

About the Artists



PT. SATYA NARAYANA CHARKA is Director of the East-West School of Dance, NY. He has studied with Pt. R.K. Shukla, Smt. Maya Rao, Pt. Shambhu Maharaj, and Pt. Birju Maharaj. Pt. Charka is recognized as one of the foremost exponents of Indian classical dance. He has presented numerous dance dramas and traditional dance recitals worldwide. He served as a cultural representative appointed by the Govt. of India in Japan, Australia, and the Fiji Islands. In addition, he was selected as the premiere artist in major festivals at the Sydney Opera House for four consecutive years.



DAVID PITTENGER is a ballet dancer, choreographer and yoga instructor. David has received major acclaim for his portrayals of the title roles in the classics. He was a member of the American Repertory Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, David has created and choreographed half a dozen ballets. He performs regularly as Rama in the E-W School of Dance production of "Ramayana". He also teaches yoga asana dance at Saraswati River Yoga School in Pennsylvania,



RINIL ROUTH has trained with Pt. S.N. Charka and graduated from the East-West School of Dance in 1998, subsequently she also studied for some time with Pt. Birju Maharaj and Saswati Sen, as well as Ashim Bandhu Roy of Calcutta. She has taken main character roles in many productions of the E-W School of Dance and has performed in many places in the US and abroad, including Toronto and England. Currently, she is a Justice Harlan Scholar at NY Law School.



ROMANEE KALICHARRAN graduated in 1998 after intensive training under Pt. S.N. Charka. Romanee has performed at the India Day Parade, Puerto Rican Day Parade, played main character roles in "Ramayana", "Krishna Leela," "Shakuntala," the Rajkumari Cultural Center's "Women of Mahabharata," and the fusion ensemble production of Kathak & Tap "New York Delhi Mix". She has participated in concerts with the legendary Manna Dey and Anup Jalota, as well as concert tours in many countries.



MAYURA CASUBA studied Kathak for over ten years under the direction of Pt. S.N. Charka. After her intensive training period she graduated from the East-West School of Dance in the year 2000. She has also performed professionally in many cities across the U.S. and Canada. In addition to her interest in Kathak dance she pursues piano studies. After this year's Tour, Mayura will begin her Masters' degree in Accounting.



SEEMA MITTAL studied Kathak dance under the direction of Pt. S.N. Charka and graduated with Rang Deeksha in 2003. She also studied for some time under Rani Khanam of the Sri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra in New Delhi. In July, she performed with Pt. Birju Maharaj and his troupe in New York City. Seema recently earned a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of California. She is currently volunteering at Americorps while she applies to medical school.



NISHA MITTAL studied Kathak under the direction of Pt. S.N. Charka and graduated with Rang Deeksha in 2003. She also studied for some time under Rani Khanam of the Sri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra in New Delhi, India. Kathak dance performances have taken her and her sister to many different locations, most notably, San Francisco, Montreal, Delhi, and Amsterdam. She is currently employed with an international consulting company in New York.



JAYA NAUTH has been studying Kathak under the tutelage of Pandit S.N. Charka. She has performed in productions of "Ramayana" & "Krishna Leela." Currently she is attending the Queens College and City College pursuing a degree in Arts and Graphic Design. She has participated in gallery exhibits showcasing her Photography and Painting talents.



ANISHA MUNI is a student of the esteemed Pt. S.N. Charka. Her interest in traditional Indian art was cultivated early on, and Anisha finally lived out her ambition of participating in the cultural fabric of India through Kathak. Currently, she is attending New York University for a degree in Culture and Communication and plans to continue advancing in her study of the Kathak dance art.