



Armenian Folk Dance: A Celebration of Life

**Saturday 3 May 4-6pm Mary Eccles Hyde Room,
Pembroke College**

In this workshop Shakeh Major Tchilingirian, an acclaimed solo dance artist and choreographer from London, will make a presentation on Armenian Folk dance, its ethnographic roots, and symbolism and will discuss the variations throughout the historic homeland and Diaspora. She will then demonstrate some of the dances, inviting the participants to join her in simple but enriching symbolic folk dancing in a circle and having fun exploring some dances. *No previous experience of dance is necessary.*

Shakeh Major Tchilingirian is a British-Armenian performing artist based in London. Her unique presentation and interpretation highlight the power and spirituality of Armenian folk dances. Shakeh turns her dances into intricate 'narratives' of the human spirit (www.shakeh.info). Film-maker Atom Egoyan has described Shakeh's dance as "mesmerising... going back to the roots". Her dance is the focus of an award winning art-documentary film "[Verve](#)" by Nigol Bezjian. In recognition of her distinctive artistic approach she conducts [dance workshops](#) in many cities in Europe. In June and October 2012 she was in the London premiere of [Anoush Opera](#) in the role of the bride. She [performed](#) the lead role in [NERDURS](#) in Yerevan (November 2012), a contemporary dance production about Motherland and dispersion. Shakeh was one of the artists in "[Salon Mashup](#)" in London (January 2013). She is co-producer with Laura Shannon of "[Gorani](#)" a CD and booklet of Armenian folk dance and has authored a number of [articles](#) on the subject.



For any enquiries please contact Marianna.asatryan@admin.ox.ac.uk