

loud  
applause

Magazine for the classical dance community

# Pune Dance Season 2019



## Pune Dance Season 2019

**Shastriya Nrutya Sanvardhan Sanstha (SNSS)** is an organization of the dancers, for the dancers, by the dancers. Sucheta Chapekar, Shama Bhate and Maneesha Sathe are the founder members of this organization which was started in Pune last year. The organization aims at creating a platform for the young talent of the city and promoting the Pune dancers on a global level. SNSS has already successfully conducted performance avenues and opportunities in the short span of its formation. The organization spreading its wings fast, hosted the first ever Dance Season in Pune from 20th to 30th April 2019, to celebrate the International Dance day. These 10 days saw Pune dancers from 7 to 40 yrs dive in the activities organized by different dancers under the auspices of SNSS. It was a full spectrum with performances, competitions, art exhibitions, elocution, essay writing, workshops, interaction sessions which led to the grand finale on 30th where more than 25 groups performed ending the season with a bang!



Giving you all a gist of all the events...



**# Workshop focusing on Psychological Aspect & Personality Development through dance.**

As per renowned Marathi writer, Pu La Deshpande, education can help an individual bring in money which is required for survival. However, it is only due to one's connection with some or the other form of art that makes one's life livable. Focusing and enlightening on this topic a workshop was organized by Manasi which focused on the psychology of students and their parents. Ketaki Kulkarni, head of the counseling department at Maharashtra education society was the dignitary invited to conduct the workshops. Common yet important questions like "I wanted to attend the dance class, but mom had some other plans; so, I had to miss it" or "We liked our daughters' performance, but we would have enjoyed it more if we were able to understand what she was trying to depict" were addressed. Conducting such a workshop was her genuine effort to erase the communication gap between the parents and children. Ketki Kulkarni focused on looking at dance with a different and serious perspective, understanding and using it to one's own benefit. Art empowers an individual with the strength to focus on their goal. Every consistent classical dance student is benefitted with higher levels of creativity and productivity. Overall, an attempt to reach out to the parents and make communication a vital point in today's age.



**# Mudra Kathak Nrityalaya**, in association with Dabke Trust, organized an evening which consisted of performances by Leena Ketkar and students of the academy along with a crisp interview session of 5 dancers who along with dance are known for their allied activities too. Rachanabandh was a segment

consisting of two choreographies namely **Karn - Tejmaan Putra & Ni:shabdachya Talyakathi**. Both were conceived and choreographed by Leena Ketkar. Karn - Tejmaan Putra was a solo presentation by Leena, based on a poem written by Pravin Joshi. Second segment part was Nrityamitee. In this 5 young talented classical dancers interacted about their views about the dance scene now and the different idioms and other art forms, they use to reach out to people.



**Arundhati Patwardhan**, Bharatnatyam dancer and the torch bearer of Kalavardhini Charitable Trust. Interestingly she didn't initially want to pursue a career in dance! She was interested in sports and was doing well in that but due to some injury she was not able to continue and then got attracted towards dance as her need to be 'being creative' all the time was fulfilled by this form. Being Sucheta Chapekar's daughter, she admits to the legacy pressure, but inspite of that Arundhati has carved her place in the dance field with creating consistent and unique avenues for upcoming dancers.



**Neha Muthiyar**, Kathak dancer and disciple of Guru Shambhavi Dandekar, is the owner/publisher/editor of a dance magazine called Loud Applause. The idea of having all the dance forms and dancers on a common platform and where the 'dancer' is the focus lead to the germination of the magazine idea. The magazine not only provides words of wisdom from great scholars, critics and dancers from young generation but also organizes

workshops, interaction sessions with gurus and senior dancers to give an overall experience to the students of dance.

**Manasi Vaze**, due to her training in theatre, has successfully been able to connect with the students on a personal level and which has helped her in teaching to different students and guiding them according to their abilities. She was pursuing theatre where she was introduced to the dance form and then began her official training in the Bharatnatyam dance form under Guru Sucheta Chapekar. Her need to express and connect with the audience was greatly satisfied by a totally different medium which was challenging. But the knowledge of both is helping her groom her students in the subtleties of abhinaya which are required in dance.



**Rasika Gumaste**, a Bharatnatyam and Odissi dancer, Rasika has mastered both the dance forms and performs professionally in both. A german translator by profession, she started her training in BN under Guru Manik Ambike and after successfully completing it moved on to learn Odissi under Guru Yogini Gandhi. She has choreographed dance ballets in BN and teaches Odissi to students. Pursuing 2 contrasting dance styles is a challenge which she can carry off comfortably and with equal confidence, charm and poise!

**Manjiri Karulkar**, Senior Kathak dancer and disciple of Guru Maneesha Sathe, Manjiri has been instrumental in setting up the dance wing at Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune. She has played a vital role in setting the syllabus, examination pattern at the various levels of dance at BVDU. Her experience of teaching for more than 25 years has helped her to gauge the student mentality and how their socio-economic background can affect their career in dance. She doesn't hold a official post at BVDU but her passion for dance and teaching has made her irreplaceable at the university!



# PAYAL NRITYALAYA

**Payal Gokhale, Founder of Payal Nrityalaya organised 2 days events.**

On 27<sup>th</sup> April, Classical Dance Competition was held for KATHAK & BHARATNATYAM (in Solo n Group Category). It got an excellent response as total of 47 dance students participated. It was great platform for dance students of Pimpri - Chinchwad to showcase their talent & spread awareness of Classical Dance.

## ***Bharatnatyam Open Group (solo)***

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** - Hrudvi Shinde

## ***Bharatnatyam Senior Group (solo)***

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** - Vismaya Nair

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** - Swarali Shete

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** - Shambhavi Kulkarni



## ***Kathak Open Group (solo)***

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** - Manasi Bhagawat

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize** - Kundojwala Sharma

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize** - Vama Shah

## ***Kathak Senior Group (solo)***

**1<sup>st</sup> prize** - Kavya Avate

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize** - Vaishnavi Sapkal

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize** - Ayasha Nagavani

## ***Kathak Junior Group (solo)***

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** - Riya Gokhale

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize** - Rama Gado

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize** - Anvi Balasare

## ***Group dance***

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** - Shivanjali

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize** - Kalashree

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize** - Purva Kruti

The 2<sup>nd</sup> event was “Nritya-Sanyog” a Classical Dance programme was held at Manohar Wadhokar Auditorium, Nigdi, in which dance artists from different classical dance styles viz. Bharatnatyam (Sayali Deodhar, Varsha Ananthraman & Suvarna Baug), Odissi (Priyasha Deochake), Kuchipudi (Shilpa Mynampathi) and Kathak (Isha Kathavate, Aniket Ovhal & Payal Gokhale) performed along with their students.



## Essay Competition

Manjiri Karulkar, founder of Roopak Nrityalaya, took up the task of uniting the young dancers in the age group of 9 to 12 yrs, and organizing an essay competition on the topic, 'Why do I learn Dance?'. The uniqueness of this was that it was held at different corporation owned gardens across the city of Pune, so as to encourage students from all over to participate. Different areas like Hadapsar, Wanowrie, Bhandarkar road, Aundh, Karvenagar, Sinhagad Rd, Kothrud, Patwardhan Baug were covered under this. The competition saw a huge response with around 300+ students turning up at different venues. This was coordinated by different dance schools from that respective area. The essays were judged by Amala Shekhar and Vidula Kudekar, both senior Kathak dancers.







**Swarali Kulkarni**



SHASTRYA NRIYA SAHAWADHAN  
SANGHATA

S I I

DATE: 20-4-2019

Name: Swarali Kulkarni  
 Birth day: 24-12-2002  
 Year: 10 years  
 Diving Kathak: Anvika  
 Tala: India, Bhatkher, Kudalav  
 Kathak

Why do I like to dance?

I like to dance because dance is a good exercise for our body. When I dance I feel confident and fresh. When I am alone at home or bored a feeling comes in my mind that come on you have to dance now. It's like the person in my dream wants to dance now. It's a nice feeling but I don't know from where it comes. If I want to dance I can dance on any song or film. It's fun during when I dance I feel very happy and joyful. It's a nice feeling I also like to watch dance shows programers etc. It's fun I also like to take part in dance competition. It's fun when it's our program we come daily to class practice hard and perform when we are performing it's the stage the lights our nice dress, the nice music cause the sound of our ghongroos etc makes me feel happy and fresh and I wish when I grow up I can be a good and nice dancer as my father. I know I can if I do a lot of practice and do hard work then I can be a good dancer. I can prove the world to such a nice dancer and also happy because I go to learn in her class hearing the lovely sound of our feet. All our experiences of our faces we look so enthusiastic will perform the fun dance is an activity for our body as our age are

learning the beads in our ghongroos increase fits to run the best part is learning new things when our feet are getting the steps and feeling it for our program. I was so happy to learn it. It was fun and I thought that I am sleeping and I am dreaming that my mother is reading a story book for me in this I was all over dancing like little flying birds. It was so refreshing for my mind that it's so fun dance is my favourite will be forever as I like to dance!!!

FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

SHASTRYA NRIYA SAHAWADHAN  
SANGHATA

S I I

DATE:

Name: Sanjana Kulkarni  
 Mobile No: 912241492  
 Age - 10  
 Dance -  
 Class - Kathak dance academy  
 Tala name - Smt. Ananda Shankar  
 Mobile no. - 9350 816569

Dance first  
It's the natural order

Dance holds a special place in my life. When I was 7 years old my mother took my admission for dance class. That time I didn't know anything about the dance. My mother who encourage me to pursue dance. My guru Smt. Anandaji slowly bridged me about the dance, especially about Kathak dance. This competition helped me to understand deeply. "Why do I dance?"

"Experience helps me to gain knowledge"

Dance fill my heart with joy. Dance keep me fit and makes me fresh. It gets rid of fatigue. In this 3 years I learn many things like moral lessons not to give up.

"Once a dancer forever a dancer"

That is the growth that helps me the world from all the corners. It gives me confidence and freedom.

Dance is

- D - Dancer
- A - Actor
- N - Not to give up easily
- C - Central
- E - Enthusiasm

To learn moral lessons

I live till I dance

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**Sanjana Kulkarni**







## Kehat Gat...

Vidula Kudekar and students of Urmi Kathak Nrityalaya presented choreographies on 4 stories of different backgrounds along with traditional items. The stories presented were from 'Ato lokancha desh' by Vin.Da.Karandikar, 'Boom' by Raju Deshpande, the next was based on a bajan by Saint Surdas, 'Chalo ri murali suniye', and the last one was by Mrunal Vanarse based on a folktale from the Gir forest. The concept and choreography was by Vidula Kudekar.



## Anuvedh

Guru Maneesha Sathe, a dancer of great renown, is one of the leading Kathak exponents of India. The torchbearer of Nataraj Gopi Krishnaji's dance style and the founder of Maneesha Nrityalaya Charitable Trust, she has experimented with a wide variety of themes: traditional, modern, concrete, abstract, folk as well as contemporary.

Anuved, was organized by the institution where 13 Groups of senior disciples of Maneesha Nrityalaya along with their respective performing troupes will come together on one stage in a beautiful confluence of Kathak.





## Let the Dance Breathe

A workshop conducted by Sonal Pendse, Kathak dancer and Dance Therapist, focused on making the dancers aware of the benefits of dance therapy and to develop a physically and mentally strong healthy dance fraternity. Long practice hours, strain on a particular set of muscles, mental exhaustion can overpower creativity, leaving a dancer bound in the narrow box of typical items. A great opportunity to 'let the dance breathe' with its inherent creativity and positive energy. The participants were taught muscle strengthening exercises and relaxing stretches. They experimented with themes, expressions and movements. This was like giving a fresh thought to our rich traditional ideas and preparing our body to bare them profoundly!



## Dance Elocution & Art exhibition

Creativity was running high at the Pune Dance Season! The Jyotsna Bhole Sabhagraha (popular as JBS) Campus was a bustling activity with a unique concept meticulously handled by Rama Kuknur, Ameera Patankar and Avane Gadre. The exhibition had a display of various dance related instruments and charts describing the history of different styles. The elocution competition saw many confident speakers speak extempore. A good activity for the mind!



# Nrityotsav

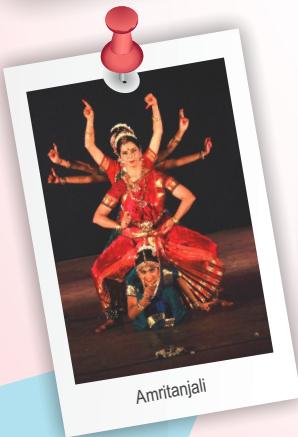
The Pune Dance Season ended with a bang on 30 th April with 27 classical dance groups performing in the evening. The motive of the season was to get dancers together on a single platform and showcase the strength and unity of the Pune dancers on a global level. The grand finale was such a show filled with energy, enthusiasm and finesse! All the dancers were committed to the cause and to make the first ever Pune Dance Season a success! Waiting for next year...



Prajakta Raj- Atre, Meghana Sabade, Swati Daithankar, Manjiri Karulkar, Shama Bhate, Maneesha Sathe



Sucheta Chapekar, Maneesha Sathe, Parul Mehta, Shama Bhate



Amritanjali



Nadroop



Kalavardhini



Maneesha Nrityalaya



Shashikala Ravi



Abha Auti



Tridhara

## Glance Through...

1. **Nritya Sandhya** An evening of solos and duets by senior students of Guru Suchitra Date and Nrityaprerana dancers marked the beginning of the dance season. Special invitee, an accomplished danseuse, Guru and Carnatic singer NEETHI NAIR presented MOHINIATTAM.

2. Nilima Hirve, a Kathak dancer had terrific lineup of events. She hosted different interaction sessions with people who are an inevitable part of the dance industry, starting with Varsha Sanglikar and Kedar Kulkarni (make-up), introduction to different dance forms with Rasika Gumaste (Odissi), Devika Borthakur (Sattriya) and Gayatri Ambekar (Kuchipudi), Dr. Seema Sonis (diet and nutrition), Amala Shekhar (Abhinay Darpan and Kathak), Sanjay Karandikar (Laya, Taal siddhant), Rahul Deshpande (daivatshastra ani nritya) along with performances and an early morning riyaz session in collaboration with different dance academies on Sinhagad road.

3. The dance season saw participation from overseas too! Prakriti Kathak Nrityalaya organized a Kathak performance of Carolin, a senior disciple of Pta. Rohini Bhate and Neelima Adhye along with her student Tanja.

4. Dr. Madhuri Apte had organized a very interesting session where musicians voice out their expectations while accompanying a dance recital. This was a thought provoking activity for the dancers and the accompanying artists as well as the audience who could get a chance to know about the backend process of how a composition is developed.

5. **Nritya Upasana** A unique concept based presentation was done by Amala Shekhar & her disciples at Prarthana Samaj, Pune. The dancer always depicts/focuses on the 'idol form' of God or the Divine Power. The challenge here was that Prarthana Samaj doesn't believe in idol worship & an even bigger challenge was that this was to be in front of 7 to 12 yrs of children for whom the idea of 'the formless' was a little difficult to digest. Hence the invocatory piece was performed describing the Universal power with its distinct qualities & how they manifest in the material world. A famous poem 'Need ka Nirman Phir- Phir' by noted poet & scholar, Harivanshrai Bachchan & a nirguni bhajan 'Ghaat Ghaat mein Panchi Bolta' by Saint Kabir were also performed emphasizing the fact that all forms are manifestations of one creative power!