



Guru 'Kalashree' Sukanya Mahadevan

Founder and Artistic Director,

Shishya School Of Performing Arts, Lawrenceville, NJ

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Performer, Teacher, and Choreographer, with 30+ years of experience performing in front of large audiences, creating unique choreographies, and curating professional dance productions. Strong passion for conveying the beauty and art of 'Bharatanatyam' (Indian Classical dance) to both Indian and non-Indian audiences.

Professional Experience:

Founder and Artistic Director October 2005- Present

Shishya School Of Performing Arts, Lawrenceville, NJ

Main Duties - Performances, Choreography, Teaching, Conducting shows, business ops

- Choreograph traditional and fusion items for performances and classes.
- Solo and group performances with students and peers for different events
- Lecture Demonstrations at schools, universities, senior centers, libraries
- Research to enhance skills, using books and guidance from experts in the field.
- Co-ordinate Assistant teacher and student teacher curriculum
- Create Custom, easy to understand, curriculum for various levels.
- Write and demonstrate Mythology stories and other unpublished work.
- Book-keeping, marketing, website, and social media content management
- Conduct customized workshops for students with visiting maestros from India
- Conduct and co-ordinate graduation (31 'Arangetrams') and Annual day recitals (21)

Visiting Faculty for World Dance Program 2005- Present

Rider University, Lawrenceville, NJ

Main Duties – Teach a class for the World Dance program, prepare them for their midterm

Bharatanatyam – An ancient Art Form	Various aspects of 'Bharatanatyam'	Progression of ancient art form to new innovative one
Comparison between 'Bharatanatyam' and 'Kathak'	Comparison between 'Bharatanatyam' and 'Bollywood' dancing	Mathematical patterns in dance

Yoga and its connection to 'Bharatanatyam'	The 'Mudras' of 'Bharatanatyam'	'Bharatanatyam,' its origins and its connection to Religion and mythology
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Freelance dance teacher – 1997 to current

- Indian classical dance teacher 2003 to 2004 at Dance Corner – The West Windsor Plainsboro dance company, Plainsboro, NJ
- Enrichment Teacher- 1997 to 1998, Voorhees Middle School CER program, Voorhees, NJ
- *Private 'Arangetram' – Solo dance recital training track*

Lecture Demonstrations and Workshops, 2003 to current

The College of NJ	Mercer County Teen arts Festival
Senior centers – Princeton, St. Francis Bordentown	Mercer county College
Rider University	Princeton Ballet School
Lawrence township public schools	Pennington Montessori School
Raritan Valley College	Libraries – Lawrence, Hopewell, Burlington, Princeton

Other

- *Program Manager/Technical Lead 1994-2005, Lockheed Martin Cherry Hill, NJ*
- Technical / IT consultant Arms Inc. 1992–1994, Arms Inc. Cherry Hill, NJ
- Research Assistant 1990–1992, Temple University , Philadelphia , PA

Notable Performances in India:(Solo and group performance in India (1980 - 1990)

Dance productions by Ganesa Natyalaya–1979-1987(New Delhi, Chennai. Lucknow)	Arangetram(Solo dance debut recital), New Delhi – 1983	Theatre Tamil Nadu.(2 times), New Delhi
Delhi Tamil Sangam (2 times), New Delhi	Nrithyodhaya (4 times), New Delhi	Kathyayani Temple (4 times), New Delhi
Ayyappan Temple (every year 1983 to1989), New Delhi	All India Medical Association Cultural festival , New Delhi	Sahitya Kala Parishad, New Delhi

Pragati Maidan Festival (2 times)	Lecture demonstration for ITDC (Government of India Tourism Dept)	Delhi Doordarshan/TV – 1981-1985
Lucknow TV – before 1983	Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Chennai (2 times) – 1984 - 1987	Mylapore Fine Arts, Chennai - 1984
Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai Music, and dance Festival – 1989	ITDC ticketed show - 1989	Performances for ICCR

Notable Performances in US (1990 to current)

Swarthmore College, PA (1991)	Indian Association Diwali Festival, PA (1991)
Shishya School Annual Day Productions, NJ (2005- current)	‘Disha’ fundraiser by SAMHAJ (a branch of NAMI), NJ (2009)
TCNJ Arts of India festival (2012)	World Peace Day, Princeton, NJ (2013)
Mercer county Heritage Festival (many years)	NJNS Programs – ‘Shakthi’, ‘Sannidhi’ 2015, ‘Rithu’ – 2016, ‘Margazhi Vizhaa’ (2017, 2018)
Chinmaya Guruvandanam. NJ (June 2019)	Indira Nagar Sangeetha Sabha, Bengaluru, India (Dec 2019)
RK Swamy Hall, Chennai Dance festival, Chennai, India (Dec 2019)	Carnegie Hall, NY (Jan 2020)
SACHA fundraiser, Virtual (2020)	Guru tributes for Saraswati and Saroja, Virtual (2020)
Vishwarang, Virtual (2020, 2022)	Other performances - Grounds for Sculpture, Rotary functions, Political fundraisers, SOFKIN fundraisers, Indian temples, Indian Association functions, Dance Corner’s Nutcracker . Bengali Poojas, Thyagaraja, festival, NJ Telugu and Kannada Sangham, Duets with Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Kathak, Kuchipudi and Mohiniattam dancers.

Reviews, Accolades and Awards:

<i>'Dr. Saraswati' award from Vipanchee Natyalaya and Balamurali music therapy trust fund, Chennai, India</i>	<i>Commendations from the Voorhees township for several years for propagating Indian art</i>	<i>Title of 'Kalashree' (propagator and leader in the art field) by Ganesa Natyalaya, New Delhi, India</i>
'Humanitarian Award,' Rotary Club, Plainsboro NJ	Excellence in teaching and Choreography, SOFKIN, NJ	Excellence in teaching and choreography (South East Asian), DHONGWA, NJ
Awardee of the 'Yuva Mahotsav' scholarship (youth festival), New Delhi, India	Excellent reviews in newspapers like The Statesman('Subbudu'), Financial Express and Indian Express('Leela Venkatraman')	Home Office Employee of the year award, Lockheed Martin

Student Competition Winners of: _Dhongwa, Naach Utsav, Natyanjali, 'Guru Abhinandan Saroja,' Rotary Sofkin

Competition Judge for: -Rotary Club, 'Guru Abhinandan Saroja Award'

Notable Choreographies:

The ten incarnations of 'Vishnu'	'Rasleela' – 'Krishna's love-dance'
Indian folk dances and special choreographies for songs by 'Bharathiyar,' 'Annamachary' and 'Thyagaraja'	Peacock dance
Dances describing freedom struggles	'Bho Shambho' – Lord of dance
Bharatanatyam duets with other Indian dance forms -Kathak, Kuchipudi	<i>Bharatanatyam duets with Jazz, Ballet (Mozart and Beethoven compositions)</i>
<i>Bharatanatyam composition for Hindi Poetry</i>	<i>Bharatanatyam composition for Maya Angelou's poetry</i>

Dance Drama Productions:

- 'Krishnaarpanam' - Celebrating the stories of Krishna (2015)

- ‘RamCharitham’ - Dedication to Lord Raama (2016)
- ‘Neelkanta’ - The one with the blue throat, Lord Shiva’s story (2018)
- ‘Kaa-Na-Nam’ - A modern day adaptation of The Jungle Book (2019) - Collaborated with local musicians in US to create and edit music for the Production. Included handmade headdresses, props, costumes and 3D background and light projections. Full Dance theater production meant to resemble a musical.
- ‘Panchabhutam’ – The five regions where Shiva manifests the five elements into the cosmos. (May 2023)

Annual Day and Thematic productions- fundraisers to raise money for causes:

Dance Creations (2002)	‘Aasha’ – Hope (2010)	‘Sarvamayee’ – She’s All that and more (2017)
‘Nrithya Rasaa’ – The Essence of Movement (2004)	‘SamYoga’ – Bringing together people for peace (2011)	‘Shiva-Shakthi’ – Equality, Unity, Totality (2018)
‘Sthree’ – celebrating strong women and Goddesses (2005)	‘Natyajali’ – Homage to Dance (2012)	‘Kaa-Na-Nam’ – Bharatanatyam perspective of Jungle Book (2019)
‘Kavyanjali’ – Celebrating music composers (2006)	‘Nrithyopanaya’ – An Ode to Movements (2013)	‘Vaahanam’ – Mythical beasts of Gods and Goddesses (2020)
‘Natya-Kala’ – The art of dance (2007)	‘Natya -Aalinganam’ – Embracing Dance (2014)	‘Kaavyam’ – An Ode to Poetry (2021)
‘Bhaavana’ – Emotions in Dance (2008)	‘Prayaanam’ – Journey through dance (2015)	‘Natya-Chitra’ – Celebrating the dancers’ canvas (2022)
‘AanandaLaya’ – The Joyous union of Dance and music (2009)	‘Swasthya’ – Centered in One’s own self (2016)	‘Panchabhutham’ – Shiva and the Five Elements (2023)

Non-Performing Arts Education	Performing Arts Education
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M.S. Computer Science (1990-1992). Temple University, Philadelphia, USA ● B.S., Mathematical Statistics (1986-1989), Lady Sri Ram College, New Delhi, India ● Diploma, Computer Science (1987-1989), National Institute of Information Technology, New Delhi, India ● Diploma and Post Diploma, French (1986-1989), Alliance Française, New Delhi, India ● Non-credit courses in Creative Writing, Non-Profit Management (2008), Mercer Community College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>BFA Dance ('Bharatanatyam'), Prayag, Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad, India</i> ● <i>Diploma in Bharatanatyam (Indian classical dance), Ganesa Natyalaya , New Delhi, India</i> ● Workshop in dance theory – custom education from the ‘Abhinaya Darpanam’ and ‘Natya Shastra’ with a Sanskrit maestro, Chennai, India ● Carnatic Veena ● Piano ● In depth study of languages – Sanskrit, Hindi, Tamil ● Adult Theater Workshops ● <i>Advanced workshops in practice and theory of dance with experts in the field</i>
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