

Anuradha Naimpally

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY



PERFORMER

Anuradha Naimpally has been dancing worldwide for over 30 years. Her mesmerizing performances have gained her many accolades in Canada, India, and the US. Amongst her many honors, she is the only Indian dancer to win the prestigious Jacqueline LeMieux Prize from the Canada Council. In India, she was bestowed the title of "Sringeri Mani" at the Kal-ke-Kalakar Festival.

In her current home of Austin, Texas, she was named Best Dancer by the Austin Area Critics' Circle in 2001, and nominated numerous times, including 2011. Her recent production, Parampara, was awarded the coveted Best Dance Concert award for 2011 and was named by the Austin Chronicle as one of the top five performances of 2011. Again in 2013, her duet performance with her daughter, also a young professional dancer, was nominated for Best Duet Performance.

Both a popular performer and teacher, Anuradha teaches classes and directs diverse cultural projects through her organization, Austin Dance India, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011. She trains students in the Tanjavur style of Bharata Natyam, a legacy of her gurus Pt VJ Pillai and Smt Jayashree Pillai and their guru, respected scholar and master Acharya Parvati Kumar. In November-December of 2012, Anuradha performed an extensive solo tour of India accompanied by her guru on nattuvangam. During this time, she performed at the ancient site of the Brihadishvara Temple under the auspices of the Brahan Natyanjali Foundation Cultural Trust.

Along with performing and teaching, Anuradha is passionate about arts in education. She conducts assembly performances on Indian dance and culture in Central Texas schools and libraries. She is a selected artist with the Texas Commission on the Arts and Mid-America Arts Alliance. With a B.A. in Philosophy and M.F.A. in Dance from Canada, her traditional dance training from India, and a long time practice of yoga, Anuradha integrates many aspects of her diverse life experience into her presentations including various types of local music and contemporary movement and themes. She brings a unique approach to the art with both tradition and innovation.

TEACHER

For 23 years Austin Dance India has been one of the premiere organizations for Indian classical dance in Central Texas for several reasons. Creative director, Anuradha Naimpally, seeks to maintain and direct connection with each student who seeks technical training in Bharata Natyam. Anuradha teaches all classes personally, carrying on the guru-sishya (teacher-disciple) tradition that she herself experienced throughout her own training. Classes are offered at various locations in Austin from beginner to advanced level, including classes for adults. Students participate in and serve as a resource for many events and festivals around Austin.

Currently, Austin Dance India has closed registration to new beginner students since Anuradha is focusing on carrying current students through to the arangetram level. The arangetram is a long-term goal for those students interested in reaching a pre-professional level of performance after fulfilling the completion of traditional repertoire. This process often takes up to 10 to 12 years of training with one full year of intensive study. This includes personalized training, intensive practice, detailed work on technique, and creation of new repertoire.

EDUCATOR

Along with performing and teaching, Anuradha is passionate about arts in education. Her presentations are well received because she is able to connect with youth and demonstrate the inherent universality and relevance of art. For over 30 years she has conducted assembly performances, lecture-demonstrations, workshops, and master classes on Indian dance and culture in public schools, universities, museums, and libraries. Her popular interactive educational program, Moving Myths of India, features storytelling from Indian mythology, clapping of rhythms, miming of hand symbols, and more. Touching upon interesting facts, Anuradha weaves cultural aesthetic values into this educational and entertaining program that has been performed for well over 75,000 youth within Texas and beyond.