



CREATIVE CURRENTS @ KALADHAARA

Welcome to Kaladhaara's Newsletter!

This quarterly newsletter brings you the latest happenings from our school. From student achievements and upcoming events to insightful articles and highlights from recent performances, our newsletter serves as a platform to celebrate the journey of our talented students/artists.

If you would like to see a topic on the newsletter, please send your ideas to kaladhaaravideos@gmail.com



Kalemane Kalashree award presented to our artistic director, Mysuru



Scan QR code
to join Kaladhaara
whatsapp group

EVENTS FROM LAST QUARTER FEBRUARY



- Margazhi samarpamam bhajans by our tiny tots at Shri Venkateshwara temple trained by Aarthi Krishnamoorthy

MARCH

- Kaladhaara's staff and students were humbled to offer their art at the renowned Natyanjali festivals, while also participating in immersive heritage walks and Natyasaamarpanams at sacred sites. The troupe also toured with their latest production, PRAVAAHINI, in conjunction with the Mahakumbh Mela



- 10th Annual Natyanjali conducted by Sacramento MahaPeriyavaa Mandali at CSUS, Sacramento
- Sargolsav 2025 - our dancers put their best foot forward and won at 3 different categories

APRIL

- Sri Rama Navami celebrations and Sri Seetharama Kalyanam performances at Vista Del Lago High school organized by Sri Venkateshwara temple

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR PERFORMANCE HAIR AND JEWELRY

- For performance hair, use black cotton twill tape along the false hair to secure the kunjalam with a firm finish.
- For jewelry, especially jhumkas without the matal, use an invisible ear chain to protect the ear lobes and keep the earrings comfortably in place throughout the performance!

-Aparna Shankar- a creative lead of Kaladhaara

Meet Ambika...a Kaladhaara visagiste

As the makeup artist for our incredible dance academy, I am truly honored to be part of this vibrant and passionate community. Working with such talented dancers and creative instructors is not just a job, it is an inspiring experience that fuels my own artistic journey. I want to express my deepest gratitude to Kaladhaara Arts Academy for welcoming me into the family and giving me the chance to contribute to something so powerful. The trust and support I have received from the team has allowed me to grow, experiment and bring each dancer's stage persona to life. Being part of these transformations, watching confidence bloom with every brushstroke, is a privilege I cherish with all my heart. A very special thank you to our amazing founder, Mathura.V whose vision and dedication has built a home for creativity, discipline, and artistic excellence. Your belief in me and in the role of makeup artistry within performance has given me a platform to do what I love, and I am endlessly grateful for your trust and encouragement.

Thank you to the dancers, parents, and especially the entire staff at Kaladhaara Arts Academy for believing in me and including me in this amazing creative journey.

I can't wait to share all the looks we have been working on. Get ready to be dazzled!

With gratitude and glam
Ambika



A Grateful Heart and a Passion for Dance....says Navya, a fresh face to Kaladhaara

Joining Kaladhaara has truly been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. Before coming here, I had been away from dance for nearly five years, a time when I really felt the absence of something I loved. Dance has always been close to my heart, and not being able to pursue it left a little empty space that I longed to fill.

As a mother of two boys and a full-time IT professional, life can be busy, but this journey with Kaladhaara has reignited a spark in me that I didn't even realize I had been missing. Each class brings me so much joy and a deep sense of reconnection with a passion I thought I had lost. It feels amazing to move, express, and grow again through this art form. I'm especially grateful to my wonderful teachers, Charanya and Mathura, for their compassion and understanding. Their kindness has made me feel truly seen, safe and empowered to give my best in every session. Outside of dance I also love drawing mandalas—an art form that brings me peace and allows for quiet reflection. I've found that both dance and mandala art share a meditative rhythm, each helping me reconnect with myself in a different and meaningful way.

Being part of the vibrant and passionate community at Kaladhaara is such a gift. Thank you for giving me the chance to reignite this part of myself and live my passion again and this time even more deeply.

- Navya



GUIDELINES FOR SMOOTH SAILING

Dress Code: Kurta, leggings, cotton dupatta, and neatly tied hair (no hair falling on the face).

WhatsApp Groups: These are for one-way communication from teachers for sharing class videos, etc. Please direct any questions through Class Manager. New students who joined Kaladhaara this year, please join our WhatsApp group to stay updated on the latest information.

Punctuality: Please arrive on time, as we have back-to-back classes scheduled at each location.

Homework: If homework is assigned, ensure your kids prepare for it before the next class to help with lesson progression.

Payments:

- Payments should be made through the class manager app only. Zelle/Venmo payments are not accepted
- Fee is due on 7th and late fee will be applied if payments are not made within 8 days of the invoice being generated.



NATYANJALI INDIA TOUR 2020 and 2025: Déjà vu



Kaladhaara at Natyanjali: A Journey of Devotion and Discovery

For any young Bharatanatyam dancer, performing at a Natyanjali is a sacred dream—one that takes root the moment we first step onto a stage. It is more than just a performance; it is a calling, a prayer, an offering. I still remember watching senior dancers offer their art before the deities in hushed, reverent temples and whispering to myself, One day, I'll be there too.

Having been part of this sacred tradition several times during my formative years as a promising dancer, I was deeply grateful when that dream manifested once again—this time, not just for me, but alongside a group of dedicated dancers from Sacramento. To have danced not once, but twice across these divine spaces with Kaladhaara feels like life has come full circle. What began as a distant hope has now become a cherished ritual of returning—of reconnecting with tradition, with self, and with the sanctity that only this sacred journey can offer.

Kaladhaara's first foray into the sacred circuit of South India's Natyanjali festivals in 2020 was a deeply transformative experience. As a young ensemble stepping onto these hallowed stages just before the world was plunged into a pandemic, we were filled with enthusiasm but were also navigating many unknowns. The schedule was packed and intense—Chidambaram, Thanjavur, Tirunallar, Mayiladuthurai, and more—all in rapid succession. The logistical challenges, the sleepless nights, the unpredictability of temple timings—all were trials we hadn't fully anticipated. Yet, at every temple, in every performance, we felt a divine rhythm guiding us. What we lacked in experience, we made up for with surrender.

By the time we returned for the 2025 tour, we were seasoned—prepared not just with rehearsed pieces but with an understanding of the spiritual and cultural depth this journey demanded. We had matured as artists and organizers, able to flow with the tempo of temple life, the spontaneity of Natya Samarpanams, and the timeless energy of heritage spaces like Gangaikondacholapuram and Tiruvaiyaru.

Through both journeys, one truth remained constant: the divine presence in every performance. Whether we danced under the ancient gaze of Lord Nataraja or amidst the quiet glow of midnight vigils, the blessings of the devatas, the sanctity of the spaces, and the unity of our purpose made every offering unforgettable. Natyanjali has become more than a tour for Kaladhaara—it is our constant source of positive reaffirmations about our practice and relationship with the divine, the dancer within us and the dancers from the fraternity.

-Mathura Viswanathan

Founder, Kaladhaara Arts Academy

We had just a day in Udupi and wanted to make the most of it. We began with a morning visit to Malpe Beach, our only beach stop on this trip, so it was a must for some fun and to unwind from all the travel. Next, we headed to the Sri Udupi Krishna Mutt. As we walked towards the sanctum sanctorum for a darshan of the little Krishna, one glimpse left us longing for more. Fortunately, with the crowd being light, we were blessed with a second chance to see him and soak in his divine presence. After that, we relished the delicious prasadam served on a banana leaf—simple yet bursting with flavors unique to Udupi. We were grateful to stumble upon a small lemon soda shop nearby, the perfect thirst-quencher to beat the heat there.



Ready in costume and makeup, we made our way back to the Mutt—this time to be enthralled by the sight of the beautifully lit stage. The performance unfolded with seamless transitions and quick costume changes. With hearts full of devotion, we surrendered ourselves to Udupi Krishna, bringing our production Pravaahini to a soulful close with Yamuna.

-Anuradha Sukumaran



In 2020, I had the incredible opportunity to perform Bharatanatyam at the sacred Guruvayoor Temple, one of my cherished homelands. What made the experience truly unforgettable was sharing the stage with my friends, as we performed a series of Krishna-themed pieces together. Dancing side by side, we told the stories of Lord Krishna through expressive movement and rhythmic coordination, drawing strength and joy from one another. The spiritual energy of the temple and the sense of unity among us created a powerful atmosphere that deepened my love for the art form. At just 12 years old, that moment not only strengthened my connection to Bharatanatyam but also reminded me how meaningful dance can be when experienced as a collective journey.

-Vatsalya Narayan

NATYANJALI INDIA TOUR 2020 and 2025: Déjà vu - contd

Thirunallar and Mayiladuthurai

2020



2025



Performing at the Thirunallar Saneeswaran Temple and Mayiladuthurai's Mayuranathar Swamy Temple was a highlight in my dance journey. Dancing at temples in Tamil Nadu had been a dream of mine, and getting to experience it in person made the trip unforgettable. By the time we arrived at the Thirunallar Temple, it was around 10 p.m., and I remember feeling completely exhausted. It was our second performance of the day, and the fatigue had set in. But I'll never forget the encouraging words from our guru, Mathura Aunty, who lifted our spirits and gave us the energy to perform with focus and joy. Performing at the Mayuranathar Temple was a surreal experience as many members of my family had come to watch. Sharing the result of months of hard work with them made it all the more meaningful. After the performance, I vividly remember walking through the temple, where learning about the rich history of the main idol added a profound depth to the experience. The trip as a whole deepened my understanding of the cultural roots of dance, strengthened my confidence on stage, and left me with memories I will always cherish.

- Amrita Balakrishnan

Apart from the dance offering, what I also loved about this stop on our Thirunallar tour was a very pretty temple pond that we visited just before we got onto the stage. With steps leading to waters that were reflecting the surrounding trees, there was a small mandapam of Goddess Saraswathi in the middle of the pond. Spending some time there, taking in the sights, it felt meditative and relaxing. After our dance offering, as we headed out to our next stop, we got to experience the local goli soda drinks that were refreshing and much needed energy boost for our final performance of the tour.

Dancing at twilight against the backdrop of the Majestic gopuram in Mayiladuthurai's Mayuranathan Swamy temple will always remain a fond memory from Kaladhaara's Natyanjali 2025 tour. Just before our performance, we got the darshan of the presiding deity and set off to find the stage along the temple premises. This was the first kutcheri for Shivarathri night and it set us to a wonderful start with the energy of accompanying musicians and the anticipation of temple hopping and dancing away into the wee hours of the morning.

- Charanya Ramaswamy

Chidambaram and Tiruvarur

2020



2025



On Shivaratri, the temples of Chidambaram and Tiruvarur come alive with a divine energy that resonates deeply with every Bharatanatyam dancer. Performing at the Chidambaram and Tiruvarur temple was a highlight in my dance journey. Dancing at temples in Tamil Nadu had been a dream of mine, and being able to achieve that was an unforgettable experience. Having my family there to watch me at both temples made the moment even more special. This trip was an unforgettable experience that deepened my appreciation for the roots of dance and helped me grow both personally and artistically. Through the practices and performances, I learned how dance can tell powerful cultural stories and express identity in ways words cannot. Being on stage repeatedly pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me build real confidence. Along the way, I made some of my happiest memories—bonding with others, exploring new places, and learning together. - Anika Maragathavel

Performing at the Chidambaram Natyanjali this year was truly a dream come true. Getting the opportunity to dance in a town so rich in cultural heritage, known for its deep connection to Lord Nataraja and as the birthplace of the renowned Natyanjali festival, was surely an experience beyond words. Adding to the significance, this performance was also the final time we performed an excerpt from our production Pravaahini on our tour. The very moment we all stepped onto the stage, a surge of transcendental energy took over, making it one of our most memorable performances yet. To top it off, we were humbled to be interviewed by Sun TV following the performance. It was an unexpected but wonderful opportunity to share our experiences and represent our school internationally.

The Natyanjali festivities began at Tiruvarur, and it couldn't have been a more appropriate place to start. We had the incredible opportunity to dance right inside the famous Tiruvarur Thyagaraja temple, in the presence of a welcoming audience, which made it feel even more special. Though we had some nerves going in, once we started dancing, everything flowed so smoothly leading to a great, unforgettable performance which was a fitting inauguration to our Natyanjali festival tour.

- Sahana Shankar

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Annual Day
2. Summer Arangetrams
3. Thematic presentation

Kaladhaara
celebrates 15 glorious
years, and continues
its
journey of preserving
and promoting
tradition through
dance.

SAC VALLEY MARGAZHI IS CALLING FOR INTERNS

We are looking for student interns to help assist in website design and marketing material development during the summer.

Email sacvalleymargazhi@gmail.com with sample work portfolio and/or your resume if you want to be part of our team.

STIPEND PROVIDED AND 40 HOURS

www.q

GET IN TOUCH WITH US THROUGH
Facebook and Instagram @
Kaladhaara_arts_academy
or via CLASS MANAGER
Read about us more on: <https://kaladhaara.org/>