

NAYANTARA PARPIA

Kathak Dancer & Teacher

Nayantara Parpia is a young and upcoming Kathak dancer with a vibrant and energetic stage presence that leaves a striking impression on her audiences. She has trained in the **Lucknow gharana of Kathak** since the age of 7 under the tutelage of renowned Kathak and Odissi exponent, **Smt. Yogini Gandhi**, at her institute 'Kalanidhi' in Pune. She is now training under the legendary maestro, **Padma Vibhushan Pandit Birju Maharajji**, at 'Kalashram' in New Delhi.

Since 2004, Nayantara has been performing as one of the lead dancers in the Kalanidhi troupe, and has travelled and performed extensively with her Guru at various dance festivals, concerts, corporate shows and lecture demonstrations across India. She also has many solo Kathak performances to her credit in **India, Singapore** and the **UK**. Some of her recent performances include:

- **"Sandhana Festival"** at Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi
- **"Pancha Tatva Festival"**, Mumbai
- **"Prayatna Festival"**, Pune
- **"World Culture Festival"**, New Delhi
- **"Subah-e-Benares"**, Varanasi
- **"South Africa India Tourism Conference"** - A Collaboration with the Boombay Djembe Folas, Mumbai
- **"Kathak Mehfil"** at **Kalaa Utsavam** Indian dance and music festival at the Esplanade Theatre, Singapore
- **"Nrityanjali"** at the Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society (SIFAS)
- **"Enna Nadakkuthu"** TV show on Vasantham channel, Singapore
- **"Mid Autumn Festival"** at Gardens by the Bay, Singapore
- **"Michael Faraday School"**, London, UK
- **"Swar Sadhana Samiti"**, Mumbai

Nayantara has also performed Kathak in renowned Bollywood film director Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2015 blockbuster '**Bajirao Mastani**' under the choreographic direction of her Guru, Pandit Birju Maharaj.

Nayantara has been awarded the **title of "Nritya Shree"** in 2010 by Utkal Yuva Sanskrutik Sangh at the Cuttack Mahotsav, recognized by UNESCO. She has won top prizes at a number of **All-India classical dance competitions** organized by Swar Sadhana Samiti, Brahmanaad and Akhil Bharatiya Sanskrutik Sangh.

Besides being a performer, Nayantara is a very passionate teacher, and has been **imparting training in Kathak to young children and adults for over 10 years**. After assisting her Guru at Kalanidhi, Pune for 5 years, Nayantara went on to start her own school for Kathak in Pune in 2009. In 2013 she moved to Singapore where she was based for over 2 years. There, she started and nurtured the Kathak department in one of the oldest and most prestigious Indian classical dance institutes in Singapore, **Apsaras Arts**. She has also conducted **Kathak workshops** in India and abroad.

Nayantara has received a **Diploma with Distinction in 'Nritya Shastra'** (Dance theory) from the Nalanda Dance Research Centre, Mumbai. Besides dance, Nayantara is also very enthusiastic about Indian classical music and is currently undergoing **Tabla and Hindustani vocal training**. She holds a **Bachelors Degree in Economics** and a **Diploma in Liberal Arts**, both from Symbiosis College, Pune.