



NISHAGANDHI
DANCE FESTIVAL

2025


kerala
God's Own Country

14 - 20 FEBRUARY 2025
KANAKAKKUNNU PALACE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM


Government of Kerala

NISHAGANDHI

DANCE FESTIVAL 2025

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

14.02.2025 Friday	6.00 P.M	Inaugural Ceremony	
	7.00 P.M	"Parshwanath S. Upadhye & Adithya P.V. (Punyah Dance Company)"	Bharatanatyam
	8.30 P.M	Pandit Rajendra Gangani & Group	Kathak
15.02.2025 Saturday	6.15 P.M	Bidya Das & Lucky Prajna Pratisthita Mohanty	Odissi
	6.45 P.M	Amrita Lahiri	Kuchipudi
	8.00 P.M	Dr. Methil Devika & Group	Mohiniyattam
16.02.2025 Sunday	6.15 P.M	Sandra Pisharody	Mohiniyattam
	6.45 P.M	Vidhya Subramanian	Bharatanatyam
	8.00 P.M	Vyjayanthi Kashi & Prateeksha Kashi	Kuchipudi
17.02.2025 Monday	6.15 P.M	Lekshmi Reghunath	Kuchipudi
	6.45 P.M	Dr. Janaki Rangarajan	Bharatanatyam
	8.00 P.M	Hari & Chethana	Kathak
18.02.2025 Tuesday	6.15 P.M	Amritha Jayakrishnan	Bharatanatyam
	6.45 P.M	Anita Sharma	Sattriya
	8.00 P.M	Sreelakshmy Govardhanan & Group	Kuchipudi
19.02.2025 Wednesday	6.15 P.M	Aishwarya Meenakshi	Kuchipudi
	6.45 P.M	Sujata Mohapatra	Odissi
	8.00 P.M	Meera Das & Group	Odissi
	9.00 P.M	Sunitha Vimal	Bharatanatyam
20.02.2025 Thursday	6.15 P.M	Arjun Subramanian	Bharatanatyam
	6.45 P.M	Dr. Neena Prasad	Mohiniyattam
	8.00 P.M	Thingom Brojen Kumar Singha & Group	Manipuri
	9.00 P.M	Priya Acote	Bharatanatyam



NISHAGANDHI
DANCE FESTIVAL

2025

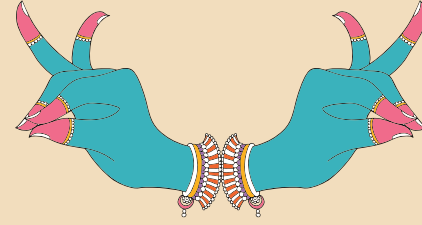




Nishagandhi Puraskaram

PANDIT RAJENDRA GANGANI

Pandit Rajendra Gangani will be honoured with the prestigious Nishagandhi Puraskaram 2025, an esteemed recognition by Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala, celebrating excellence in Indian classical dance. This award acknowledges his extraordinary contributions to Kathak, particularly his dedication to preserving and innovating within the Jaipur Gharana tradition. With a career spanning decades, Rajendra Gangani has mesmerized audiences worldwide and nurtured the next generation of dancers, ensuring the continued evolution of Kathak. The Nishagandhi Puraskaram is a fitting tribute to his lifelong commitment to the art form, recognizing both his artistic brilliance and his role as a cultural ambassador of Indian classical dance.



PARSHWANATH S. UPADHYE & ADITHYA P.V. (Punyah Dance Company)

Bharatanatyam



Parshwanath Upadhye, known for his physically dynamic yet deeply devotional Bharatanatyam, trained under Shri Ravindra Sharma, Shri Kiran Subramanyam, Smt. Sandhya Kiran and Padma Shri Sudharani Raghupathy. A recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, Aditya Birla Yuva Puraskar, and the Ram Gopal Best Male Dancer Award, he has choreographed acclaimed ensemble productions like Punyah Krishna, Hara, SatGati, Abha, and Naga Mandala.

Adithya P.V. is a Bharatanatyam performer recognized for his precision in talam, subtle abhinaya, and technical excellence. Trained under Guru Smt. Latha Edavalath, The Kirans, and Prof. Sudharani Raghupathy, he has performed solo and collaborated with leading artists at prestigious dance festivals worldwide. His accolades include Best Dancer (2024) and Outstanding Dancer (2025) by the Madras Music Academy, Yuva Kala Bharathi by Bharat Kalachar, and Abhyasa Nritha Vardhini.

Along with Shruti Gopal, Adithya and Parshwanath serve as Artistic Directors of the Upadhye School of Dance and Punyah Dance Company, dedicated to promoting Bharatanatyam in rural India. They have also established a Gurukula near Belgaum, Karnataka, to provide future generations of dancers with a space for learning and artistic growth.

14/02/25, Friday, 7.00 PM



PANDIT RAJENDRA GANGANI & GROUP

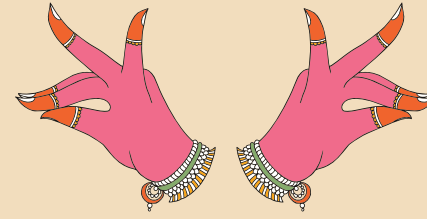
Kathak

Pandit Rajendra Gangani is a celebrated Kathak exponent known for his mesmerizing stage presence, intricate rhythm play, and innovative approach to the Jaipur Gharana. A sought-after performer, he has graced prestigious festivals such as Khajuraho, Konark, Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival, and Nishagandhi, among others.

A visionary choreographer, Pandit Rajendra Gangani has created groundbreaking works like Raag Vistaar and Aviral, blending rhythm and melody, while Jhalak captures the vibrancy of Rajasthan's daily life. His ballets on Mahatma Gandhi's teachings, Swami Vivekananda's speeches, afforestation (Vrikshamitra), and global warming (Vedna) showcase his ability to merge tradition with contemporary themes. A pioneer in fusion, he has integrated Kathak with Flamenco, Bharatanatyam, and Mohiniyattam since the 1990s. His large-scale productions, including Layangikam (Kazakhstan, 2009) and Triveni (ICCR, Delhi), have united multiple Indian classical dance forms on one stage. Honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2003), Nritya Choodamani, and a Fellowship from the Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, he continues to uplift artists through the Guru Kundan Lal Gangani Foundation.



14/02/25, Friday, 8.30PM



BIDYA DAS & LUCKY PRAJNA PRATISTHITA MOHANTY

Odissi



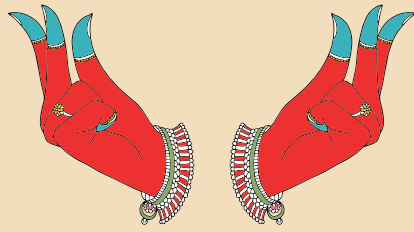
Bidya Das is a distinguished Odissi dancer, Doordarshan-graded artist, and dedicated yoga practitioner with over 20 years of experience in the field of classical dance. Trained under the esteemed Guru Smt. Kumkum Mohanty (Former Chief Executive, Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar) and Guru Shri Ramani Rajan Jena (Director, Kamala Kala Pitha), she has carved a niche for herself in the world of Odissi.

Lucky Prajna Pratisthita Mohanty is an Odissi dancer, choreographer, and educator. As the founder-director of Nritya Prajna, a center for excellence in Odissi dance with branches in Cuttack, Raipur, and the USA, he has trained numerous students while also performing extensively across India and abroad.

With a Master of Performing Arts from Utkal University and advanced training from institutions like Kala Vikash Kendra, Lucky has received prestigious honors, including the Shastri Poorna Gold Medal and the Senior National Scholarship from the Government of India. His artistry has been recognized with awards such as Singarmani, Nrityamani, and Odissi Jyoti, and he holds an 'A' grade artist designation from Doordarshan Kendra.

As the founder of 'Geeta Govinda', he continues to uphold and promote the rich cultural heritage of Odissi through his performances and teaching.

15/02/25, Saturday, 6.15 PM



Amrita Lahiri

Kuchipudi

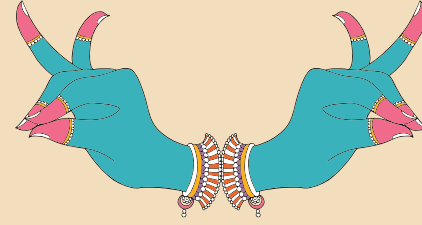
Amrita Lahiri is a Kuchipudi soloist known for presenting the dance form from its traditional roots to its contemporary expressions. She trained with renowned gurus like Vempati Chinna Satyam, Leela Samson, and Sharmila Biswas, Kishore Mosalikanti & Anuradha Nehru. Her performances have been featured at NCPA Mumbai, Museum Rietberg Zurich, Esplanade Singapore, Dancing the Gods in New York City, Sangeet Natak Akademi, and Kalakshetra. In 2024, she received the Kala Bharat Ratna for excellence in performance and choreography.

As a choreographer, Amrita combines tradition with contemporary exploration. Her productions include Chitra, Murchhana - The Spirit of Music, Nritya Tarang, Samudra - The Ocean Mother, Converse - A Duet, and Mandala.

Amrita also plays a key role in arts leadership and curation. She has worked with institutions like the National Centre for Performing Arts, Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, Kalakshetra, Museum Rietberg, American Dance Festival, and Kennedy Center, creating and managing budgets, collaborating with PR, marketing, production and outreach teams.

15/02/25, Saturday, 6.45 PM





Dr. METHIL DEVIKA & GROUP

Mohiniyattam



Dr. Methil Devika is a distinguished Mohiniyattam practitioner and academic, trained under Melattur S. Natarajan and Smt. Girija Chandran. A postdoctoral dance scholar, she has served as a senior researcher at the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology. Her research and writings have been published in Taylor & Francis, JNU, and BHU journals, and she has authored several dance anthologies. Devika has performed at India's premier festivals, including Khajuraho International Festival, Madras Music Academy, Mudra Festival, and Nishagandhi Dance Festival, as well as internationally in Boston, New York, Texas, Philadelphia, Laos, Chiang Mai, Sydney, and Melbourne.

Her archival film was shortlisted for the 2018 Academy Awards contention list. She has received two National Awards—the Ustad Bismillah Yuva Puraskar for Mohiniyattam (2007) and the Devadasi Award (2010)—along with state honours such as the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi Award (2011) and the Kshetrakala Akademy Award (2020). Recognized as Best Dancer at the Madras Music Academy Mid-Year Fest (2016), she is an empanelled artist with SPIC MACAY, ICCR, and the Ministry of Culture. Recent accolades include the Dakshinamurthy Puraskar (2022), awarded alongside Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia and Sivamani, and the Avanavan Kadamba Award (2023) from Kavalam Samskriti, presented by Adoor Gopalakrishnan.

15/02/25, Saturday, 8.00 PM



SANDRA PISHARODY

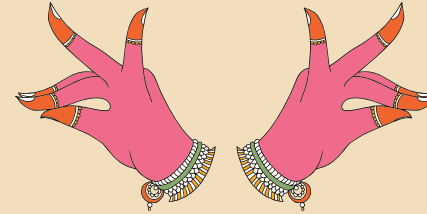
Mohiniyattam

Sandra Pisharody is a distinguished Mohiniyattam dancer from Kerala, rigorously trained under Guru Nirmala Paniker at Natanakaisiki Mohiniyatta Gurukulam, Natanakairali. She has also received specialized training in Netrabhinaya and Navarasas from Guru G. Venu and further honed her skills under Smt. Kapila Venu. With over 20 years of dedicated training, Sandra was conferred the 'Natyashri' title from Natanakairali. As both a soloist and a troupe performer, she has graced prestigious stages across India and abroad, including IIC New Delhi, Kalakshetra Yuva Nritya Utsav, Soorya Festival, and the Indo-Japan Cultural Exchange Program in Tokyo.

Her artistic excellence has been recognized with accolades such as the CCRT Scholarship, the Ministry of Culture's Young Artist Scholarship, the Kalavaahini Junior Fellowship, the Nalanda Nritya Nipuna Award, and 'A Grade' recognition from Doordarshan. A passionate educator, Sandra has conducted workshops and lecture demonstrations at events like the Nrithyathi Festival, SPIC MACAY, and Abhinaya Festival in Brisbane. Currently, she is pursuing research studies in Mohiniyattam at Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University, continuing her journey as both a performer and scholar of the art form.

16/02/25, Sunday, 6.15 PM





VIDHYA SUBRAMANIAN

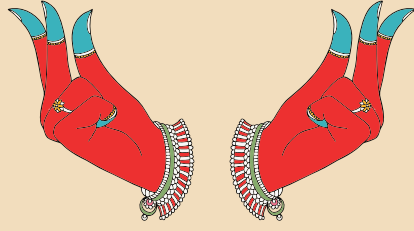
Bharatanatyam

Vidhya Subramanian is a Bharatanatyam dancer trained in the Vazhuvoor style by renowned gurus S. K. Rajarathnam and Smt. Kalanidhi Narayanan. Vidhya has performed worldwide, bringing a strong command of technique, expression, and stage presence to her performances.

The New York Times famously praised her performance for its depth of emotion. As a choreographer, she explores complex themes, from addressing social issues such as female empowerment to breaking down patterns of patriarchy through her work. Vidhya is also a dedicated teacher and artistic director, mentoring students and leading ensemble productions. She holds a Master's degree in Theatre Arts and has acted in theatre and film projects, including Mani Ratnam's Ponnin Selvan.

Vidhya is a highly accomplished artist with multiple awards and accolades. She has been honored with 'Natyashree of North America' from Mitrahs Arts, New Jersey, and 'Natya Kala Ratna' from Trinity Fine Arts, Chennai. She also received the M.G.R. Award for Excellence from the Music Academy, Chennai. Vidhya is also an A-grade artist with Doordarshan and an ICCR Empanelled artist.

16/02/25, Sunday, 6.45 PM



VYJAYANTHI KASHI & PRATEEKSHA KASHI

Kuchipudi

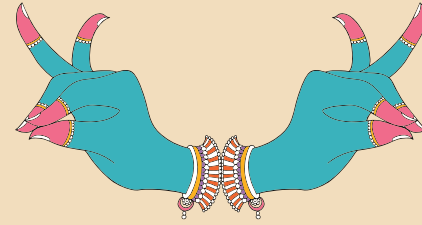
Guru Vyjayanthi Kashi is one of India's most revered Kuchipudi exponents, with a distinguished career spanning performance, choreography, teaching, acting, research, and cultural advocacy. With over three decades of experience, she has represented India on prestigious national and international platforms across 30 countries. Vyjayanthi Kashi's journey in classical dance began at a young age, training in Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Temple Ritual Dances under legendary Gurus, including Guru C.R. Acharya, Vedantham Prahalada Sarma, Padmashree Vedantham Satyanarayana Sharma, and Bharathakala Prapoorna Korada Narasimha Rao. Some of her most acclaimed productions include Antaranga-Taranga, Kanyakumari - The Eternal Kanya, Krishnarpanam, Chitra Lolitha, Rani Rudramma Devi, Dharmayanna, Stabda, Yagna, Ambe, and Veera Bharathi. Her ability to blend tradition with innovation has won her widespread acclaim from art critics, connoisseurs, and rasikas worldwide.

Prateeksha Kashi trained in Kuchipudi under the guidance of her mother and Guru Smt. Vyjayanthi Kashi is a recipient of Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar by Central Sangeet Natak Academy.

Prateeksha has played the lead role in the feature film Priyamanasam, world's third Sanskrit movie and in the Tamil feature film Nityasumangali roped around the life of a Devadasi. She currently manages Shambhavi School of Dance, a premier Kuchipudi Gurukul instituted by Vyjayanthi Kashi.

16/02/25, Sunday, 8.00 PM





LEKSHMI REGHUNATH

Kuchipudi

Lekshmi Reghunath is an accomplished Kuchipudi dancer and a disciple of Gurus Shri Jaikishore and Dr. Padmavani Mosalikanti. With numerous performances to her credit, she continues to captivate audiences with her grace, precision, and deep-rooted understanding of the classical art form.

She has performed at prestigious platforms, including Soorya Festival 2024-25, Chilanka Dance Festival (organized by the Government of Kerala in Trivandrum), Rangakalakendram Centre for Performing Arts, Varkala, Bharat Nritya Utsav at Sri Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha, Chennai, and Painkuni Utsavam at the Padmanabha Swamy Temple.

Performing alongside her Gurus, Lekshmi has also been a part of esteemed festivals such as the Konark Festival (2023) and the Madras Music Academy Dance Festival (2023 & 2025).

17/02/25, Monday, 6.15 PM



Dr. JANAKI RANGARAJAN

Bharatanatyam

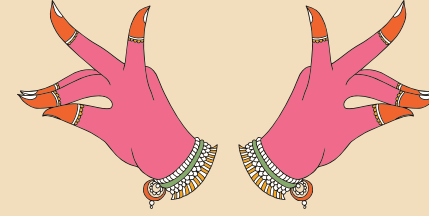
‘Nadanamamani’ Dr. Janaki Rangarajan has been dedicated to Bharatanatyam since the age of four, training under Smt. Madhavi Chandrasekhar in Trichy and later Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam in Chennai. She has performed and choreographed for over 25 years, earning recognition worldwide.

As a solo performer and teacher, Janaki has presented both traditional and innovative productions, with critics praising her expressive storytelling in her performances. She tours internationally, conducts workshops, and has judged dance competitions.

Janaki is the co-founder of Kalashraya, a non-profit organization promoting Indian classical arts. She also runs Nrityaniketan, her dance school. She also supports children’s welfare initiatives and is involved in organizations like ABHAI and IDEA. Janaki has many awards to her name, including the 2012 MetroDC Dance Award for Emerging Performer and the 2010 Strauss Fellowship for Choreography from the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

17/02/25, Monday, 6.45 PM





HARI & CHETHANA

Kathak

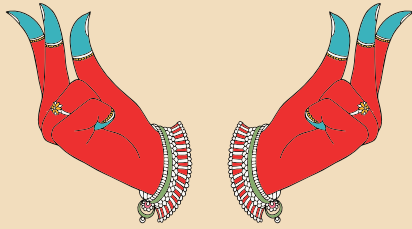
Hari and Chethana are a renowned Kathak dance duo and directors of the Noopur Performing Arts Centre, Bangalore. With over 1,000 performances, they have enthralled audiences across India and abroad, performing for royalty including the King of Ipoh, the Sheikh of Dubai, and the Princess of Jordan. Their international tours have taken them to Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, the UK, the USA, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai, Doha, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

Hari, a celebrated choreographer and performer, has been honoured with the Aryabhata Award, Kempegowda State Award, and the National Peace Award from Sri Lanka. An ICCR-empanelled artist, he previously taught Kathak at the Gandhi Centre in the Netherlands and has collaborated with luminaries like Dr. Balamuralikrishna, Hariharan, Shankar Mahadevan, Grammy-winner Ricky Kej, and Dutch choreographer Leo Spreksel.

Chethana, an accomplished dancer, has also made her mark in the Kannada film industry, appearing in movies such as Vedha, Yudha Kanda, and Kamoruttu Part 2.

17/02/25, Monday, 8.00 PM





AMRITHA JAYAKRISHNAN

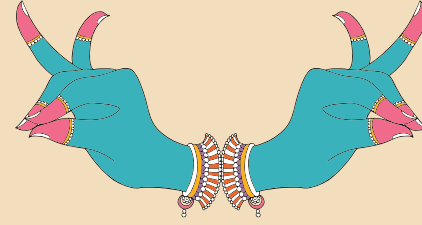
Bharatanatyam

Amritha Jayakrishnan is a London-based performing artist, teacher, and management consultant, seamlessly balancing a portfolio career. Since 2022, Amritha has deepened her training in Bharatanatyam under Guru Smt. Vidhya Subramanian in Chennai. She has also trained in Kuchipudi under Guru Smt. Anupama Mohan and in Mohiniyattam under Guru Smt. Sreedevi Rajan, as well as her mother, Dr. Mayadevi Kurup.

Amritha has performed on renowned stages across the UK and India, including the Soorya Festival (Trivandrum), Natyarangam (Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai), Swaralaya Festival (Palakkad), and Kerala Fine Arts Society (Kochi), among others. In 2019, she founded London Avalu, a not-for-profit practice space for Bharatanatyam dancers, which has since grown into a vibrant learning community of over 300 dancers in London. Passionate about merging tradition with contemporary relevance, Amritha views dance as a powerful medium to challenge norms, question biases, and initiate meaningful dialogue.

18/02/25, Tuesday, 6.15 PM





ANITA SHARMA

Sattriya



Anita Sharma, a distinguished exponent of Sattriya, and a disciple of Padma Bhushan Guru Nrityacharya Jatin Goswami, began her training at the age of seven under the late Guru Roseswar Saikia Barbayan. Holding a Master's degree in Assamese Literature from Guwahati University, she has extensively researched various aspects of Sattriya, including the rich cultural tradition of Ojapali under Sangeet Natak Akademi's Sattriya Kendra. Her contributions have been recognized with both the Junior Fellowship (2005-2007) and Senior Fellowship (2022-2023) from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Anita's illustrious career includes performances at India's most esteemed festivals, such as Khajuraho, Konark, Bhayachandra, DIAF, and Nritya Sangam, as well as international tours across the UK, Sweden, the USA, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Australia, and Bangladesh. A recipient of the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2014), she has also been honoured with the Devdasi Award, Naatyavedha Award, Nritya Bidushi Sanmman, Natyasri, Prag Sanmman, Bharata Kala Rakshini, Taranga Ratna, and the Mahari Award (2024). Through her performances, research, and mentorship, Anita Sharma remains a leading force in the world of Sattriya dance.

18/02/25, Tuesday, 6.45 PM



SREELAKSHMY GOVARDHANAN & GROUP

Kuchipudi

Sreelakshmy Govardhanan is an Indian Classical Dancer of Kuchipudi from Kerala, known for her deep commitment to the art form as a performer, choreographer, and researcher. A disciple of Pasumarthi Rattaiha Sarma, a maestro in Kuchipudi Yakshagana, she has dedicated herself to the practice, teaching, and documentation of Kuchipudi.

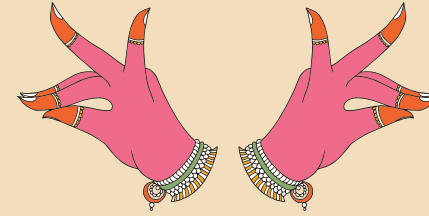
As the founder and artistic director of Avantika Space for Dance, Sreelakshmy has created a hub for learning, performance, and research in Kuchipudi. Beyond her dance career, Sreelakshmy holds a Master's Degree in Psychological Counselling.

Some of her workshops explore the intersection of art and well-being, where she integrates her expertise in mental health with her experience in dance. She frequently conducts workshops and lecture demonstrations for dance students and the general public, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of classical Indian dance traditions.

Her contributions to Kuchipudi have been recognized with several accolades, including the Junior Research Fellowship from the Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, and the Senior Fellowship from Kalavaahini, Chennai.

18/02/25, Tuesday, 8.00 PM





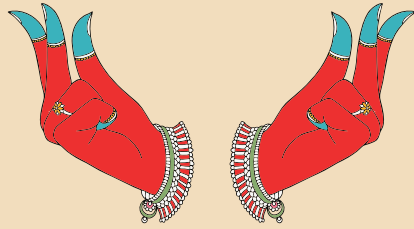
AISHWARYA MEENAKSHI

Kuchipudi

Aishwarya Meenakshi is a Kuchipudi artist from Delhi and a disciple of Smt. Sreelakshmy Govardhanan. Born and raised in Delhi, she started her journey at a young age under Shri Prabir Dutta. Aishwarya Meenakshi is a recipient of the Senior Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, a graded artist with Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi, and has conducted SPIC MACAY lecture demonstrations across the country. Recently, she represented India as a cultural ambassador in South Korea through ICCR.

Aishwarya also holds a degree in Applied Psychology from Gargi College, Delhi University. She further specialized in Dance Movement Therapy from the Creative Movement Therapy Association of India (affiliated with UNESCO) and worked as a dance therapist at APL Global School, Chennai, for two years. To deepen her understanding of festival curation and event organization, she also completed a course in Arts Management under Masoom Parmar.

19/02/25, Wednesday, 6.15 PM



SUJATA MOHAPATRA

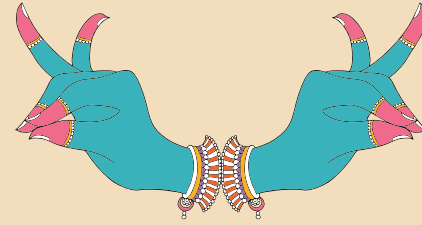
Odissi

Sujata Mohapatra is a distinguished Odissi dancer and a leading figure in the classical dance community. A disciple and daughter-in-law of the legendary Guru Padma Vibhushan Kelucharan Mohapatra, she has dedicated her career to preserving and continuing his legacy. As a soloist, she has performed at prestigious dance festivals across India and internationally, touring the USA, Canada, Italy, France, Russia, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK. She is recognized as an Outstanding Artist by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and holds a Top Grade designation with Doordarshan, New Delhi.

Her contributions to Odissi have been widely celebrated with numerous awards like the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the Konark Sahitya Samman, the Bharat Kala Bhaskar Award, the Nritya Choodamani Award, the Pandit Jasraj Award, the Aditya Vikram Birla Kala Kiran Award, and the Devadasi Award. She has also been honoured internationally with the Sanjukta Panigrahi Award in Washington, D.C., and the Raaza Puruskar Award, solidifying her status as one of the most accomplished Odissi dancers of her generation.

19/02/25, Wednesday, 6.45 PM





MEERA DAS & GROUP

Odissi



Smt. Meera Das is an Odissi dancer from Keonjhar, Odisha, known for her deep dedication to the art form. She trained under the legendary Padma Vibhushan Guru Shri Kelucharan Mohapatra and Padma Shri Guru Gangadhar Pradhan. Over the past four decades, she has performed across all seven continents, representing Odissi in more than 60 countries.

Her contributions to Odissi have earned her numerous prestigious awards, including the State Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Mahari Samman, and Sanjukta Panigrahi Samman. She is recognized as a Senior Outstanding Artist by ICCR, a Top-Grade National Artist by Doordarshan, and has received honours from the Odisha Convention in the USA. Additionally, she has been awarded honorary citizenships in Oklahoma and Texas for her efforts in promoting Indian classical dance globally.

Meera Das established Gunjan Dance Academy in Cuttack, which has been a center for Odissi training and performance for over 27 years. She has choreographed more than 40 dance pieces and curates five major dance festivals annually. Under her guidance, Gunjan has produced talented dancers who continue to carry forward the legacy of Odissi.

19/02/25, Wednesday, 8.00 PM



SUNITHA VIMAL

Bharatanatyam

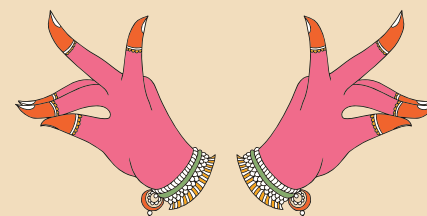
Sunitha Vimal is a distinguished Bharatanatyam dancer and a Judge at the Industrial Tribunal and ESI Court, Kollam, embodying a rare blend of legal expertise and artistic excellence. With extensive experience in adjudicating industrial and employee-related disputes, she upholds the principles of justice and fairness while nurturing a deep commitment to classical dance.

Trained under eminent gurus, including Guru Kalakshetra Vilasini, Sunitha has developed a unique style that reflects both technical precision and expressive depth. Her performances have been featured at prestigious cultural events, including Keraleeyam 2023, an initiative by the Government of Kerala, and the Onam Celebrations 2019, organized by Kerala Tourism.

Beyond the stage and the courtroom, she remains actively involved in promoting Bharatanatyam, serving as a cultural ambassador who bridges tradition and modernity. Her journey exemplifies the seamless integration of discipline, devotion, and artistry, inspiring future generations to pursue their passions without boundaries.

19/02/25, Wednesday, 9.00 PM





ARJUN SUBRAMANIAN

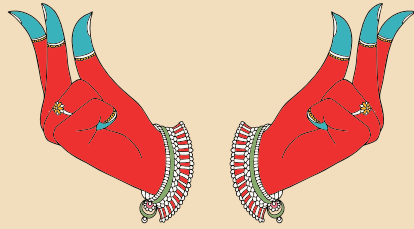
Bharatanatyam



RLV Arjun Subramanian, hails from Vellinezhi, Kerala. He is the son of renowned Kathakali artist Kalamandalam Balasubramanian and has trained in both Bharatanatyam and Kathakali. Arjun studied Bharatanatyam under Pattom G. Sanal Kumar and Kalakshetra Jisha Raghav, later earning a BA and MA in Bharatanatyam from RLV Music and Fine Arts College, Tripunithura. He also holds a diploma in Kathakali, awarded with a scholarship from the Central Cultural Department.

Arjun has received several accolades, including the All India University National Winner for Classical Dance (2018) and the Trivandrum Press Club Success Award (2022). He was the first Kathakali performer to win first place in the National Level Classical Dance category at the All India University Youth Festival in 2018. His performances have taken him across India and internationally to places like Singapore, Bahrain, and Brunei. In addition to performing, Arjun runs the Arjuna Society of Classical Arts in Kazhakuttom. He has also acted in films, like Bermuda and short films like Thirasseela, Purappad, and Noopura.

20/02/25, Thursday, 6.15 PM



Dr. NEENA PRASAD

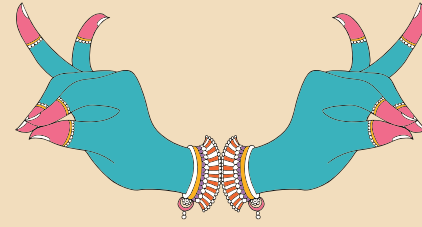
Mohiniyattam

Dr. Neena Prasad is a distinguished dancer, trained in four classical dance forms—Mohiniyattam, Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Kathakali—under legendary gurus like Kalamandalam Suganthi, Kalamandalam Kshemavathy, Guru Adyar K. Lakshman, Guru Vempati Chinna Satyam, and Vembayam Appukkuttan Pillai. As the founder of Sougandhika Centre for Mohiniyattam, she has nurtured a new generation of dancers through a rigorous kalari training system, refining both their body kinetics and facial expressions. Her choreography has expanded the Mohiniyattam repertoire, with acclaimed productions such as Sitayanam – The Journey of Sita and Tatri – The Woman earning widespread recognition.

A Top Grade artist of Doordarshan and an empaneled ICCR artist, Dr. Neena Prasad is also a faculty member and research guide, serving on the Board of Studies at multiple universities. She continues her teaching and research at Bharatanjali – Academy of Indian Classical Dances in Thiruvananthapuram and Sougandhika Centre for Mohiniyattam in Chennai. Her contributions to Indian classical dance have been recognized with numerous awards, including the President’s Kendra Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Nritya Choodamani, Kerala Kalamandalam Award, and the esteemed Nritya Kalanidhi from the Madras Music Academy.

20/02/25, Thursday, 6.45 PM





THINGOM BROJEN KUMAR SINGHA & GROUP

Manipuri



Thingom Brojen Kumar Singha is a distinguished Pung (Manipuri percussion) artist, known for his exceptional mastery of the Pung Cholom, a dynamic and intricate Manipuri drum dance. Trained under Guru Meino Singh of Manipur, he further honed his skills under the guidance of Prof. K. Jatindra Singh, Guru Smt. Kalavati Devi, and Padmashree Darshana Jhaveri of Mumbai. A trailblazer in Manipuri drumming, he is the first Pung player from Assam to serve as a faculty member at Banasthali Vidyapith University (Rajasthan).

A versatile composer and choreographer, Brojen has worked on several dance productions in the Manipuri style, including “Leisem” (Creation) – Dance and music by Suman Sarawgi, assisted by Brojen, “Ehun” (A Journey) – Choreographed by Suman Sarawgi and Brojen, “Agni (Meihourol)” – Music by Brojen; dance composed by Swety Das.

Brojen’s contributions to Manipuri drumming and dance have earned him several prestigious awards, including, “Taal Mani” (2006) – Sur Singar Samsad, Mumbai, “Kala Samrat” (2017) – Nityaranjani Fine Arts Academy, Chennai and “Sanskriti Ratnakar Sanman” (2024) – Natanikkan Art, Dance & Cultural Society, West Bengal. Through his Institute of Fine Arts in Assam, Brojen continues to train and mentor a new generation of Manipuri drummers, ensuring that the rich traditions of Pung Cholom and Nata Sankirtan thrive for years to come.

20/02/25, Thursday, 8.00 PM



PRIYA ACOTE

Bharatanatyam

Priya Acote is a Bharathanatyam dancer who has been training in the art form since the age of 10. She is currently under the mentorship of the legendary Prof. Dr. M.R. Krishnamurthy in Bangalore. Her journey in Bharatanatyam is complemented by a strong foundation in Carnatic music, Kathakali Sangeetham, and Kathakali.

Priya has showcased her artistry on prestigious stages across Kerala and Karnataka, including performances at Nishagandhi, Thiruvananthapuram, Guruvayoor Temple, Koodalmanikyam Temple, and Town Square, Kannur. Her dedication to classical dance extends beyond the stage, as she consistently contributes to Kalakshithi's in-house productions.

A former Kalathilakam of Kannur District, Priya has been recognized for her excellence in Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi, and Kathakali. Her contributions to classical art continue to inspire, as she strives to bring Bharatanatyam to a wider audience.

20/02/25, Thursday, 9.00 PM





DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

GOVT. OF KERALA

Park View, Thiruvananthapuram 695033

Phone: +91-471-2321132, +91-471-2560426,2560400

Email: festival@keralatourism.org

Website: www.keralatourism.org