



CASTING NOTICE

South Asian Dancers

Minnesota Opera is seeking to cast 6 South Asian dancers for the world premiere of *The Many Deaths of Laila Starr* to be performed at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. Engagement length spans September 28th, 2026, through November 8th, 2026. Auditions will take place March 7th & 8th, 2026.

As a part of the 2026-2027 season, *The Many Deaths of Laila Starr* will be the next installment of our New Works Initiative. The opera is written by composer Kamala Sankaram and librettist Minita Gandhi. Based on the celebrated graphic novel by Ram V. (Ramnarayan Venkatesan), the opera is set in Mumbai and will explore the fine line between living and dying through the lens of magical realism and eastern philosophy. The production will feature Indian Fusion dancing as Kathak elements will meet street style dance.

Role Description

6 Contemporary Modern dancers of South Asian heritage between the ages of 18 and 40. All body types are welcome. Classical and Aerial training is preferred but not required.

Production Schedule

Please click the following link to view the preliminary Rehearsal & Performance Schedule for *The Many Deaths of Laila Starr*: <https://callboard.mnopera.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/LAILA-Dancer-Schedule-V2.pdf>

Measurements & costume fittings will be scheduled prior to the start of rehearsal. Rehearsals begin September 28th 2026. Performers **must** be available for all calls listed from October 17 through November 8. There is limited flexibility in the rehearsal schedule prior to October 17, and the dancers may be called to rehearse on different but mutually agreeable dates and times.

Compensation: \$900 /week

Compensation is based on the time commitment for the role in this production.

Audition:

Auditions will be conducted Rohit Gijare, choreographer. Auditions will be video recorded for the choreographer's use in casting, but there will be no public usage of video.

- For the initial application, performers will be asked to submit a dance reel or video highlighting their skills.
- Audition: By appointment Saturday March 7th and Sunday March 8th, 10:30a-5:30p followed by callbacks. Auditions will take place at the Minnesota Opera Center 620 N 1st Street, Minneapolis, 55401.)
- The audition will consist of several short dance combinations. There will be no warm-up given as part of the audition. Space and time to warm up will be provided before the audition. No preparation required.

To Apply

Please apply on MNOP's website at <https://callboard.mnopera.org/laila-dancer/>

Deadline to submit all materials: 5:00pm CDT on Monday, March 2nd.

Questions may be directed to Luci Burdick, Production Stage Manager, lburdick@mnopera.org or (612) 342-0233.