

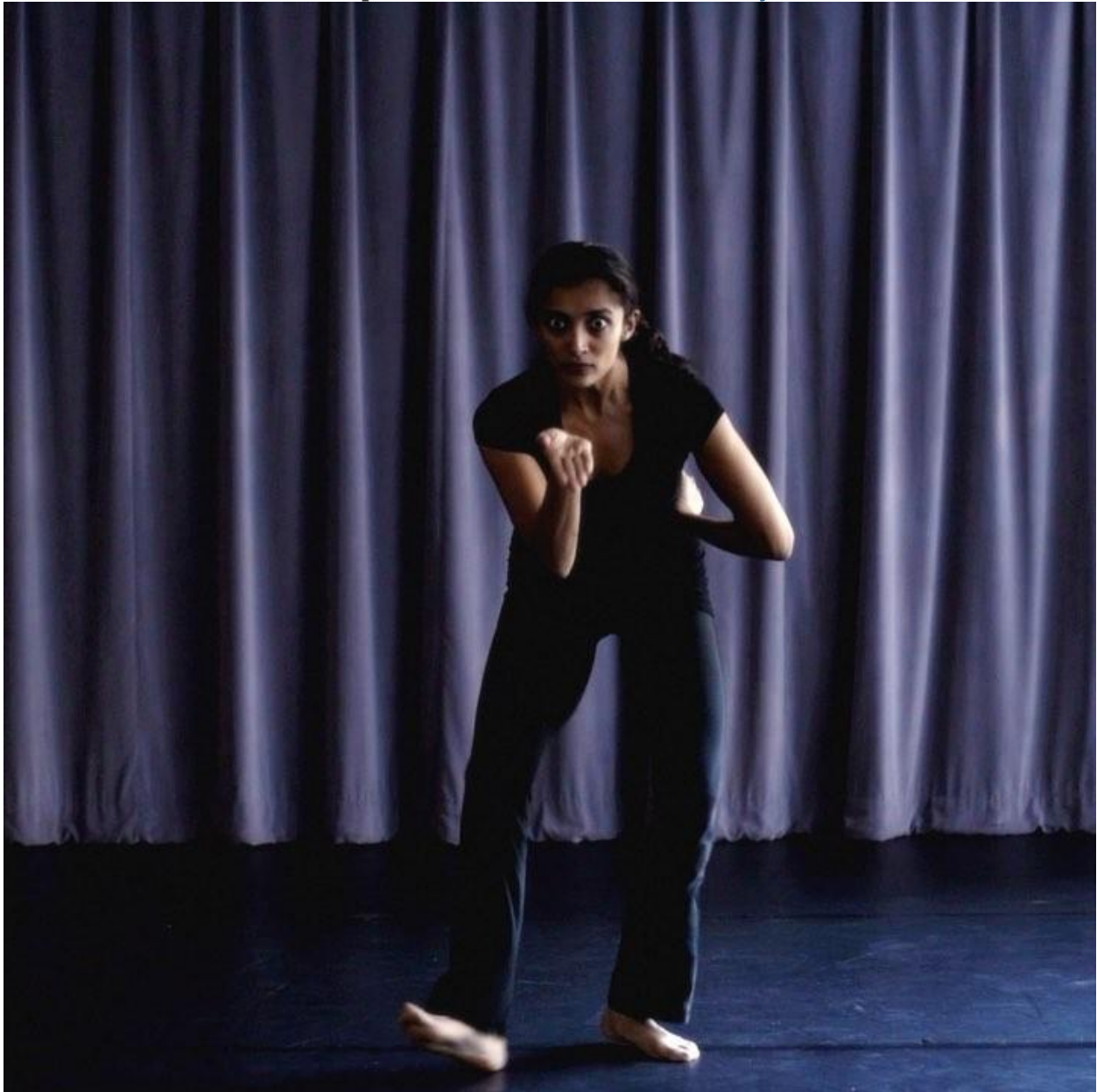
#SPEAKINGINDANCE

Not Your Usual Bharatanatyam

Preeti Vasudevan tells stories of contemporary life, not of gods and goddesses.

Nov. 1, 2017

#SpeakingInDance is a weekly visual exploration of dance on Instagram. Watch the video from our most recent post below, and follow us at [@nytimes](https://www.instagram.com/nytimes).



The dancer and choreographer Preeti Vasudevan is paring down in her new autobiographical solo, "Stories by Hand," at [@nylivearts](#) this week. She's trained in the Indian classical dance form of [#Bharatanatyam](#), but she won't be wearing any ornate silks or bells. "When you see it like this you see the body," [@vasudevan.preeti](#) said. "You see the breathing." In her solo, which unfolds in 3 sections, she dances and talks, telling personal stories about contemporary life — not about gods and goddesses. "It's like if I need to just be me and I want you to see this dance as something very approachable, then I need to have fun first and not make it educational for you," Preeti said. In other words, it's not your usual evening of Bharatanatyam. "It's not that I'm rebelling," she told the [@nytimes](#) writer [@giadk](#). "It's more like I just want to play. I'm trying not to make it precious." [@sbrackbill](#) made this video for [#SpeakingInDance](#), our weekly series exploring the world of [#dance](#).