

# DANCE INDIA

ASIA-PACIFIC

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## DANCE FACULTY



### V.P Dhananjayan & Shantha Dhananjayan

Teacher's Training & Advanced Class



Sri V P Dhananjayan and wife Shantha Dhananjayan, popularly known as the Dhananjayans have become a legendary dancing couple of India in their own life time. Having established their own academy Bharata Kalanjali, the two disciples of the legendary Rukmini Devi of Kalakshetra, have become international celebrities.

The Dhananjayans are among the most accomplished dancers and teachers of Bharatanatyam, as well as one of the legendary dancing couples of India. They have been performing and teaching together for over 50 years, and have received many honours around the world for their contributions to dance. The Dhananjayans received the Padma Bhushan Award from President Pratibha Patil at the civil investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on March 31, 2009 for development, preservation and propagation of the best of Kalakshetra tradition of Bharatanatyam through their dance academy Bharatakalanjali.

### Priyadarsini Govind

Advanced Class & Teacher's Training - Bharatanatyam



Priyadarsini Govind is one of the foremost Bharatanatyam dancers amongst the current generation. She is a dancer known for her command of traditional technique, while at the same time effortlessly embracing the contemporary. Acquiring a massive repertoire of padams and javalis from the Abhinaya guru Smt. Kalanidhi Narayanan, Priyadarsini is renowned for her exquisite expressiveness.

*"Dance India is absolutely unique! It has been an experience that I will treasure. The interest and enthusiasm of the students was a pleasure and meeting the gurus and other artists was a pleasure. Great job, Milap!"* Priyadarsini Govind.

### Madhavi Mudgal

Intermediate - Odissi



Madhavi Mudgal epitomizes the elegance and sophistication that are the result of blending modern sensibilities with the ancient ethos of eastern India to create the highly lyrical dance art of Odissi. Madhavi has received repeated acclaim globally and dance festivals have featured her throughout the world numerous times as a teacher and performer. Her grace,

sensitivity and aesthetic imagination are particularly sought-after and widely admired

## Mythili Prakash

Intermediate - Bharatanatyam



Mythili Prakash is undoubtedly one of the most talented, creative and dynamic performers of India today. Born and brought up in the USA, Mythili has devoted herself to the study and practice of Bharatanatyam, and has quickly established herself as one of the most dynamic and electrifying young performers of the next generation. She is admired by both connoisseurs and new audiences for her unique ability to connect with people and present Bharatanatyam in a way that is accessible, fresh and imaginative, all while keeping the traditions of the form firmly intact.

## Prashant Shah

Intermediate - Kathak



Prashant Shah is an exceptional dancer with a dynamic, crisp, and precise style. A graduate of the Kadamb School, he is known for his masculine grace and extensive repertoire. He is now a leading member of the Kadamb Performance Troupe, which is known for its innovative dance productions within the traditional frame of classical Kathak dance. With these influences, Prashant has developed an acute awareness of space and form, resulting in great acclaim in India and throughout Europe.

Speaking after Dance India, Prashant said "Thank you very much once again for having me here at Dance India. It's one of my most memorable and wonderful experiences. Just to be around great teachers and Gurus 24x7 gave me a never forget learning experience all my life. Loved teaching the students too!"

## Sheejith Krishna

Intermediate Bharatanatyam



A riveting performer with the ability to create entire worlds out of thin air and transport audiences into them, Sheejith has played significant lead roles in almost all of Kalakshetra Repertory's ensemble productions to critical and popular acclaim. These include Lord Rama, the hero, and the villain, Ravana, both roles he made his own in Kalakshetra's monumental six-part Ramayana series. Critics have repeatedly noted his immaculate nritta and sense of laya, and the wide-ranging emotional canvas of his abhinaya.

Sheejith has performed in major venues all over India, as well as in North America, Europe, and Asia. He received the prestigious national award, the Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, from the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2006, and the Yagnaraman Award for Excellence in Dance in 2010.

While at Kalakshetra, Sheejith directed, choreographed, and starred in the trailblazing ensemble production Masquerade, a choreographic excursion which premiered in 2007. His first large-scale dance-drama was his brainchild from start to finish, in all aspects of production from choreography and music to set, costume, and lighting design. It signals a complete departure from Kalakshetra's existing performance oeuvre, being the first Kalakshetra dance-drama based on a secular, western narrative.