



Malavika Sarukkai



MALAVIKA SARUKKAI • Began learning Bharatanatyam at the age of 7 • Trained under Kalyanasundaram Pillai (Tanjavur school) & Rajaratnam (Vazhuvoor School). Learned abhinaya under Kalanidhi Narayanan & Odissi under renowned gurus, Kelucharan Mohapatra & Ramani Ranjan Jena • Made her debut at the age of 12 in Mumbai. Has performed in India and abroad, including the Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts, New York, John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts & at Chicago • Life & work have been recorded in documentaries: Samarpanam, commissioned by the Government of India; Dancing, The Unseen Sequence – Exploring Bharatanatyam Through the Art of Malavika Sarukkai, a 9-hour television documentary by BBC/WNET • **Awarded** : the Padma Shri by Govt of India in 2003; Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award by the Govt of India in 2002; Kalaimamani title from the Govt of Tamil Nadu; Mrinalini Sarabhai Award, Nrityachoodamani title, Sanskriti award & the Haridas Sammelan award.

BHARATANATYAM • One of the 8 classical dances of India • Is one of the most popular & widely performed dance styles & is practiced by male & female dancers all over the world, although it is more commonly danced by women • Is known for its grace, purity, tenderness, expression & sculptural poses • Originated in the temples of Tamil Nadu • Lord Shiva is considered the God of this dance form, often seen as Nataraja • The name Bharatanatyam is of relatively recent origin when performers like Rukmini Devi Arundale revived the dance form in the 20th century and set up the Kalakshetra, a renowned dance school in Chennai. The original names of Bharatanatyam were Sadir, Chinnamelan and most commonly Dasi Attam. A possible origin of the name is from Bharata Muni, who described it in his dance treatise, Natya Shastra. The word Bharatanatyam combines 'bhavam' meaning expression, 'ragam' meaning music, 'thalam' meaning rhythm & 'natyam' meaning dance.

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