

# About the East-West School of Dance, New York

The *East-West School of Dance*, founded by Shri Brahmananda Sarasvati, and directed by Pandit Satya Narayana Charka. The *School* has been a pioneer in promoting Kathak dance and dance dramas in North America since it was founded in 1981 at Ananda Ashram in Monroe, NY. Its objective is to help achieve deeper understanding and harmony between the East and West for spiritual enrichment and transformation, integrating traditional and modern values through education in the universal language of dance.

Over the past 22 years, the *School* has been offering regular classes in Kathak dance at seven teaching centers in the New York/New Jersey area. The syllabus is based on the standards followed by Indian dance institutions, such as **Kathak Kendra in New Delhi** and the **Natya Institute of Kathak and Choreography in Bangalore** and has been further enriched with the introduction of the traditional Gurukula education system through workshops held at the *School*.

The *School* has also presented numerous dance recitals and productions all over North America and sponsored guest artists and master teachers for performances and workshops in both eastern and western traditions. In 2002, the flourishing *East-West School of Dance* branched out to independently form the *International Indian Dance Incorporated* in Queens, NY. Although the *School* has traveled extensively, Pandit Charka & Company will now embark on their first multi-city, collective visit to India in the 2003-4 tour.

## Press Comments



S. N. Charka brought to his dancing power, intelligence and a variety of acting moods that mark him as a truly creative artist. He has been an important contribution to the world of art...  
-**Bean Dean, Sydney Opera House**

Charka held the audience spellbound as he displayed his magical footwork with lightning speed... -**India West, California**

Few people are blessed with such a gift of spontaneous creativity.  
-**Indian Reporter, New York**

S. N. Charka's dances are swirls of vivid color... His Kathak duet is believed to be the first of its kind...-**The Japan Times**

The beautiful music and stunning choreography were a channel of communication between Shakuntala and the audience...-**India Abroad, New York**

"Who is Who" beautifully brought to the viewers a tale of vanity in the human character...mudras and footwork were fluent and vibrating.  
-**The Urban Indian, New York**

Throughout his performance Charka stunned the audience with his whirlwind spins and intricate footwork. At times he was able to vibrate his body while standing in a straight position almost to the point of levitation... -**The Beacon, Tennessee**

Charka's dance.. I had the impression of being present in a graceful dream..  
-**Whole Life Times, New York**

