

# SPIC MACAY

## Kanak Rele



**KANAK RELE** • A qualified lawyer with research in International Law at the University of Manchester, UK. Ph.D. from University of Mumbai on Mohiniattam. Academician & researcher  
• Founded Nalanda Dance Research Centre 47 years ago • Hugely responsible for painstaking work in revival of Mohiniattam for 40 years • Made a film on the surviving exponents of Mohiniattam: late Smt. Kunjukuttiyamma, late Smt. Chinammamma & Smt. Kalyanikuttiyamma • Collaborated with scholar Kavalam Narayana Panikkar to revive old & almost forgotten dance items of the Kerala tradition have been cast in Sopana mode • Choreographed more than 50 pieces namely, Sant Vani, Silappadikaram, Kalyani, The Enlightened One – Gautama Buddha & many others  
• Member on panel of experts for UGC, IGNOU, Gujarat University & Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius • Awarded Padma Bhushan (2013), Padma Shri (1990), Central Sangeet Natak Akademi (1994), Kalidas Samman (2006) & many others

**MOHINIATTAM** • Mohiniattam is one of India's 8 classical dances from the state of Kerala  
• Means the dance of 'mohini', the enchantress • Characterised by soft swaying movements of the upper body which reminds one of the swaying palm trees & meandering rivers in Kerala. Mohiniattam draws a lot from nature and mythology • There are nearly 40 basic movements called atavukal. The costume is a white sari with bright golden brocade border (kasavu) • Revived by Maharaja Swati Tirunal of Travancore, a great art lover in the 19th century, it became a solo dance tradition with musical compositions in Sanskrit & Malayalam, set in the Carnatic music style. By 1930, when the great poet Vallathol established the Kerala Kalamandalam in Shoranur, Kerala to promote Kathakali & Mohiniattam, extensive research expanded the repertoire of Mohiniattam