

PROFILE

Initiated into the art of **Kathak** at an early age, Divya stands today as an **artist anchored to the roots of traditional dance forms**. Multifaceted, her passionate appreciation of traditional art forms has led her focus her talent in dance, art, drama and creative therapy. Divya's compositions are steeped in deep understanding of **history, mythology and spirituality**. In essence today, she harnesses her talent to express **the art forms in a meditative performance of dance**. In these fast changing times, Divya stands still in her belief that Indian classical art forms and Kathak in particular, takes us closer to our roots, **our inner self** and is a **medium for self evolvment**.

Divya was initiated into the **Lucknow Gharana of Kathak** under the able guidance of **Guru Yogini Gandhi, at the Kalanidhi Institute, Pune** where she learnt for over fifteen years. Currently, Divya is learning under the tutelage of the **Great Maestro of Lucknow Gharana, Guru Munna Shukla Ji**. Having a good command over both, the **rhythmic (nritya) and emotive (nritya) aspects**, she has been performing as well as imparting training to students for over fifteen years. She has **performed at numerous concerts and lecture demonstrations in India and abroad**.

Divya has been bestowed with the coveted **National Award 'Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Purushkar'** by the apex body of performing arts in India, **Central Sangeet Natak Akademi**. She is also a recipient of the prestigious **National level Title 'Singar Mani'** conferred by the Sur Singar Samsad, Mumbai. She has been awarded with '**National Nritya Shiromani**' by the **Utkal Yuva Sanskrutik Sangh, Cuttack, Odisha**. Amongst her many feats, Divya is also a **Doordarshan graded artist**.

Divya has performed at several Dance Festivals In India and Abroad, Cuttack Mahotsava, Festival of Drama, Dance and Music, Sadhna Festival, Bhutan Embassy, Natyanjali, Raindrops Dance Festival to name a few. She has also conducted various lecture – demonstrations and workshops, for numerous prestigious Institutes and schools all across the country, American Embassy, Government School across India, Kendriya Vidyalaya Across India etc. She is also **conducting Workshop demonstrations and lecture demonstrations** for **SPICMACAY**, the Nationwide movement to promote Indian Classical dance and music.

To further enhance her creativity and promote Indian Classical Arts, Divya has established **‘DivyaKala’; a creative venture showcasing her versatility as a dancer, teacher, artist, compere, dramatist and creative therapist.** Under the banner of Divya Kala, she has been holding exhibitions to promote her art in painting and creative designing. She has worked in collaboration with Chandigarh Sangeet Natak Akademi, to enhance the creativity and overall ability of children in Government Schools through ‘Children’s Theatre Workshop and Festival’.