

kathak

Kathak is a classical dance of Northern India. Its past is colourful and venerable. The word Kathak is etymologically related to Katha, the art of story-telling. A community of professional story-tellers who recounted and interpreted tales from Hindu mythology were known as Kathakars. They conveyed the episodes through the artistic medium of narration, singing and dancing. This gradually became a full-fledged hereditary art of dance called Kathak.

Later it was introduced in courts of the Hindu Kings as a form of entertainment. During the great period of renaissance in India the cult of Krishna was at its height. The major part of the interpretative themes centred around the life of Krishna and Radha, the presiding Hindu deities to be worshipped with equal fervour in all parts of India. These themes were developed into mimetic dance or dance-drama.

The curtain next rose on the Mughal period. This period gave Kathak a high degree of style and also imparted to it a vivid sensuous quality.

The great cultural resurgence of this century has given Kathak a new form and content. Kathak today is a blend of Vedic and Shastric traditions enriched by the art of Keertans and Dhrupad intermingled with the aesthetics of the Mughals and the refinements of Hindustani music in the form of Thumri Dadra and Ghazal.

The technique of Kathak dance is marked by its linear movements with almost liquid fluency, emphasizing rhythms with fast foot-work (Tatkari), spins (Chakkar) and very deep flowing Abhinaya (expression).



odissi

Odissi is a dance form embodying a very ancient tradition of classical dance in Odisha. This tradition winds back to 2nd century B.C. Generations of devoted temple dancers, the Maharis and the Gotipuas or the young male dancer have kept its tradition alive. The full revival in recent times has been inspired by the study of dancing figures in Odisian temple sculpture of Puri, Bhuvaneshwar and Konarak and ancient texts on dance. Its recognition as a part of the national heritage was quickly followed by universal appreciation of individuality and freshness of diction.

Odissi has its technical rules in Natya Shastra and Abhinaya Chandrika. Both Tanday (masculine) and Lasys (feminine) aspects of dance obtain in Odissi. It has its own form of Nritya (pure dance) and Nrityac (thematic dance) while its predominating rasas are Shringara and Bhakti. The distinctive features of this dance form are the three bend postures (Tribhanga) and the sculptural poses. It is indigenous, and is danced to Odissi music.



COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE

Presents :-

Pratap and Priya Pawar

"India's Divine Dancing Couple."

About the artists

Pratap Pawar :-

One of the best exponents of Kathak in India, Pratap has been acclaimed at home and abroad as a rich blend of the various elements of the style he represents - mime and gesture, movement and posture, rhythm and mood.

Pratap Pawar, a graduate from the Agra University, is the very first disciple of Pandit Birju Maharaj. He taught Kathak for 5 years at the American International School, and 3 years at the Modern School, New Delhi.

Recognising his talent the Government of India deputed him to perform in Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Phillipines, Ceylon and Indonesia, whereas before in the UK, USA, Bhutan, Thailand and other countries, he has been acclaimed as an outstanding artist.

~~At present ~~that~~ he has been appointed as the director/choreographer of the Kathak department at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan London.~~

Priya Pawar :-

Priya Pawar has taught Kathak + Odissi styles of Indian dance for about four years at the Indian Cultural Centre, Guyana.

Priya has had a rigorous training in both Kathak + Odissi. She learnt Odissi from ~~from~~ ~~of~~ Guru KELUCHARN MAHOPATRA and his noted disciple, HARI KRISHNA BEHERA. and Abhinaya distinguishes her dance ~~as it~~

She is noted for her striking individual dance postures and her dignity.

Prab and Priya Pawar have been taking part in numerous leading music conferences and T.V. Shows in many parts of the world and at present are teaching at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, London.

WORKSHOPS

Programme: The couple are able to offer a ~~full~~ performance of Kathak and Odissi - two traditional classical dance forms of India. They are able to give a 2½ performance or shorter sequences of lasting up to 30 minutes. The couple is also renowned for their dance drama programme especially the "Dream of Prince Salim - Anarkali".

Music - All their performances are accompanied by live musicians.

WORKSHOPS - The couple are able to offer workshops in the following -

(a) Kathak & Odissi

(b) Folk Dances of India including -
Bhangra, Garba, Lavani, Ghoomar
Raas, Kajari.

Workshops can be arranged for either weekends or during the week.

Dance forms:

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Abhinaya distinguishes her dance and she is noted for her striking individual dance postures and her dignity.

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Kothak Dancers

Mr Pratap }
Mr Priya } Pawar

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0365

Staying on for four weeks

at request of Indira

Dance workshops & performances

See reportable

Devendra Singh at the