhangra and gidha to Europe's only professional international folk dance company, based in Amsterdam. They became so good that they've performed bhangra and gidha in India.



Jugnu is now made up of six teams of dancers with over 100 members. We have our own purpose-built dance studio and our own minibus. I'm positive that Jugnu will see many generations continue its good name and excite its audiences.



Dr. Surjit Singh Randhawa
President and Founder

OVER 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Welcome from Jugnu's Chairman

It is a great honour to have been the Chairman of Jugnu Bhangra Group for the last few years. I have been involved with Jugnu since the 1970's, when I invited them to perform at my University in London. Since those days, Jugnu has gone from strength to strength, continuously bringing in new talent as older members move on. Jugnu is also more than just the current performers – it is a family with members ranging from those who founded the group in 1970 to those who have only just joined the group. The family has grown from the few men who started in 1970 to the hundreds who have graduated through the group. Many have gone on to various careers in music and other art forms, inspired and motivated by their experiences with Jugnu.

In recent years, the group has been enriched with the development of the girls' and women's classes. Members include young and old, male and female, Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims and Christians, and those with disabilities. The group has enhanced its facilities including the superb, well-equipped Studio and the colourful Minibus which travels up and down the country every week, as well as taking the group abroad. Jugnu also continues to enhance its international reputation, representing the UK and India at international festivals every year. Several festivals invite us every year and we have to be selective to fit the tours into busy schedules.

All this has been achieved through the magnificent efforts of all members, young and old, but there are some individuals who provide the inspiration and motivation behind the success. In particular, our long-standing Dance Master and Choreographer, Surinder Singh Dhinsa (Shinda) has to be singled out for his complete dedication and commitment to the group. He has provided the artistic lead and the discipline needed to help new talent to flourish. Others who have also played key roles in recent years are Keith Wyncoll, organising the overseas tours every year; Rifet Karim and Balwinder Ranu leading the girls group (nicknamed "Jugni"); Amrik Singh Kalsi, our tireless singer; Amarjit Singh Kalsi, who provides a key link with local businesses and also makes sure that our floats in the annual Vaisakhi procession are a sight worth seeing for everyone, and Inderjit Singh Sandhu who has helped to find new opportunities for the group. Taking on new responsibilities in the last few years have been the next generation to join the Management Committee – Jaspal Bhanot, Deepak Drubhra, Ricky Dhinsa, Shampy Kainth, Kam Kooner, Jag Dhami and Amar Drubhra. They all played a significant role in building our new links with the BBC, with Jugnu featuring in three programmes in the last year.

I also want to pay tribute to Jugnu's lifelong inspirations, particularly our Founder and President, Dr Surjit Singh Randhawa, and Shaminder Singh Bedi, MBE, previous Chairman and still playing a key role. Both of them are always there to provide help and guidance whenever it is needed.

Finally, the group succeeds because of the support of parents and families of members. Parents of the younger members are always supportive and place huge trust in the group when allowing their children to come to practice and to travel for performances. Families of older members show much support and patience when the group members are away from home so often. This is all greatly appreciated and I hope that such support will continue for many years to come.

Jagdev Singh Virdee

Honours

- 1970 Group founded by Dr Randhawa
- 1970 India World Dance Championship (1st)
- 1971 Southall IWA National Dance Championship (3rd)
- 1974 Royal Albert Hall - Asian Youth Festival
- 1975 Royal Albert Hall - Asian Youth Festival
- 1976 Royal Albert Hall - Asian Youth Festival
- 1977 Royal Festival Halls - Arts and Culture Festival
- 1978 Birmingham - National Bhangra Competition (3rd)
- 1979 Glasgow - National Bhangra Competition (1st)
- 1980 Southall - National Bhangra Competition (1st)
- 1981 Canada Tour
- 1982 Wolverhampton - National Bngra Competition (2nd)
- 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games
- 1988 Llangollen, Wales - International Eisteddfod Festival (7th)
- 1989 Holland - Delft International Festival
- 1990 Birmingham - National Bhangra Competition (1st)
- 1990 UK Disco Dance Competition (1st)
- 1990 Doe Dance Festival, Nunspeet, Holland, with Gabhru Punjab De from Birmingham
- 1990 Jugnu presents... Kuldip Manak and Surinder Shinda in concert @ Woodville Hall, Gravesend
- 1991 Jugnu presents... Kuldip Manak in concert @ Woodville Hall, Gravesend
- 1991 Jugnu perform on the BBC1 show "The 815 from Manchester"
- 1992 Istanbul, Turkey - Arts Festival
- 1992 Jugnu perform on the ITV show "Whats my Line"
- 1993 Toronto, Canada - Jugnu hold bhangra workshops
- 1993 Jugnu perform on the BBC show "Network East"
- 1993 Llangollen, Wales - International Eisteddfod Festival (3rd)
- 1993 Jugnu perform in Channel 4 film "Bhaji on the Beach"
- 1994 Jerash International Festival - Jordan
- 1994 Ohio, USA - Arts Culutal Diversity Conference
- 1994 Jugnu present... Apna Sangeet Vaisakhi Mela in Gravesend
- 1995 Jordan - Jerash Festival with Gabhru Punjab De from Birmingham
- 1995 Jugnu present... Apna Sangeet at Silver Jubilee Presentation Celebrations
- 1995 Amsterdam, Holland - Bhangra and Giddha workshops
- 1996 International Movie Awards with Bally Sagoo
- 1996 Yalova Festival, Turkey with Gabru Punjab De from Birmingham
- 1997 Workshops for International Dans Theatre Company, Amsterdam, Holland - "Mother India" show
- 1997 Jugnu present... Gurdas Mann @ Birmingham NEC
- 1997 Jugnu present... Hans Raj Hans, Manmohan Waris, Kuldip Manak and Surinder Shinda
- 1998 Doe Dans Festival, Nunspeet, Holland
- 1998 Founders tour of Punjab, India
- 1998 World Cup Final, Paris, France
- 1998 Düsseldorf, Germany - with Gabhru Punjab De
- 1999 International Festival, Rotterdam, Holland
- 1999 Jugnu dholis take part in setting a world record for the most dholis playing together in "Dhol Mehl 300"
- 2000 European Football Championship, Rotterdam, Holland
- 2000 International Festival, Calais, France -
- 2001 Grand opening of The Studio
- 2001 Jugnu present... Gurdas Mann @ Woodville Hall, Gravesend
- 2001 Channel 4 show "The Big Breakfast"
- 2001 Shrewsbury Folk Festival, UK
- 2001 Dublin, Ireland
- 2002 International Festival, Calais, France
- 2002 Jugnu present... Jagjit Singh @ Woodville Hall, Gravesend
- 2002 Jugnu perform in Tigerstyle video for "Mele Vich Vajda Dhol"
- 2003 International Festival, Calais, France
- 2003 International Eisteddfod Festival, Llangollen, Wales with BBK Dav College for Women, Amritsar, India
- 2003 Tour of Punjab, India with BBK Dav College for Women, Amritsar and Usifo Jalloh, Sierra Leone

FREE Dhol & Bhangra Classes

Dhol Classes: Sunday 5.30PM - 6.30PM

Bhangra Classes Thursday: Team D - 6.30PM to 7.15PM / Team C - 7.15PM to 8.00PM / Team B - 8.00PM to 9.00PM

Jugni Classes Wednesday: Beginners - 6.30PM to 7.15PM / Seniors - 7.15PM to 8.00PM

Honours Cont'd...

2005	Calais, France - International Festival with BBK Dav College, Amritsar
2005	International Festival, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria
2006	International Festival, Calais, France
2006	Jugnu's Shamminder Bedi awarded MBE
2006	Jugnu perform with Harbhajan Mann @ India House, Vaisakhi 2006
2006	Nunta Zamfira Festival, Bristrita, Transylvania, Romania
2006	Jugnu receive Kent Volunteers Award for contribution to the community
2006	Jugni - Women's Bhangra formed
2007	Jugnu perform with Gurdas Mann @ India House, London for Vaisakhi
2007	Jugnu perform at Tour de France in Gravesend
2007	Summerfest International Festival, Szazhalombatta, Hungary
2008	Jugnu present a Vaisakhi celebration evening at Woodville Halls
2008	FolkFaro International Festival, Portugal
2009	Cork, Ireland - Damhsa International Festival
2009	Jugnu present indoor mela at Woodville Halls
2010	Jugnu help brake two Guinness World Records in Birmingham
2010	Performed two childrens programs for the BBC

Contacting Jugnu Bhangra Group

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