Odissi

It derives its name from the Odisha region mentioned in the Ramayana.

EVOLUTION

For centuries, the "Nethtas" were the chief purveyors of the dance form. It was patronized by the royal courts.

The modern system became popular with the growth of Vishnu temple influence in the 18th century. Later, young boys, known as "Gaalikas", were trained and dressed in female attire to continue the art form.

Women's wear is a distinct feature of Odissi dance forms and is continues to be practiced by the royal courts.

The 12th century Gita Govinda by Jayadeva also inspired the Odissi dancers and choreographers to create a narrative theme for the dance.

The efforts of Charaka, kick-started the formalization and its growth in the region to its global recognition in the mid-twentieth century.

ELEMENTS

- Interpretation - It is a storytelling dance where the dancer embodies the character of a god, a goddess, or a saint.
- Movement - It is the most important aspect of Odissi dance, and it involves intricate footwork and hand gestures.
- Expression - Emotions are expressed through the dancer's movements and facial expressions.
- Raga - It includes the ornamentation of the vocal music and dance music.
- Natya - It is the art of dance, music, and drama.
- Natyanar - He is the person who creates and performs Odissi dance.
- Natyanar - It is the art of dance, music, and drama.

IMPORTANT FEATURES

- Masks and costumes are used to express emotions, just like it is done in the theatres.
- The exchange mask consists of three bands in the body, neck, and arms. Hence, the body is sufficiently constrained which gives to give a "mudra" to the dance.
- Social movements, hand gestures, and body movements are used to accentuate the mood.
- The dance movements represent the element of water.

FAMOUS PROTAGONISTS

- Ballal Babu
- Bhuban Chandra Pattnaik
- Dinabandhu Karthik Choudhury
- Raghunath Sahoo
- Bara Basu

VISIONIA