

NARTHAKI



Dance, for me, is a body, mind and soul experience. In my sixteen years as a classical Indian dancer,

I have experienced that dance is as continuous as life itself.

Espe, it is a constant challenge to keep alive and contemporise dance, in all its various forms as I practise it.

As a traditional Bharathanatyam exponent from the renowned Kalakshetra school of art and dance, I have realised the sublimity of a classical mode of expression.

I experienced the fluidity of body and mind when I chose to delve into modern and contemporary dance. For seven years in Chandralekha's dance company, I performed in diverse projects and abstract themes. 'Lilavatil' was a piece on ancient Indian mathematics; 'Sluts' was a pronouncement on the power of the feminine principles.

My travels and performances at art festivals in the former USSR [Leningrad and Moscow], in Germany, Italy, Australia and the United Kingdom have been personally an enriching experience. I have assimilated

multi cultural art forms and diverse viewpoints in my interactions with dancers and performers across continents.

Today, as a teacher, choreographer and as always, a learner, I take creative pleasure in formulating new forms of dance.

'The Banyan Tree' [1993] was a play of the Tag Theatre Company that I choreographed and participated in. I explored the styles of Bharathanatyam and African dance in a choreography lab in 1997 in the midlands. I performed an educational dance programme for Tern Television

Productions

on Hindu mythology.

Multi cultural experiences are always a reward. I have participated and conducted dance workshops in India, Germany and the United Kingdom.

The Bharathanatyam production of 'Anna Karenina' earned me a Dance Development Award from the Scottish Art Council.

My training in Kalari [South Indian martial art] and Yoga helped me immensely in honing my body to the rigours of a lifelong commitment to dance. Learning, teaching, exchanging and experimenting dance opens new vistas and languages daily for me.

- Gertha Sridhar