



भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद
Indian Council For Cultural Relations

Routes 2 Roots™

International Kathak Class

Kathak dancer Richa Jain started her formal training in Kathak at the age of three under the guidance of her parents, Kathak exponents Late Guru Shri Ravi Jain (Disciple of Padmashree Shambhu Maharaj of Lucknow gharana and Alaknanda Devi of Benaras gharana) and Guru Smt. Nalini Malhotra Jain (Disciple of Pt. Sunder Prasad ji and Pt. Kundan Lal Gangani, Jaipur Gharana).

Because of her extensive training under her parents, Richa's Kathak performances are a blend of the Lucknow, Jaipur and Benaras gharanas (Styles) of Kathak. She also received her initial vocal music training from Shri Ajit Kumar Mishra and later was groomed in Hindustani classical vocal music under the guidance of renowned guru and exponent, Sangeet Natak Academy awardee Pt. A. Maheshwar Rao of the Gwalior Gharana. She is making a humble effort to bring back the Katha Vachan parampara from where Kathak originated.

Besides being an A grade performing artist of National Television of India (Doordarshan - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting), Richa is an empanelled artist



Richa Jain
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International Kathak Glass

Ragini Maharaj is the granddaughter of Padma Vibhushan Pt Birju Maharaj and a prolific Kathak dancer herself. She belongs to the Lucknow Kathak Gharana. Ragini did her schooling from The Banyan Tree School, New Delhi. She then pursued her graduation in Sociology from Sri Venkateswara College. She is about to finish her Masters from IGNOU in Social Work. She was raised in New Delhi.

Ragini's grandfather was from Lucknow and her grandmother from Varanasi and hence she was raised in a mix of cultures and influences. Ragini has been performing extensively across India as well as abroad for the past 20 years.



Ragini Maharaj



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International Bharatnatyam Class

Kalashree Debasmita Thakur is a senior disciple of Late Guru Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan. She has completed her diploma in dance and Masters in Public Administration. She has played the leading role in 'Swachh Bharat', one of her guru's unique productions. She has not only performed in India but also internationally along with her guru. Debasmita has assisted her guru Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan for workshops across India and abroad. She also went for workshops and demonstration programmes at Shikhoabad, UP with Dakshina Vaidyanathan and conducted other workshops under the guidance of her guru at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Jaipur.

She has also conducted summer workshops with NDMG for many years. Debasmita has been awarded the Nataraj Nritta Samman, Nritya Suvarna Mani Samman, Nritya Vilasini and the Kameshwari Nritya Samman.

Debasmita Thakur



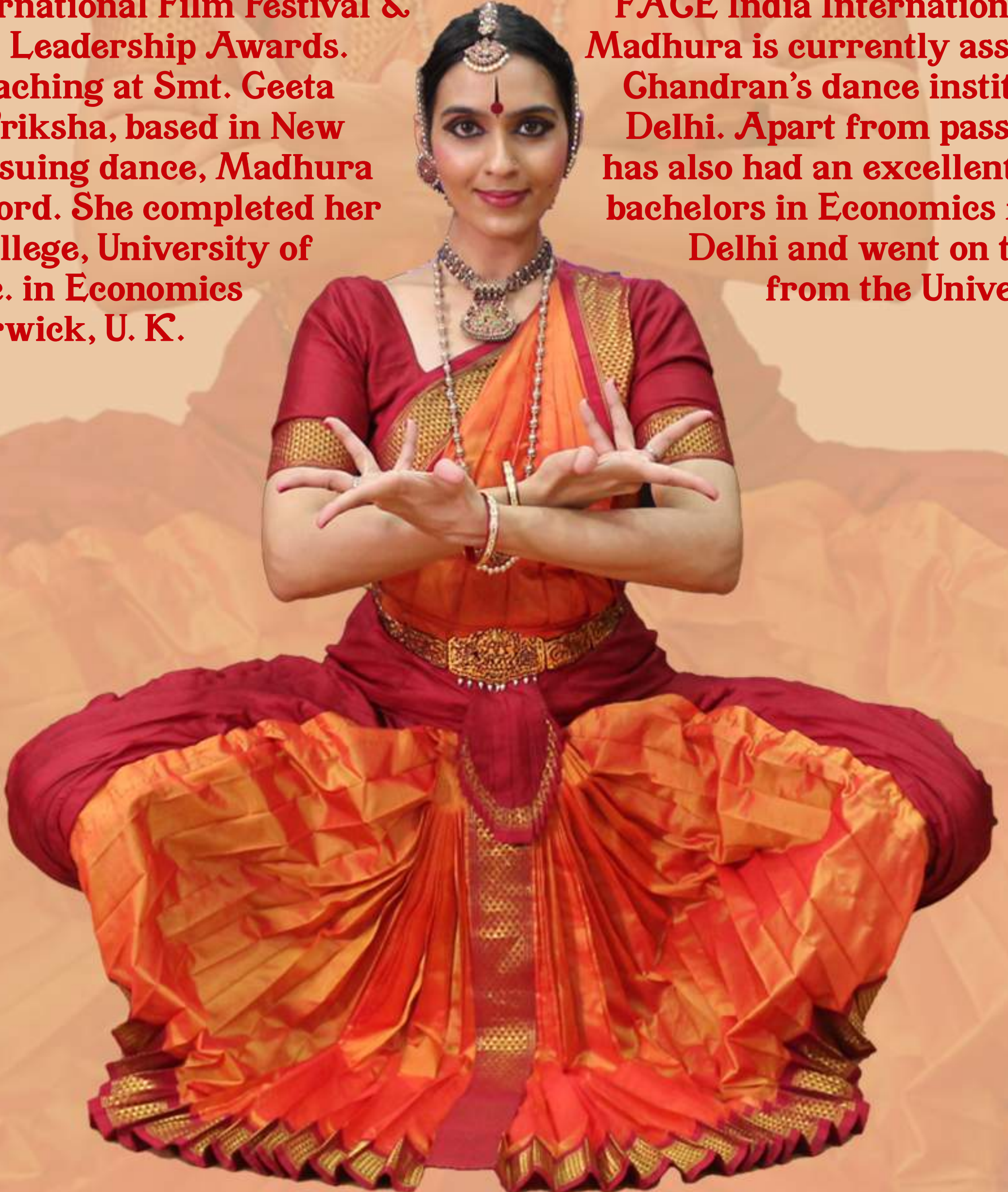


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International Bharatnatyam Class

Madhura Bhrushundi, a dancer based in New Delhi, has been training in Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam under the tutelage of (Padmashri) Guru Geeta Chandran for the last 13 years. She presented her formal solo debut performance, the *Arangetram*, in the year 2014. A recipient of the scholarship to Young Artistes awarded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, she is also a Grade B artist of the Doordarshan & Madhura is a senior dancer with her Guru Smt. Geeta Chandrans Natya Vriksha Dance Company. As part of the company, Madhura has performed in group choreographies for diverse audiences across the country. She has been a part of major productions at numerous festivals such as the Khajurajo Dance Festival, Sahitya Kala Parishad's Youth Festival, Ganga Mahotsav, Uday Shankar Choreography Festival, Kalidas Samaroh, Naadaneeranjam Festival, National Festival of Creative Arts & Hampi Utsav among several others. She has also had the opportunity to be part of dance productions that were presented at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in the august presence of the President, Vice-President and the Prime Minister of India. As a solo performer, Madhura has presented performances at various platforms such as the Amritanjali Mahotsav, 3rd Bangla Film Festival, Karur Natyanjali, Sai Nrityotsav, Delhi International Film Festival & Women Leadership Awards. Madhura is currently assisting with teaching at Smt. Geeta Natya Vriksha, based in New Delhi. Apart from passion-ately pursuing dance, Madhura has also had an excellent academic record. She completed her bachelors in Economics from Hindu College, University of Delhi and went on to do her M. Sc. in Economics from the University of Warwick, U. K.



Madhura Bhrushundi



International Odissi Class

Vrinda Chadha is a senior disciple of renowned Odissi dance exponent Guru Ranjana Gauhar (Padmashri and SNA awardee). Vrinda has trained under her Guru from a very young age and is a professional Odissi performing artist, repertoire member & teaching faculty at her Guru's academy. She holds a Master's degree in Philosophy from Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi University and has received the National scholarship, in the past for Odissi Dance, from the Ministry of Culture (Gov. of India). She is empanelled with the Indian Council for cultural relations as well as with Doordarshan. She's also been nominated by the President of International Dance Council (CID) UNESCO, Paris and made a member of this community.

Vrinda has travelled extensively in her Guru's troupe as well as for solo performances for various prestigious dance festivals in India and abroad. She has performed in Spain, Argentina, Korea, Japan, China, Singapore, 9 cities of the United Kingdom, Madagascar, Seychelles and the Dominican Republic to name a few. She has been conferred with the Nalanda Nritya Nipuna Award in Mumbai, the Young Talent Award by the International Academy of Mohiniyattam in Delhi, the title of Odissi Ratna in Bhubaneswar and the Kameshwari award in Guwahati amongst other accolades.



Vrinda Chadha



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International Odissi Class

Arunima Ghosh is a renowned Odissi classical dancer with over 20 years of experience in the field. She was born in a small town in north Bengal and began learning Odissi at a young age under the guidance of Guru Monalisa Ghosh in Kolkata. She later moved to Delhi to study under Guru Sharon Lowen. Arunima has performed extensively across India and abroad, including at the Yuva Shrastriya and Aarambh festivals in New Delhi, the Kala Samagam festival in Guwahati, and the

Octave festival in New Delhi. She has also performed at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, The Times of India in Chennai, Bhavan's Naatya Utsav in Delhi, the Yog Parv festival in New Delhi, the Mandu Festival, and the Delhi Odissi Utsav. In addition to being a performing artist, she is also a dance teacher and the

founder of Manasija School of dance and music. The school has been providing training on dance and music for over a decade now, and its students have received numerous awards and accolades across the country. Arunima believes in imparting not just the technique of the dance form, but also the rich cultural heritage and philosophy that underlies it. Arunima is also an active choreographer and has created several works that have been well-received by audiences. Some of her notable work includes 'Khel ek anand ki khoj' for kids and young adults and 'Varsha Var-

nanam'. She has received several awards for her dance, including the Nritya Nandan title, a Gold Medal in Odissi dance final year exam, and multiple state level awards. In addition to her passion for dance, Arunima is also actively involved in social causes and uses her art as a means of spreading awareness and promoting cultural exchange. She is an inspiration to many young dancers and continues to push the boundaries of Odissi dance with her innovative choreography & performances.



Arunima Ghosh