

Nirupama - Rajendra PROFILE

Nirupama & Rajendra are one of India's foremost classical dancers of India belonging to a family of educationists, artists and Harikatha Vidwans - traditional story tellers from Karnataka. The duo have been working in the field of dance for over 25 years as dancers, choreographers, producers and performers. They have carved a niche for themselves in the world of Arts as one of the most versatile and creative artists. As founders & artistic directors of Abhinava Dance Company, they have created original works & toured them extensively performing to over 5 million connoisseurs all over India & several countries across the five continents.

Nirupama & Rajendra have nurtured their skills in Kathak & Choreography under eminent Gurus & acclaimed choreographers like Dr. Maya Rao & Padmabhushan Kumudini Lakhia, Pundit Arjun Misra from India & Nahid Siddiqui from Pakistan. Nirupama has trained in Bharathanatyam under Guru Kalamandalam Radhika and Guru Smt. Narmada of Bangalore. She took special training in abhinaya under the tutelage of Dr. Kalanidhi Narayan. Under the guidance of Smt. Sundari Santhanam and Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, Nirupama studied the 108 Karanas, movement vocabulary from the Natyashastra, which is a 5000 year old encyclopedic work that has governed the laws of aesthetics in dance music painting sculpture poetics & iconography for the entire Indian subcontinent.

The integration of the Natyashastra vocabularies stand as a highlight in their works. Their choreographies feature an extraordinary range of expressions from deep Indian classics to the contemporary. The duo are empaneled in the " Outstanding Category" of performing artists at the ICCR, Indian Council of Cultural affairs that comes under the Ministry of External affairs Govt of India. Their Dance School is also recognized by ICCR for its Guru Shishya Parampara Dance education.

Abhinava Dance School imparts training to over 350 students in the art forms of Bharathanatyam, Kathak & Natyashastra. Nirupama's special oratory skills in presenting the choreographies is an added feature to the shows which has captured the hearts of many connoisseurs. Nirupama now works as the honorable member of Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy appointed by the Government of Karnataka to guide & develop arts in the State.

Important awards :

- *"Karnataka Kalashree" Award from the Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy, Government of Karnataka*
- *" The BIG KANNADIGA " from 92.7 Big FM*
- *"Sri Krishna Vittalaanugraha Prashasthi " from Udupi Sri Krishna Mutt*
- *"Nrithya Nipuna" by Karnataka Nrithya Kala Parishath*
- *" U.S.Krishna Rao -Chandrabhagadevi Couple Award " by Attendance*
- *"Kalaavatamsa" by Gokulam School of Music , Bangalore.*
- *" NRITHYA CHOODAMANI " Award by Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai in 2016*