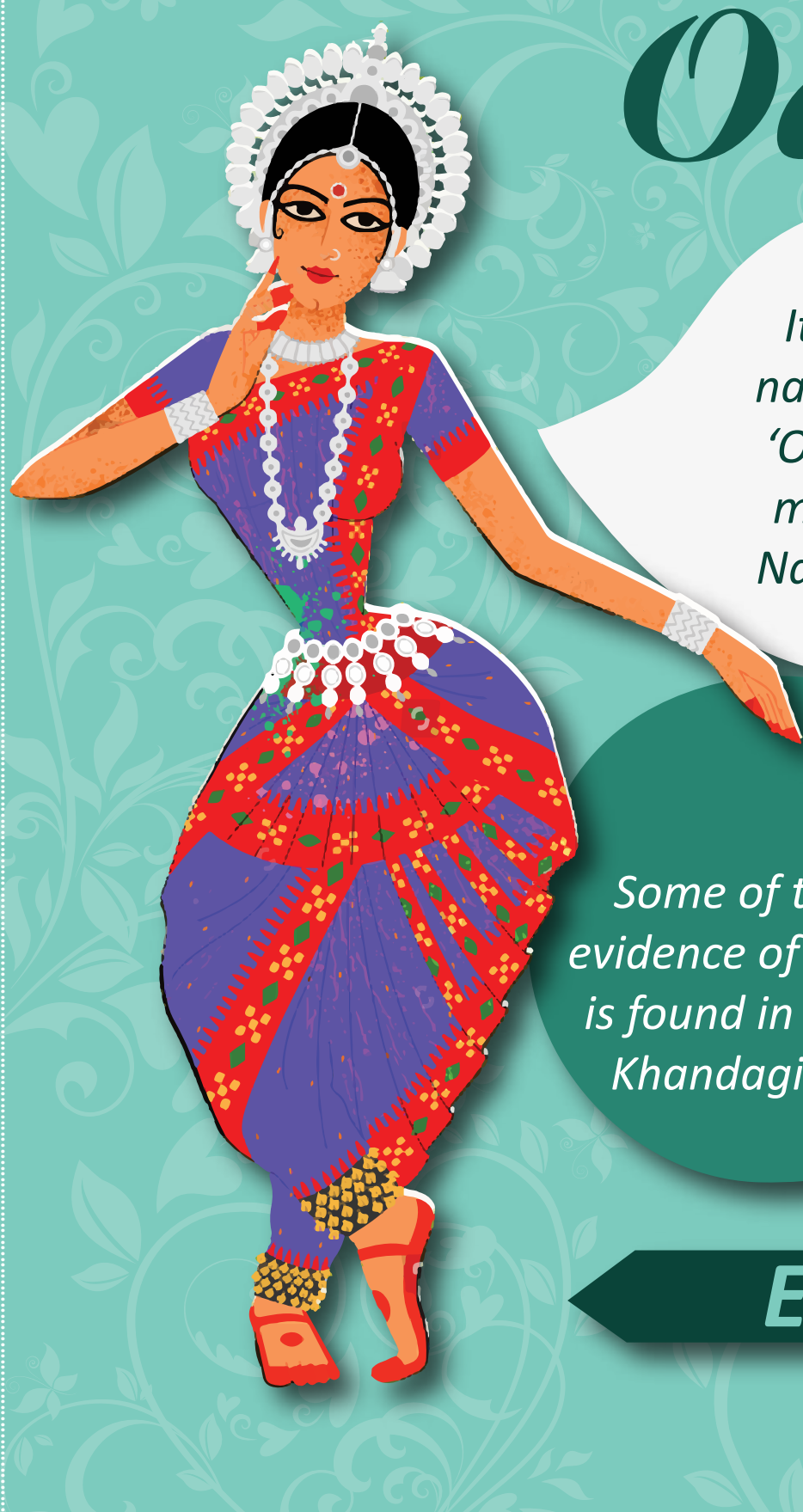


Odissi



It derives its name from the 'Odhra nritya' mentioned in Natya Shastra.

Some of the earliest evidence of Odissi dance is found in the caves of Khandagiri-Udaigiri.

EVOLUTION

For centuries, the 'Maharis' were the chief repositories of this dance form. It was patronized by the Jain King Kharvela.



The Mahari system became obsolete with the growth of Vaishnavite influence in the region.



Later, young boys, known as 'Gotipuas', were recruited and dressed as females to continue the art form.



'Nartala', a variant of Odissi dance form, continued to be practised at the royal courts.



The 12th century Gita Govind by Jaydeva also inspired the Odissi dancers and provided themes for the dance.



The efforts of Charles Fabri and Indrani Rehman led to its global recognition in the mid-twentieth century.



ELEMENTS



- **Mangalacharan** - it is an opening item where the dancer slowly enters the stage with flowers in hands and offers them to mother earth.



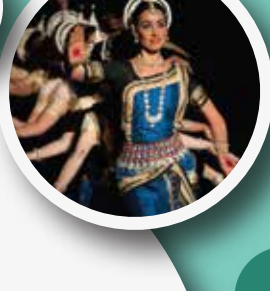
- **Batu nritya** – it comprises of both nritya and nritya.



- **Pallavi** – it includes the ornamentation of music, facial expressions and dance moves.



- **Moksha** – It is the concluding item where pallavi and abhinaya are performed to signify liberation.



- **Tharijham** - It consists of pure dance before the conclusion.

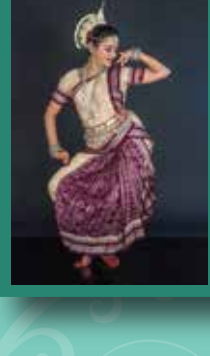


IMPORTANT FEATURES

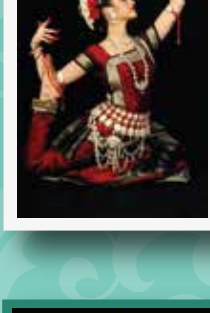
Mudras and postures are used to express emotions, like it is done in Bharatnatyam.



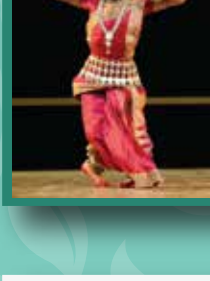
The tribhanga mudra consists of three bends in the body, at the neck, waist and knee. Hence, the body is oppositely curved which gives it a gentle "S" shape.



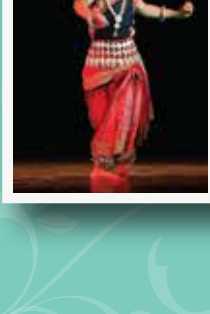
The dance form is also known as 'mobile sculpture' as the dancers create intricate geometrical patterns with their bodies.



Facial expressions, hand gestures and body movements are used to present the nine rasas.



The dance movements represent the element of water.



FAMOUS PROPONENTS



Sonal Mansingh



Guru Pankaj Charan Das



Kiran Segal



Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra