

# Bharatnatyam

*It is the oldest among all classical dance forms.*

*It derives its name from Bharata Muni's Natya Shastra.*

*Its origin can be traced back to 'Sadir Natyam' - a solo dance form performed for centuries by devadasis in temples and eventually in the royal courts of South India, especially in Tamil Nadu.*

*It is also known by names like DasiAttam, ChinnaMelam or Sadir.*



## EVOLUTION

*In the beginning of the first century AD, the dance form was almost wiped out with the decline of the Devadasi system.*

*Later on it was revived by E. Krishna Iyer.*

*Earlier, it was only performed by solo female dancers, but later on it became popular among male dancers and group artists.*

*Rukmini Devi Arundale's efforts have led to the global recognition of the dance.*



## ELEMENTS



*Alarippu – It is the first piece of performance in this art form, which includes a combination of pure dance along with the recitation of sound syllables.*

*Jatiswaram - It is a short pure dance performed along with different poses and movements.*



*Shabdham – It includes Abhinaya in the song, which is performed in reverence to the supreme being.*

*Varnam – It encompasses both dance and emotions in synchronisation with taal and raga.*



*Padam – It represents the expression of Abhinaya by the artists.*

*Jawali – Short love-lyrics are performed at a quick tempo.*



*Thillana – The dance performance ends with a thillana. At this stage, pure dance is performed with energetic movements and elaborate rhythmic variations.*

## IMPORTANT FEATURES

*Ekcharya Lasyam style, where one dancer performs many roles in a single act is a feature of Bharatnatyam.*

*Under the famous "Tanjore quartet", it also came to be known as Tanjore Natyam.*

*Tandava and Lasya are given equal importance, with major prominence to mudras.*

*'Katha Mukha Hasta' is one of the main mudras in which 'Om' is symbolised by joining three fingers.*

*During recital, the dancers bend their knees in a way that their weight gets equally distributed across both their feet.*

*Since it represents the fire in the human body, it is also referred to as the 'Fire dance'.*

## FAMOUS PROPONENTS



Mallika Sarabhai



Mrinalini Sarabhai



Yamini Krishnamurthy



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