

Name of the Element: Nacha: Folk Theatre, Chhattisgarh, India

Community/ies: The Chhattisgarhi speaking rural communities in the state of Chhattisgarh

Region: The entire State of Chhattisgarh in India except Bastar and Sarguja regions

Brief Description: Nacha is one of the most noted folk theatre forms in the state of Chhattisgarh. It is performed in nearly all the areas of Chhattisgarh except Sarguja and Baster regions. There are four different forms of Nacha, Khare Saaj Nacha; Gandawa Nacha; Dewar Nacha and Baithe Saaj Nacha. Currently the troupes performing Khare Saaj, Dewar or Gandawa Nacha are very few. The most popular form today is Baithe Saaj Nacha. In Dewar Nacha, the female roles are performed by women artists. In the other three forms, these roles are enacted by male artists dressed in female costumes and makeup. Nacha performances are usually held during the night. Comedy is an essential and a most entertaining aspect of the Nacha folk theatre. The humorous skits of Nacha also incorporate themes on social issues to create awareness