

## Geeta Radhakrishna

# DANCE AMBASSADOR

Geeta Radhakrishna is a versatile dancer, choreographer, author and singer. Her expertise is Mohiniattam and she is one of the artistes who have popularised Mohiniattam in India as well as across the world.

**G**eeta Radhakrishna is not just a Mohiniattam dancer and teacher. She is a choreographer having choreographed several dance ballets, an exponent of sopanam music, a yoga practitioner and a speaker. Her analytical and articulate mind has enabled her not only to evolve as a veteran dancer but she has succeeded in understanding the intricacies of this ancient dance form and choreograph several dance ballets (ekaharya or solo performances) on varied themes and write an authoritative book on Mohiniattam which has become a reference book. She has also published translation and transliteration of other spiritual texts like Geeta Govindam and Devi Mahatmyam.

Geeta has choreographed dances like Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa, Magdalana Mariam, Krishna Leela, Karuna, Nritya Swara Manjari, Sringara Mohini, Aum Namah Shivaya and Geeta Govinda.

She has a fine repertoire of Maharajah Swati Tirunal and Irayimman Thampi krithis. They have all been appreciated by her audience within India and abroad.

Geeta's dancing career spans a period of 35 years. She has performed in India and in England, Switzerland, Germany, France, Holland, Luxemburg and Holland. She was part of India's 50 years of Independence Celebration in the USA and UK. In 1998 she performed at the India Festival in USSR and in 2009 she was sponsored by ICCR Government of India for the 'Incredible India' celebration in China to perform in Beijing. Geeta's father the late Capt C S Nair was in the army and Geeta has spent her childhood in Pune, Delhi, Kochi, Chennai and Mumbai. Her mother Savitri Nair was a singer and drama artiste.

Geeta, as a seven year old, learnt Bharatanatyam under Master Venkatesh, a disciple of Thanjavur Ellappa Pillai and did her arangetram when she was 12 years old. While



in school, she started learning Mohiniattam under Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma, (wife of the late Padmasri Kalamandalam Krishnan Nair). After an intensive course in Mohiniattam, Geeta performed her arangetram at Ernakulam Fine arts. After school, she did her graduation from Mercy College in Palakkad. After graduation Geetha came to Mumbai. At the suggestion of Soli Batliwala, trustee of Bhulabhai Memorial Institute and a great connoisseur of art, who sponsored her first show in Mumbai, she continued her advanced study of Mohiniattam and research under a scholarship from the Bhulabhai Memorial Institute. She also did her LLB from Mumbai University, completed her Advanced Diploma in Yoga, (Dept of Philosophy, Mumbai



Geeta with husband Radhakrishna and daughter Radhika

and abroad as a solo danseuse. From the 60th performance, her daughter and student Radhika began to perform with her. In October this year she will be giving its 105<sup>th</sup> performance once again at the Guruvayoor temple.

Geeta is an author of seven books, *Mohiniattam adavus and Mudras*, *Mohiniattam, the dance of the enchantress*, Jayadeva's *Geeta Govinda* Translation and transliteration, *prakruti nrityam* – dance of nature, a book of poems, *Meditation on ahimsa* – meditative verses, *Devi Mahatmyam* – mystic power of the Radiant Goddess, *Jai jai Natana Ganesa* – a book of Ganapati mantras.

She was awarded Fellowship by the Government of India for outstanding work and Research in Mohiniattam, Nairshree Award (Nair Samskarika Samithi Maharashtra), Sarvashree Award with gold medal (Special Executive Magistrates Society) and several other Institutions have honoured her.

Geeta runs a charitable Trust named Mohiniatta Nritya Kalakshetra for promotion and popularization of Mohiniattam and other art forms of India. She conducts festivals of Indian dance and music showcasing different styles of dancing. The organization also awards 'noopuradhvani' title to outstanding artistes for their contribution to fine arts.

Geeta got married in 1979 to Radhakrishna Menon who is also from Palakkad. Her husband has been always an encouraging partner. He retired from Lufthansa German Airlines. They have a daughter Radhika, who is currently working with an international NGO in Delhi. Radhika did her Graduation in English Literature, Post-graduation in Media Studies and Masters in

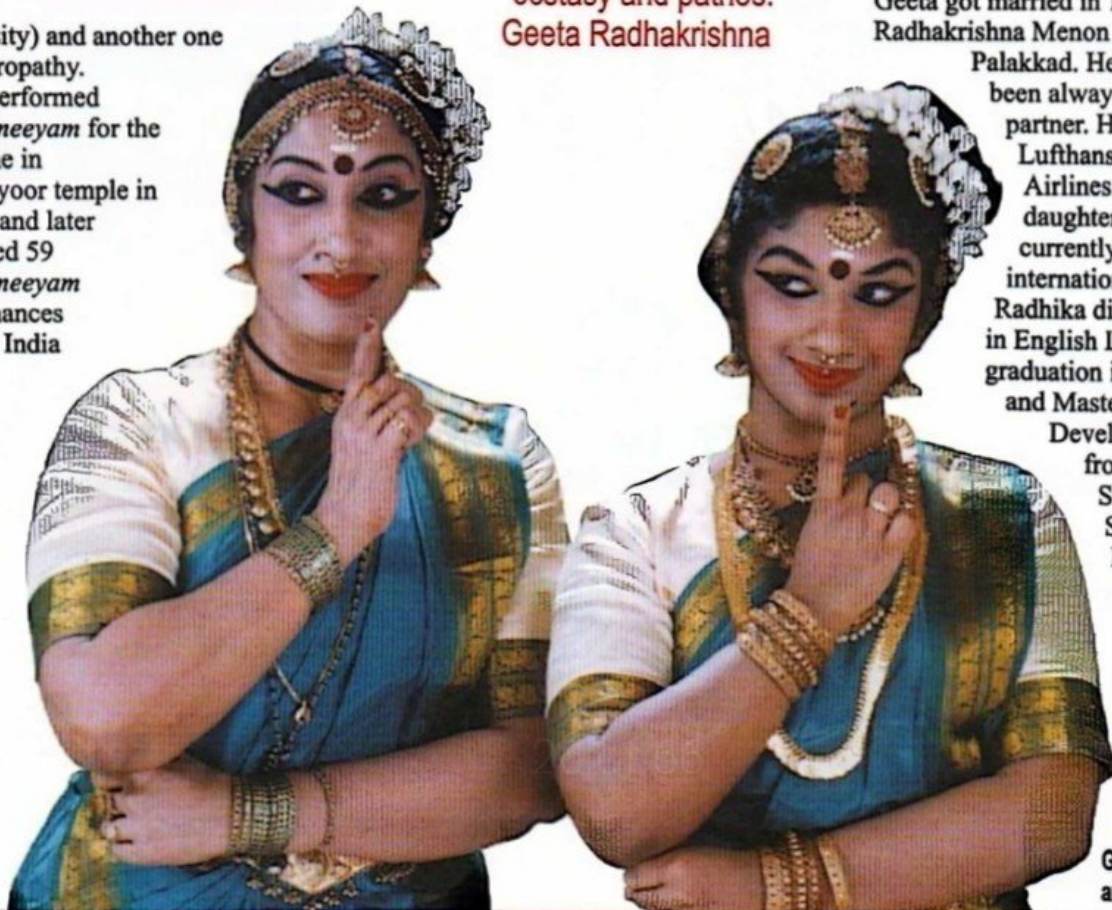
Development Studies from University of Sussex England. She has learnt Mohiniattam from her mother and performed along with her on many stages within the country and abroad.



Geeta and her Guru Kalyanikutty Amma

University) and another one in Naturopathy. Geeta performed *Narayaneeyam* for the first time in Guruvayoor temple in the 70s and later presented 59 *Narayaneeyam* performances all over India

"The beauty of Mohiniattam is distinguished by its unique style - a style characterised by the undulating flow of movements, graceful gaits and tender gestures. A Mohiniattam danseuse along with her gestures and facial expressions portrays the human emotions of joy, ecstasy and pathos."  
Geeta Radhakrishna



Geeta with her daughter and student Radhika