

Shishya School Annual Recital, May 17, 2026 at Princeton High School Auditorium

Artwork by Human prompts and AI creativity

Shishya School Of Performing Arts L.L.C.

Shishya School Of Performing Arts is a dance company formed by dancers and artists. Its sole purpose is to educate and qualify students in the art of Indian Classical dance, music, mythology and dance theater. The word 'Shishya' is of Sanskrit origin and means 'the student'. It was founded by Guru 'Kalashree' Sukanya Mahadevan. Every year her students participate in talent shows, competitions, Poojas and the school's own annual production. The school's other notable performances are Rotary club, AIA's Gandhi Jayanthi Celebration, Grounds of Sculpture, local senior centers, TCNJ Arts Festival, NJ Tamil Sangham Dance festivals, Raritan and Mercer Community College festival, cultural festival conducted by the Department Of Transportation, the Lawrenceville Main Street Jubilee, , Dishaa conducted by NAAMI, Sofkin, local libraries, Mercer County Heritage Festival, Nrithyotsav at Krishna mandir, AIM Thyagaraja festival, Bridgewater temple and TRIVENI. Every year the school conducts an annual production day with varied themes and on this occasion, the Students dance for a cause and donate funds to charity. The recipients of this have been organizations such as NAMI, MANAVI and AIA, the Embrace Kids Foundation, Operation Smile and the American Red Cross. These productions bring together traditional dances alongside innovative choreography relevant to the theme presented that year. Shishya students also have placed in competitions like Natyanjali, Naach Utsav and Guru Saroja Abhinandan Awards. In 2019, a select group of senior students toured India during the prestigious music and dance festival season and performed at the IndiraNagar Sangeetha Sabha in Bangalore and RK Swamy Hall in Chennai with their guru. In 2020 and 2025, the school was invited to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City, at their invitation-only International Festival. Shishya School has an active student run BLOG where both the Guru and Shishyas present their thoughts, opinions and research in dance related topics. The school also has a YOUTUBE channel where programs are presented virtually for a worldwide audience. Shishya school also has their own black box theater setup where they present their own shows to small audiences. Shishya School will be hosting many programs on their YouTube channel and in person this upcoming year and many of them will be fundraisers for worthy causes. Last year, Shishya school kicked off their Margazhi Vizhaa (December dance festival), by hosting a fundraiser for Dance New Jersey as part of its DEIA initiative. In July 2024, a select group of shishyas, led by Guru Sukanya performed at the special international dance trip to Rome in 2024 called Summer Stages.

Last year Shishyas auditioned and got accepted to the following prestigious performances:

NDEO NHSDA chapter

Show up And Dance professional category

First ever Montclair State Dance festival professional category

Paris Disney Performing Arts Disney music Festival

This year Shishyas are headed to:

The prestigious Iyengar yoga convention in Philadelphia

Summer Stages International Dance Show at Lisbon, Portugal in 2026

Check out our website to learn more about us, our founder and artistic director, our performances, and all that we have to offer including neo-classical choreographies, online tutorials and theory classes. Also, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Instagram to keep up with all things Indian culture.

www.shishya-arts.com and contact us at shishya.arts@gmail.com

Bharathanatyam

Bharathanatyam is a form of Indian Classical Dance that has a history that goes back over 2,000 years. It is taught according to the guidelines established by Natya Shastra, a book on the science of Bharathanatyam, written by Sage Bharatha. It has evolved a great deal over the years and is one of the foremost dance forms of India today. Its origins can be traced to ancient Sanskrit literature and Temple sculptures. The Natyashastra defines this dance as entertainment fit for the Gods. It is said that this art form was originally derived from the four Vedas (the great ancient scriptures of Hinduism). This then became the Natya Veda, the parent of this art form. This dance was performed by Devadasis (servants of God) for Gods in the temples. Royal Patronage then brought this art form into the kings' courtyard where it was treated with a lot of respect, as any art should be.

Later, the dance became associated with courtesans, which led to its slow degeneration. Between 1930 to 1940, this dance was revived again when young women from respectable families became interested in it as an indigenous art form. Since then, Bharathanatyam has been recognized as a great ancient art all over the world. Bharathanatyam has three main aspects to it – Nritta (rhythmic movements), Nritya (movements in which Abhinaya or expression is emphasized) and Natya (drama). Adavus (footwork), Mudras (hand gestures) and Rasa (facial expression) all contribute to the drama aspect. The art form today is both sensual and spiritual. We hope that you will be able to see all aspects of this great art form today. It is said that Bharathanatyam is a great exercise for the body, mind and soul.

'The Magic Of Natya – 'Ethereal, Enchanted, Eloquent'

*Last year, our dancers had the honor of performing at the Paris Disney Performing Arts Festival, where we explored how classical Indian movement can meet the universal language of Disney's music and storytelling. That experience inspired us to imagine Bharathanatyam in conversation with new-age themes — blending rhythm, expression, and narrative to create what we call **The Magic of Natya**.*

Tonight, you will see how an ancient art form can remain classical at its core, yet boldly step into new worlds of imagination.

As usual, honoring our motto, Art for Humanity, part of the sale proceeds from tickets will be donated to Seeds to Sew. You will hear more about both the production and our charitable cause during our program today.

The program will be divided into two parts – Traditional Bharathanatyam items and Disney tunes inspired fun choreographies.

The stage is being sponsored by YLDP.

SHISHYA SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- *New Studio Space at the Honor Yoga Loft in Pennington.*
- *Growth in number of types of students and adult classes.*
- *Sukanya Mahadevan, our Artistic Director is also visiting faculty at Rider University's world dance program with 43rd Arangetram and counting. . .*
- *Community Service at local libraries and senior centers and various dance drama productions.*
- *Upcoming performance at the Iyengar Yoga convention in Philadelphia – showcasing the intersection of Yoga and Bharathanatyam.*
- *Workshops with 'Kalaimamani' Guru Rama Vaidyanathan and Dakshina Vaidyanathan.*
- *Invitation only Performance at Carnegie Hall, NY*
- *Invitation only performance at Rome summer stages festival and upcoming Portugal festival*
- *Guru Sukanya is a newly appointed treasurer at the executive board of trustees at Dance New Jersey*
- *Recently inducted into the P&A fellowship*
- *Visionary award by AIM*
- *As an NHSDA chapter sponsor, she has also been nominated for an NDEO teacher award.*
- *New collaboration with National Institute Of Indian Classical dance for formal certifications*
- *NDEO Outstanding leadership in Studios to Sukanya Mahadevan.*

We thank our Ad Sponsors for their ongoing support

- *Artistic Designs*
- *Jhopri Restaurant*
- *The Kartik Family*
- *The Agrawal family*
- *Sakhi boutique*
- *Fotolaya*

Thank You Maria and Julie at Honor Yoga for sharing your peaceful energy and space with us.

Thank You YLDP for supporting us in stage sponsorship

Part A -MARGAM

20 yr Review slideshow on loop
BROCHURE and SPONSORS SLIDESHOW during seating
SHISHYA SLIDE SHOW

Welcome Speeches by-Guru Sukanya Mahadevan

Slokas and Prayers

Prayers- (Invocation Sloka(vocal) Mrs. Bhuvana Jaganbabu

Prayer Invocation Dance – Sukanya Mahadevan

Slokas and Chants(Slokas, Saraswati Sloka) Beginners Levels 1 and 2

Lakshmi Padam – 'Bhaagyada' – Intermediate Level

NIICD awardees and DNJ members slideshow and recognition

Part 1 of Margam

Jai Jai Ganesha - Portugal Teaser

Ganesh Pranaam – 'Pushpanjali' - Beginners Level 1

The Warm Up Dance – 'Alarippu' - Beginners Levels 2

Thattadavu - Adults

Come Hither Krishna – 'Swarajathi' - Beginners Level 3

Nattadavu - Adults

The Valorous Kartikeya – 'Kartikeya Shabdham' – Beginners Level 4

Part 2 of Margam

Ode to Shiva and Gurus - 'Aangikam and Guru Brahma' – Intermediate and Adults

'Amma Varnam' – Performance Section B

'Adhuvum Solluvaal' – Woman scorned – Sukanya Solo

'Ardhanaree Stotram' – Advance level assorted students *Special Rama Vaidyanathan Workshop item*

STUDENT MENTORS SLIDESHOW and Recognition

SPA MEMBERS SLIDESHOW and Recognition

Part 3 of Margam

Devi Medley - Performance Section A

Naagendra Haaraya - Intermediate Level

Parrot Kavithuvam - Adults

Shiv Prarthna - Adults

Shambhu Natanam - Senior level assorted students

Special Dakshina Vaidyanathan Baghel Workshop item

MC for Senior Graduating Senior Item by Sukanya

Graduating Seniors and Sukanya Mahadevan

Introduction of Graduating seniors and recognition by Sukanya- Also NHSDA recognitions

Classical Dance style medleys– Assorted dancers

Kalinga Narthana Tillana - Seniors

Special MC by Sukanya

'An Ode To Max' - Sukanya and assorted

INTRODUCE CHARITABLE CAUSE and recognize volunteer fundraisers

INTERMISSION

20 yr Review slideshow on loop

BROCHURE and SPONSORS SLIDESHOW on loop

YLDP intro

All Students - AWARD SLIDESHOW

Part B – Ethereal, Enchanted, Eloquent

MC and Paris synopsis slideshow

Be our guest – Shishya Staff

Trolls – Beginners Level 1

Bare necessities – Beginners Level 4

Steal The Show – Adults

Topsy Turvy – Senior Academy

Beauty and the Beast - Sukanya

Pirates – Performance Section A

Let it Go – Beginner Level 2

Coco – Adults

High School Musical – Beginners Level 3

A Whole New World – Intermediate level, Sukanya

Almost there – Beginners Level 4

Can't wait to be king – Senior Academy, Vicki

Hakuna Matata – Performance Section B, Sukanya, Nivi

Special MC - Sukanya

'Maitreem Bhajatha' Mangalam – Assorted Students

FINAL BOW AND PICTURES OF ALL STUDENTS AND SPA

Messages to Dancers from their families



Tara, we are so proud of your hard work and the effort you have put into your Arangetram. Enjoy every moment of your dance journey and continue to put a smile on everyone's face with your creative and artistic skills!

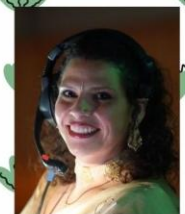
Natasha Agrawal



You're incredible at everything you do, and we love watching you dance!
Love, your fam



Vicki,
Keep shining on- and off- stage! We love you!
-Nakul and Tofu





WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO FOTOLAYA FOR SUPPORTING US WITH THEIR STUNNING PHOTOS AND VIDEOS AND THEIR FOREVER POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT WITH US.

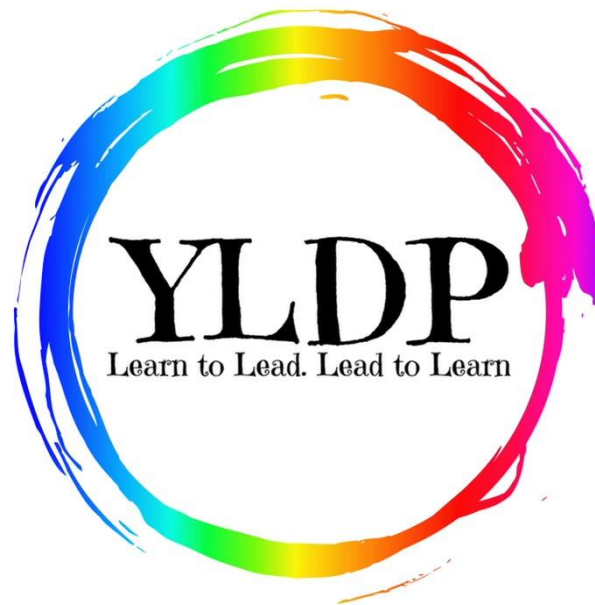


WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO HONOR YOGA FOR SHARING TEACHING SPACE AND POSITIVE ENERGY WITH US

About YLDP:

The mission of the Youth Leadership Development Program is to develop our youth into talent with leadership skills for the workforce and community leadership. The core pillars of YLDP are Trust, Growth, Creativity and Leadership. They teach personal development and workforce development skills such as Public Speaking, Marketing and Development, Entrepreneurial and Leadership Skills, Business Process Management, Emotional Intelligence, and Mindfulness. YLDP is a 501(c)3 (non-profit) organization and donations are tax deductible. Cecilia Smitha Jackson is the Founder of YLDP and you can reach her at 609-647-6050 or at www.yldp.org.

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO YLDP FOR ASSISTING WITH STAGE SPONSORSHIP.



About our charitable cause – ‘Seeds to Sew’

Seeds to Sew International, Inc. is a Fair Trade verified, US-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Hopewell, New Jersey. They improve the lives of women and girls in disadvantaged, poverty-stricken communities through education and job skills training. Women and girls in their programs use their education and newfound skills to support themselves, their families, and their community for generations to come. Seeds to Sew believes that when you empower women, you empower entire communities.

Read more about it here...

<https://fairtradefederation.org/members/seeds-to-sew-international/>

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www.jhopri.menu

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Participants

2025-2026 Student Names	
Level	Names
Performance Academy B	Godha Pranathi
Performance Academy B	Rhea Naina Cadambi
Performance Academy B	Ria Chidare
Performance Academy B	Maya Ivancic
Performance Academy B	Srishte Arvind
Performance Academy B	Vedika Deepak
Performance Academy B	Siyona Jain
Performance Academy B	Astha Rajpal
Performance Academy B	Nikita Goyal
Performance Academy B	Suhani Goyal
Performance Academy B	Diya Nagella
Performance Academy A	Tara Kartik
Performance Academy A	Swetha Ragupathi
Performance Academy A	Sanjana Kamath
Performance Academy A	Illayanila Sathieshpillai
Performance Academy A	Dyuthi Anantharam
Performance Academy A	Taruneetha Sujith Kumar
Performance Academy A	Viveka Selvakumar
Performance Academy A	Ishitasri Harish
Performance Academy A	Vidhya Belagodu
Performance Academy A	Vedika Krishna
Performance Academy A	Slesha Erukonda
Senior Academy	Navya Palaparthi
Senior Academy	Maahika Muthunoori
Senior Academy	Prithika Mitra

Senior Academy	Akansha Datta Pynda
Senior Academy	Swecha Erukonda
Senior Academy	Hasini Ragavendran
Senior Academy	Roshni Dhanavanth
Intermediate 2	Lakshitha Manavazhi
Intermediate 2	Ashvika Shastry
Intermediate 2	Anika Shastry
Intermediate 2	Trisha Kondra
Intermediate 2	Adarsha Datta Pynda
Intermediate 2	Shivani Ponvel
Intermediate 2	Shreya Prathap Kumar
Intermediate 2	Aaradhya Karpur
Intermediate 2	Aditi Iyer
Intermediate 2	Aanya Reddy Panyala
Beginners 4	Esha Kamath
Beginners 4	Aisha Khushi Muthunoori
Beginners 4	Nikitha Dhaniyala
Beginners 4	Prahasthi Rayapureddi
Beginners 4	Aditi Reddy Moola
Beginners 4	Aanya Reddy Moola
Beginners 4	Arini Tripathi
Beginners 3	Sreeja Sirasani
Beginners 3	Sloka Sirasani
Beginners 3	Kusumitha Sree Gajula
Beginners 3	Laya Deepak
Beginners 3	Aadyasri Harish
Beginners 3	Riya Kora
Beginners 3	Thanvi Reddy Allala

Beginners 3	Reya V Baddam
Beginners 3	Ira Singh
Beginners 3	Anshi Raj Allada
Beginners 3	Anvee Allada
Beginners 2	Aditri Taralkar
Beginners 2	Adira Taralkar
Beginners 2	Aaranie Singh
Beginners 2	Emerson Joseph
Beginners 2	Aishwarya Naresh
Beginners 1	Saicharitha Garapati
Beginners 1	Roshini Ragavendran
Beginners 1	Darshika Vikram
Beginners 1	Anika Avvaru
Beginners 1	Shrradha Vinod
Beginners 1	Roxanne Toddywalla

ADULTS – DANCING DIVAS

Vicki Agrawal
Natasha Agrawal
Bhoomika Kamath
Niveditha Venkatapathy
Jinu Vinay
Manasa Mamunooru
Ghazala Quddus
Swetha Chandupatla
Swathi Narasimhan
Amulya Diyya
Jyothi Krishnan
Kalaivani Panneerselvam

ADULTS – LASYA LADIES

Sujatha Sekar
Sharika Sasidharan
Chitra Iyer
Manjusha Kannadan
Sruthi Vinod
Sakunthala Chundru
Aparna Venkat

ADULTS – PORTUGAL INTERNATIONAL SUMMER STAGES 2026

Jyothi Krishnan
Tazeen Quddus
Zanetta Pierce
Kalaivani Panneerselvam
Barkha Kishnani
Udaya Pillalamarri
Anu Bhat
Vicki Agrawal
Natasha Agrawal
Ghazala Quddus

2025-2026 SHISHYA STAFF

Jinu Vinay – Beginners Group Teacher

Niveditha Venkatapathy – Assistant teacher Advance levels

Vicki Agrawal – Tech and Social Media Co-Ordinator

STUDENT MENTORS 2025-2026

Dyuthi Anantharam
Vidhya Belagodu
Pranathi (Godha) Kummarapurugu
Tara Kartik
Slesha Erukonda
Vedika Krishna
Prithika Mitra
Ishitasri Harish
Sanjana Kamath
Ria Chidare
Srishte Arvind
Taruneetha Sujith Kumar
Viveka Selvakumar
Siyona Jain

NHSDA INDUCTEES 2025-2026

Pranathi (Godha) Kummarapurugu
Ria Chidare
Rhea Naina Cadambi
Suhani Goyal
Nikita Goyal

NIICD INDUCTEES 2025-2026

Vicki Agrawal
Viveka Selvakumar
Vedika Krishna
Prithika Mitra
Navya Palaparthi

DANCE NEW JERSEY STUDENT MEMBERS

Srishte Arvind
Siyona Jain
Ishitasri Harish

SHISHYA PARENT ASSOCIATION 2025-2026

LEAD - Seetha Anantharam

Vineela Akkineni

Sufala Taralkar

Manasa Mamunooru

Manoohari Perumalsamy

Chaitanya Muthunoori

Archana Panyala

Shalini Kondra

Divya Purushotham

Rajalakshmi Prathap

Purti Malhotra

Soumya Belagodu

Kirtana Subramanian

Shalini Atalluri

Niveditha Bhoopalam

Sruthi Vinod

Chithra Iyer

2025-2026 'ARANGETRAMS'

Rhea Naina Cadambi

Slesha Erukonda

Swecha Erukonda

Vidhya Belagodu

Tara Kartik

2025-2026 'COMPLETION CERTIFICATES'

Astha Rajpal

Suhani Goyal

Nikita Goyal

OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <i>Concept and Choreography</i> | - <i>Sukanya Mahadevan</i> |
| <i>Agenda and Brochure design</i> | - <i>Sukanya Mahadevan</i> |
| <i>Carnatic Vocal Rendition</i> | - <i>Smt. Bhuvana JaganBabu</i> |
| <i>Artwork and flyer</i> | - <i>Prompts by humans and creativity by AI (Microsoft Copilot)</i> |
| <i>Additional Choreography credits:</i> | - <i>Jinu T, Nivi V, Vicki Q, Paris Disney Artists</i> |
| <i>Mistress Of Ceremonies:</i> | - <i>Sukanya Mahadevan and Vicki Q Agrawal</i> |
| <i>Stage Sponsor</i> | - <i>YLDP</i> |
| <i>QR Codes for Brochure and Agenda</i> | - <i>Vicki Q Agrawal</i> |
| <i>Projection Editing</i> | - <i>Vicki Q Agrawal</i> |
| <i>Photo and Videography:</i> | - <i>FotoLaya</i> |
| <i>Food Vendor:</i> | - <i>Jhopri</i> |
| <i>Bake Sale:</i> | - <i>SPA Parents</i> |
| <i>Trophies</i> | - <i>Crown Trophies</i> |
| <i>Volunteering</i> | - <i>Shishya Parent Association(SPA), Student Mentors and Parents of students</i> |
| <i>Backstage co-ordination</i> | - <i>SPA committee executives and members, Homeroom moms, Student mentors</i> |

Director's Note

Dear Friends,

I stand here today with immense gratitude — to the divine, to my parents and family, and to my Gurus who opened the doorway to this extraordinary art form. I never imagined that **Bharathanatyam** would become my full-time calling. Yet now, it feels like the most natural extension of who I am. Teaching, choreographing, and performing are no longer roles I play — they are the rhythm of my life.

But the greatest blessing of all is you — our patrons, our community, and the families who trust me with their gifted children. Your support keeps this ancient art alive, and your children inspire me every single day. Their curiosity, discipline, humor, and sincerity push me to grow — not just as a teacher or choreographer, but as a human being. For that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

This year's production, **The Magic of Natya**, is especially meaningful. It celebrates our unforgettable adventure in Paris, where, last year, our dancers performed at the **Paris Disney Performing Arts Music Festival** — a moment that blended tradition with global artistry.

It also honors the timeless Indian tradition of storytelling, where myth, memory, and meaning are passed down through pure classical movement. In a world that moves fast, these stories remind us to pause, feel, and connect.

Today, we also celebrate our **graduating seniors** — young women who have grown through this art and are now stepping into new chapters of their lives. To them, I offer this message:

May this dance stay with you always. Be hardworking. Be curious. Stay connected. And above all, **be humble** — for humility is the truest path to joy, discipline, and grace.

Thank you for being here, for supporting the arts, and for allowing Shishya to be a part of your family's journey.

With love,

Sukanya Mahadevan

Founder & Artistic Director

Shishya School of Performing Arts

Rhea Naina Cadambi



Suhani Goyal



Nikita Goyal



Ria Chidare



Pranathi (Godha) Kummarapurugu



'Kalashree' Sukanya Mahadevan—Teacher, Choreographer, Founder and Artistic Director

Guru 'Kalashree' Sukanya Mahadevan, a prominent performer, teacher and choreographer has been involved in this art form since the age of 6 and performed her Arangetram in New Delhi at the age of 14. Her performances include the Doordarshan and sabhas in cities like New Delhi, Chennai and Lucknow. As a proud performer at the prestigious fourth Yuva Mahotsava conducted by Sahitya Kala Parishad, she received her scholarship and award at a ceremony presented by the then prime minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Her performances in the major sabhas like Mylapore fine Arts and Narada Gana Sabha were received with rave reviews. She had the privilege of being taught by maestros such as Shri Bhaskar, Smt. Indira Krishnamurthy, late Padmabhushan Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan (her own aunt) and late Kalaimamani Dr. Saraswati Sundaresan.

Sukanya is the Founder and Artistic Director of Shishya School Of Performing Arts and has almost 80 students currently under her tutelage and many more that have graduated. Trained to teach and choreograph this dance form, she has been teaching BharathaNatyam since 1997 in various places such as the Voorhees middle school CER program, the West Windsor Plainsboro dance company, Rider University, Princeton Ballet School, TCNJ, local libraries and schools and the Mercer County Teen Arts Festival. Sukanya also published an article for www.waternoise.com on the 'Guru-Shishya Parampara'. Her innovative choreographies involve both traditional and fusion items that include 'Kathak-Bharathanatyam' Jugalbandhis' and Bharathanatyam-Ballet duets for several productions. Mrs. Mahadevan works with leading artists from the other respective dance fields to pull together these items. Besides being an accomplished dancer and performer, she is a passionate teacher. She likes to push herself and her students to achieve more and caters choreographies to bring forth the strengths in them as a dancer.

In the US, she has performed all over the tri-state area, including the prestigious Guru Vandana program at Chinmaya mission and the Brahmotsav at Bridgewater temple. Some other key performances with her shishyas were at local schools and universities, grounds for sculpture and the prestigious Carnegie Hall and Chennai dance festivals. In 2024, she proudly led a group of advanced students to perform at the invitation only Summer stages at Rome, Italy and this year, she and her adult students are travelling to Lisbon, Portugal for a similar performance. Other unique performances include:

- Paris Disney Performing Arts
- Dishaa – a Nami fundraiser
- TCNJ Arts Festival
- Mercer County Heritage festival
- LecDems at Mercer Teen arts festival, Raritan College, TCNJ, and Princeton American Ballet Repertory school
- New York Fashion week Indian arts runway experience
- Trenton Thunder baseball opener
- Department of Transportation and US immigration conferences

She has conceptualized and choreographed productions for Bharathanatyam called 'Krishnarpanam', 'Ram charitham' and also put together a unique dance drama production with costumes and multimedia projections based on 'The Jungle Book'. Her recent choreographic achievement is the 'Panchbhutham' on the five cosmic elements that involved in depth research into the Dikshidar krithis, Shiva temples and the presentation itself involved unique music and amazing multimedia projections used as props. She is not only a well-known teacher, but also an author and software engineer with a Masters in Computer Science. However dance will always continue to be her primary passion. She is currently a visiting faculty at Rider University's world dance program and an appointed executive treasurer on the board of Dance New Jersey.

In 2020, when Covid hit, Guru Sukanya and her students were among the few that continued to learn and perform virtually including a SACHA fundraiser and Vishwa Rang. Art for Humanity is a motto that

she instills in every student at Shishya.

Some of the accolades she has received are:

- the title 'Kalashree' by Ganesa Natyalaya for propagating the art form to the next generation*
- the prestigious Performing Arts Educators Fellowship*
- A commendation from Voorhees Township for propagating this ancient art in the local communities here in the US.*

- the prestigious Dr. Saraswati Award by Vipanchee Natyalaya*
- best teacher award by DHONGWA*
- best choreographer award by Sofkin*
- Performing Arts Educators Fellow*
- humanitarian award by the Rotary Club*
- NDEO Outstanding Dance Educator in the Dance Studio category*
- NDEO recognition of NHSDA Chapter Sponsor, Sukanya Mahadevan of Shishya School of Performing Arts, for outstanding*





'KALASHREE' SUKANYA MAHADEVAN



'KALASHREE' SUKANYA MAHADEVAN, A PROMINENT PERFORMER, TEACHER AND CHOREOGRAPHER HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS ART FORM SINCE THE AGE OF 6 AND PERFORMED HER ARANGETRAM IN NEW DELHI AT THE AGE OF 14 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GURU PADMABHUSHAN DR. SAROJA VAIDYANATHAN.

HER YOUNG ADULTHOOD WAS SPENT PERFORMING ON PRESTIGIOUS STAGES THROUGHOUT INDIA UNTIL MOVING TO THE UNITED STATES TO FURTHER HER EDUCATION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. WHILE BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AT LOCKHEED MARTIN, SHE KEPT PERFORMING AND TEACHING BHARATANTYAM IN HER FREE TIME UNTIL IT BECAME HER FULL TIME PASSION AND LIFE'S WORK.

SUKANYA IS NOT ONLY THE FOUNDER OF SHISHYA SCHOOL, BUT ALSO A VISITING FACULTY MEMBER OF RIDER UNIVERSITY'S WORLD DANCE PROGRAM AND CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE DANCE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF TRUSTEES. SHE IS ALSO A PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATORS FELLOW AND AN NDEO NOMINEE FOR THE NATIONAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DANCE EDUCATOR. SHE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS ACCOLADES SUCH AS THE TITLE "KALASHREE", DR. SARASWATI AWARD , COMMENDATION FROM VOORHEES TOWNSHIP, ROTARY CLUB HUMANITARIAN AWARD, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN MUSIC VISIONARY AWARD.

