

MOHINIYATTAM

INTRODUCTION



Mohiniyattam, also known as dance of the enchantress is Kerala's solo female classical dance.

The term Mohiniyattam comes from the words "Mohini" meaning a beautiful woman and 'attam' means dance.



It was also known as Nangai Natakam, Dasiyattam, Tevitichiyattam, etc.

EVOLUTION



In the 19th century, it gained prominence under the rulers of Travancore in Kerala and Vellore, one among the Tanjore Quartet.

After its decline, the efforts of famous Malayali poet V. N. Menon and Kalyani Amma (the mother of Mohiniyattam), revived it.



IMPORTANT FEATURES



The dance form is characterized by graceful, swaying body movements with no abrupt jerks or sudden leaps.

The grace and elegance of Bharatnatyam is combined with the vigour of Kathakali.



It emphasises on the Lasya style of the recital, which is feminine in nature



It recounts the story of the feminine dance of Vishnu.



White and off-white are the main colours used for dancer's costume.



The movements in dance performance resemble the waves of the sea and swaying of the coconut, palm trees and paddy fields.



FAMOUS PROPONENTS



Madhuri Amma



Jayaprabha Menon



Sunanda Nair