

# Kuchipudi



Around the third decade of the 20th century, it emanated from an exquisite dance-drama of the same name.

It gets its name from Kusselavapuri or Kuchelapuram village of Andhra.

## EVOLUTION

Kusselavas, a group of mobile actors, initially performed it.

When Vaishnavism started, it began to be performed at temples as it was monopolised by male brahmins.

Later, it got popularised among female dancers as well.

Vijaynagar and Goloconda rulers patronised it.

Prior to being revived by Balasaraswanti and Ragini Devi in the 20th century it was only confined to villages.

## ELEMENTS



Manduk Shabdham:  
A Frog's story.



Jala Chitra Nrityam:  
While dancing, pictures are drawn with feet on the floor.

Tarangam:  
Feet are balanced on the edges of a brass plate with a waterpot balanced on the head.

## IMPORTANT FEATURES

Stories of Bhagwatpurana became central theme of recitals, and the dancers came to be known as Bhagavathalus.

In this dance form, Shringaar Rasa plays a predominant role.

Each character introduces itself with a "daaru", which is a small composition of dance and song, for the revelation of each character.

The earthly elements in the human body are represented in Kuchipudi.

A Dance-Drama performance, where both singing and dancing is done by a performer, may also be done.

Lasya and Tandava are equally important.

Carnatic music using Violin and Mridgangam is played.



## FAMOUS PROPONENTS



Radha Reddy



Raja Reddy



Indrani Rehman



Yamini Krishnamurthy