

TYPES OF CLASSICAL DANCES

1 Bharatanatyam

Bharatanatyam is an important classical dance form in India. It originated in the temples of South India, particularly, Tamil Nadu. It used to be performed by Devadasis, thus it was also known as Dasiattam

2 kathak

Kathak is indigenous to northern India and developed under the influence of both Hindu and Muslim cultures. Kathak is characterized by intricate footwork and precise rhythmic patterns that the dancer articulates by controlling about 100 ankle bells

3 Kathakali

kathakali is performed exclusively by men and young boys who play the parts of both males and females. The dancers are dedicated to its practice throughout their lives. Dancer giving a performance of India's traditional kathakali dance. The movement is vigorous and florid. Stylized gestures and facial expressions follow the rules of bharata natyam

4 Kuchipudi

Kuchipudi, a pre-eminent Indian classical dance form counted among ten leading classical dance forms of India, is a dance-drama performance art that originated in a village of Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, India. Similar to all leading Indian classical dance forms, Kuchipudi too evolved as a religious art rooting back to the age-old Hindu Sanskrit text 'Natya Shastra' and connects traditionally with temples, spiritual faiths and travelling bards

5 Manipuri

The dance is performed by women in honour of the Hindu god Vishnu in his incarnation as the enchantress Mohini. According to Hindu mythology, Vishnu took the form of Mohini to distract the demon Bhasmasura while the gods took the elixir of immortality from churning of the celestial oceans and thus saved the universe from destruction. The myth of Mohini forms the core of any mohini attam performance

6 Mohiniyattam

- Mohiniyattam, also spelt as Mohiniattam, is the traditional dance form of Kerala performed exclusively by women. It is one of the ancient Indian classical dance forms recognized by Sangeet Natak Akademi. The dance is characterized by suggestive hand movements (mudras), rhythmic footwork and lyrical music.

7 Odissi

Odissi is traditionally a dance-drama genre of performance art, where the artist (s) and musicians play out a story, a spiritual message or devotional poem from the Hindu texts, using symbolic costumes, body movement, abhinaya (expressions) and mudras (gestures and sign language) set out in ancient Sanskrit literature

8 Sattriya

- The Sattriya dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint and reformer of Assam, Mahapurusha Sankaradeva as a powerful medium for the propagation of the Vaishnava faith.
- This Indian dance form evolved and expanded as a distinct style of dance later on.
- This neo-Vaishnava treasure of Assamese dance and drama has been, for centuries, nurtured and preserved with great commitment by the Sattras i.e. Vaishnava maths or monasteries. Because of its religious character and association with the Sattras, this dance style was aptly named Sattriya.