

MANASI NAIR

Classical Dance teacher with social conscience

Manasi S Nair is one of the more popular Bharatanatyam dancer, choreographer and teacher in the western suburbs of Mumbai and founder Director of Tapasya School of Classical Dance and Music.

- Lakshmi V

improved after they started learning Bharatanatyam." Manasi consults yoga teachers for chalking out dance lessons for her dance therapy classes.

Manasi Nair is a well known exponent of Bharatanatyam, teacher and choreographer.

She completed her Bachelors in Fine Arts from Nalanda Nritya Kala Mahavidyalaya, which is affiliated to Mumbai University and Masters in Fine Arts (Dance) from the University of Mumbai.

She is also a nattuvangam artiste having learnt nattuvangam under her guru. With a thorough knowledge of the (rhythmic) and dance movements Manasi plays the cymbals as she provides vocal support for her dance compositions.

Manasi Nair started learning Bharatanatyam from the tender age of five under the

Teaching a classical dance form is a great thing. To extend that training to the differently abled children as a therapy and enable them lead better lives is commendable. This is what Manasi Nair, Director and teacher of Tapasya School of classical dance and music has been doing in Mumbai apart from teaching Bharatanatyam to normal children in her classes. According to Manasi, "Dancing is an art form that has Science, and involves physical, mental and spiritual exercise. Some of my students who are slow learners have



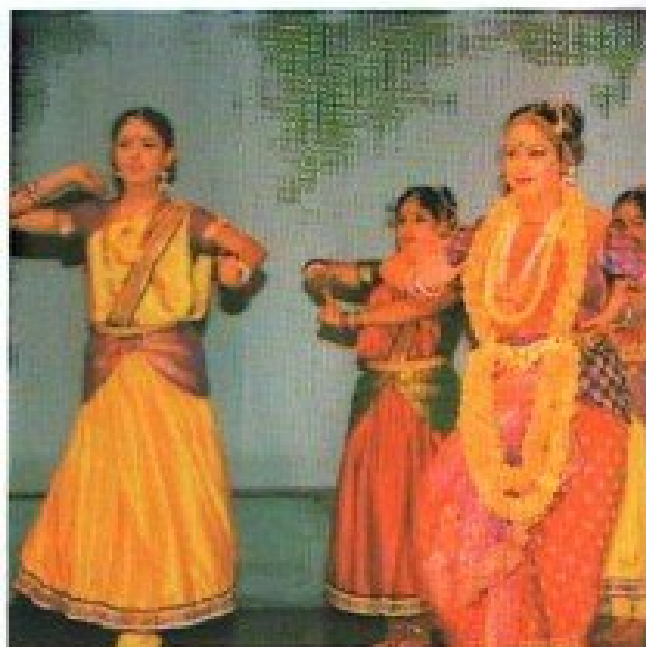
Kerala in Mumbai Golden

Talented Artiste

Apart from being a dance teacher Manasi is a performing artiste as well and has performed on several prestigious stages for cultural programmes in Mumbai and other cities. She has performed Dasavatharam at Rangasharada Auditorium and Krishnaleela at Topiwala auditorium in Mumbai, Yashwant Natya Mandir Matunga for Sanskriti Samvardhan Prathisthan, National School of Drama in New Delhi, Nataraj Mandir Festival in Satara. She has also performed at the Indo Russian Joint Naval Exercise (before Russian Navy Admiral) at the Kala Ghoda Festival in Mumbai, Shivali Festival, Hare Krishna ISKCON, Prithvi Theatre and Tejpal Auditorium for cultural programmes. She has given dance recitals at the Indian Consulate in Thailand for Indian expats in Cambodia and Thailand, and at the Bombay Chambers of Commerce and Industry for promoting Indian classical dances. She participated in a fund raising programme for building a Rama temple in Mauritius. While being associated with Laasya Academy, she played the role of Satyabhama in the ballet Shyama Sakhi directed and choreographed by Rajashree Shirke and Vaibhav Arekar.

Awards and recognitions

In 2007 Shivali Cultural Society conferred the Nritya Shivali title on her. In 2009, she was recognised by



Dance performance



Mumbai District Aids Control Society for her outstanding work for underprivileged children. The Borivli Malayalee Samajam recognized her contributions by awarding Excellence in Arts Award: Manasi in 2014.

Family Bonds

Manasi is married to Shriraj Nair noted social act and theatre director and actor. He is a native of Thrissur, studied in Ahamadabad and has been living now in Mumbai for more than twenty years. He is the President of Borivli Malayali Samajam. An artiste himself, he has modeled for Ambuja Cements and acted in films like Page 3, Fashion, Traffic Signal, Jail Heroine, directed by national award winning Director Madhur Bhandarkar. He is working as CEO at Arpan Group of companies having interest in construction, hospitality and automobiles for the last 17 years.

They have two daughters. The elder one Tapasya aged twelve years, is studying at school, learning dance and professional tennis as well. The younger one, Swarna, aged 4, is also learning dance from her mother. ■

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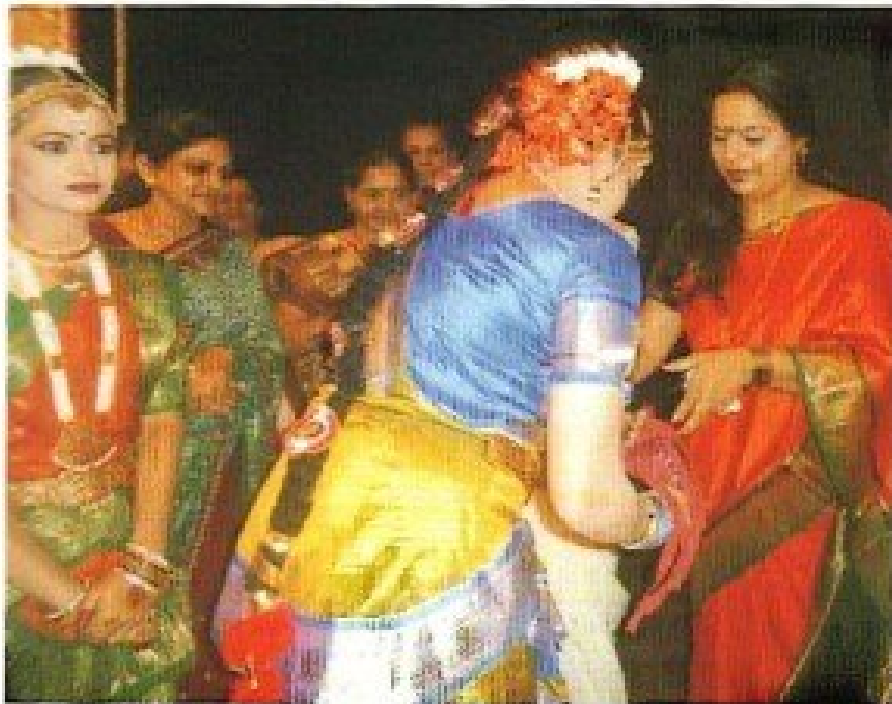
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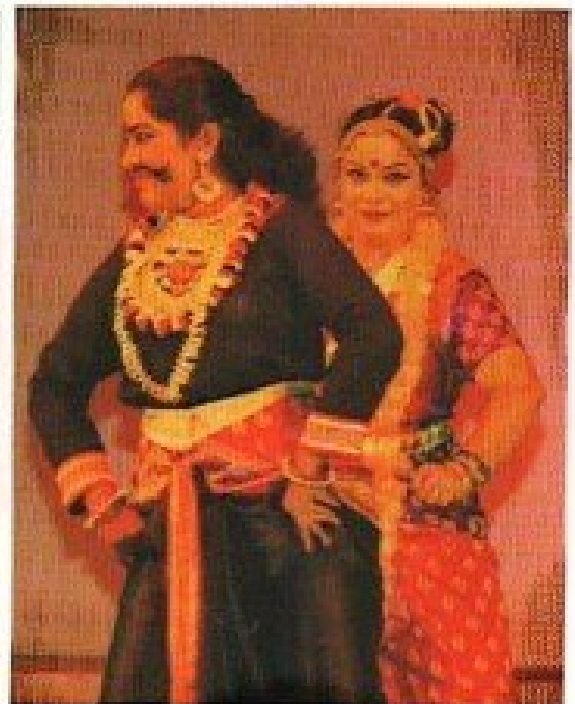
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Thanks & Visit Again



Manasi presenting anklets to her students before a dance recital



Manasi performing



Manasi and her husband Shiraj Nair with their daughters

illustrious Guru Ananta Narayanan. She completed her arangettam under him and he encouraged her to undergo advanced training under Guru Ramaswamy Bhagavathar who was also the teacher of dancer Sudha Chandran.

As a choreographer, Manasi has choreographed dance ballets namely Nava Durga (2014), Dashavataram (2012), Devi Mahatmyam (2009) Chhatrapati Shivaaji Maharaj (2008) and Krishna Leela (2007).

Manasi's Arangettam was under the guidance of her Guru Ananta Narayanan when AKG Nair the then President of Borivli Malayali Samajam and J M Shah her School principal graced the occasion. It was a memorable moment for her when she choreographed the opening and closing ceremony dance performance during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Borivli Malayali Samajam in 2012. Having been always

associated with BMS, she and her students performed at its 25th silver jubilee celebrations also.

Manasi plays the cymbals as she provides vocal support for her dance compositions.

In 1998 Manasi founded Manasvi Nrityalaya, an institution for imparting training in Bharatanatyam. The institution grew in size and today it is a leading dance school in the western suburbs, renamed as Tapasya School of Classical Dance and Music. She teaches more than 300 students and at four centres in and around Borivli. She follows the Nalanda syllabus in her class which is a seven year course. Tapasya Academy regularly performs at stages of various Malayalee organizations and temples in Malad, Borivli, and other places.