



Kalanidhi

CENTRE OF PERFORMING ARTS



Sucharita

About Dr. Sucharita Khanna :

Sucharita, popularly known as "Charu" amongst her family and friends, was born to Usha and Om Prakash Tandon on August 7, 1965 at Varanasi-the epicenter of country's tradition in music and dance. Her birth in the idyllic surroundings of the Banaras Hindu University and her artistic inheritance from her mother's dancing skills as a Kathak dancer made young Sucharita blossom as an artist.

During her stay at B.H.U., she received early training in Bharatanatyam from Smt. Jaya Chandrasekhar and later completed her Diploma from the Faculty of Performing Arts of the University.

In her quest to attain higher knowledge and excel in the field of dance, she migrated to Vadodara in Gujarat to join the Faculty of Performing Arts at the M.S. University. Here, she got the opportunity to be trained under the able guidance of her guru, Prof. C.V. Chandrasekhar, a disciple of Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale (founder of Kalakshetra, Adiyar, Chennai) and a globally renowned exponent of Bharatanatyam style of dance for more than 60 years now.

Sucharita completed her Master's degree in Bharatanatyam in 1988 along with her Bachelor's degree in Ancient Indian History and Archeology. She also performed her Arangetram successfully in the same year. Her performing skills impressed her teachers at Vadodara. Besides, presenting several performances there, she was selected for a group dance in the famous TV serial "Ramayana" produced by late Shri Ramanand Sagar. Later on she completed her Ph.D. from the Banaras Hindu University. Her subject was "Dancing Divinities in Indian Art".

Dr. Sucharita Khanna is both a performing artist and a teacher. She mainly devotes herself to impart training to young students. Balancing her obligations towards her family-husband and two loving children-Sucharita answered the inner call of her adopted profession of imparting knowledge and training to young girls and boys by setting up "Kalanidhi - Centre of Performing Arts" at Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. Today, the institute is a leading performing arts school and imparts regular training to students. Till date, twelve students have performed the prestigious 'Arangetram'.



Academic & Professional Achievement :

- Received Bharatanatyam training under Smt. Jaya and Prof. C.V. Chandrasekhar (awarded Padma Bhusan in 2011)
- Attended workshops under able guidance of Chitra Dasarathy of Bengaluru.
- Author of "Introduction to Bharatanatyam" (Vol. I, Vol. II & Vol. III).
- Author of the famous book "Dancing Divinities in Indian Art" published in 1999 and felicitated by Dr. L.M.Singhvi, an erudite legal luminary and the then Member of Parliament.
- Awarded Ph.D in History of Arts & Performing Arts from B.H.U., Varanasi, 1992
- M.P.A., M.S.U., Vadodara, 1988
- B.A. [Arch.], M.S.U. Vadodara, 1987
- B.P.A., M.S.U., Vadodara, 1986
- Diploma from the Faculty of Performing Arts of B.H.U., Varanasi, 1981

Teaching:

- Conducted classical dance classes at I.I.T., Kanpur Campus, 1988-1991
- Founded "Kalanidhi"-Centre of Performing Arts, Kanpur in 1999. The Centre is affiliated to Akhil Bhartiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Miraj, Mumbai.
- Senior Examiner for degree courses at major institutions in India.
- Lecture Demonstration at Bhatkhande Music Institute (Deemed University), Lucknow, 2005
- Lecture Demonstration at Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, London, U.K. in 2011
- Conducted workshop at Mason, Ohio, U.S.A., 2012
- Organised "Dandiya-Raas" for Rotary Club of Kanpur West and Orient Resort, Kanpur for more than 15 years.

Stage Performances :

Since inception, the students of Kalanidhi have been presenting annual stage performances. Conceived and choreographed by Dr. Sucharita Khanna and performed by her illustrious students, the richness and variety of themes of these performances are self - explanatory:

- "Bansuri Bajti Rahi": life of Lord Krishna as a dancer, 1999
- "Dance - Birth to Rebirth": journey of dance since its inception to modern times, 2000
- "Dharti-ki-Jhankar": folk dances of India, 2001
- "Shad-Ritu-Raas". Six seasons, 2002
- "Karshteeti Krishna": love episodes of Lord Krishna, 2003
- "Vanshabeli": daughter epitomized as fragrance of love and happiness, 2004
- "Shri-Spandan": dancing divinities, 2005
- "Bharatanatyam Arangetram"- first time in the history of Kanpur by four students, 2006.

- "Srijan Sanchali": creation and vibration, 2007
- "Smriti Shikha": flaming memories on the path of perfection, 2008
- "RatiRang": Divine beauty of shringar nayikas, 2009
- "Khanak": choreography on journey of sound from mother's womb to the path of excellence, 2010
- "Nritya-Nada": six original ragas from the five facets of lord Shiva and her consort Parvati, 2011.
- "Shinjini Utsav": ankle bells possess the perfection in dance, 2017.
- "Ramacharitamanas": dance ballet, 2018.

Performances by Sucharita & Kalanidhi troupe:

Overseas :-

- Nehru Centre, London, U.K., 2011.
- Fairfield Community Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A. 2012.
- 7th Annual Hindi Divas Celebration, Chicago, U.S.A., 2017.
- 'Jhankar' Anderson Theatre, Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A., 2017.
- Support a Child Project, Columbus, U.S.A., 2017
- Community Center of GSNY, New York, U.S.A., 2017 (IASCCNY)
- International Champions at Indo-Bali Cultural Festival, (IACS), Bali, Indonesia, 2018.
- International Winner in Cultural Conclave 2019, Bangkok (Thailand).

In India :-

- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Kanpur 2000-2001
- Moti Mahal Lawns, Lucknow, 2002
- Dist. Rotary Club Conference, Kanpur, 2003
- 90th B.H.U. Foundation Day Celebration at Indira Gandhi Kala Kendra, Noida, U.P. 2006

- 145th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, New Delhi, 2006
- Quality Circle Forum of India Conference, I.I.T., Kanpur, 2006
- National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning, I.I.T. Kanpur, 2007
- Chikitushi Kala Mela, Kanpur, 2008
- Rotary District Conference, Kanpur, 2009
- Lions Club International District Installation, Kanpur, 2009
- Conference on Global Working, I.I.T., Kanpur, 2009
- Ballet "Nritya Naad" at India International Center (IIC), New Delhi, 2011
- Ballet "RatiRang" at Akshardham Temple, New Delhi, 2012
- Maharaj Prayag Narayana Temple, Kanpur, 2013, 2014 & 2016
- Sthapana Divas, ISKCON Temple, Kanpur, 2014
- Bal Kala Utsav, New Delhi (National Dance Competition), 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2019
- Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain, 2015
- National Champions at IACS, Goa- 2015, Jaipur- 2016, Ahemdabad- 2018
- Krishna Janmashtami Mahotsav : IIT, Kanpur, 2016 & 2017
- Tirupati Balaji, Tirumala (by SVBC Channel) 2019.
- DMSRDE (Defence), Kanpur, 2019

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