



Sujata Mohapatra



SUJATA MOHAPATRA • Started dancing Odissi classical and folk dance with Sudhakar Sahu's dance troupe in programs across Odisha • Learnt from Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra • One of the foremost Odissi dancers of her generation • Principal of 'Srjan' (Odissi Nrityabasa), a prime Odissi Dance Institution founded by Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra • In July 2011, she opened an Odissi Institute - Guru Keerti Srjan, in her hometown Balasore • Has a Masters Degree in Oriya Literature from Utkal University and has done research work at the Odissi Research Centre, Bhubaneswar • Received Nritya Choodamani from Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai in 2014, 2nd Sanjukta Panigrahi Award given by Chitra Krishnamurthi from Washington D.C., Outstanding Category Artist in ICCR • Top Grade Artist of Doordarshan

ODISSI DANCE • Odissi, also known as Orissi, is one of the eight classical dance forms of India • It originates from the state of Odisha in eastern India • The classic treatise of Indian dance, Natya Shastra, refers to it as Odra-Magadhi • It is particularly distinguished from other classical Indian dance forms by the importance it places upon the Tribhangi, the independent movement of head, chest and pelvis and upon the basic square stance known as Chauka that symbolises Lord Jagannath • This dance is characterised by various Bhangas (Stance), which involves stamping of the foot and striking various postures as seen in Indian sculptures • The common Bhangas are Bhanga, Abanga, Atibhanga and Tribhanga.