

MESSAGE FROM

SUJATA BANERJEE



Hope this finds you well. After the most gorgeous summer we must all be ready for an exciting autumn term. Firstly, I wanted to thank every single student and parent for supporting us through the difficult period of venue change and also time change for some. I know it can be complicated with family commitments and travel etc. but we have all managed!

I believe in the strength of dance education; the transferable skills it offers that no other activity can and how it makes people physically, emotionally and intellectually strong. So I am glad to have you all in our school. Now that we have settled in our new venue, we have offered some more classes for adults and children this term.

I am also happy to say that we had 100% success in our recent ISTD exams where over 90% students have got above 70%.

I look forward to seeing you all this term.

Sujata Banerjee

HEMANTIKA

KATHAK FESTIVAL

11-18 NOVEMBER 2018



Photo Credit: Simon Richardson



From 11-18 November 2018, SBDC will be presenting our annual Hemantika Kathak Festival and we are honoured that dance legend Padmavibhushan Pandit Birju Maharaj will once again be headlining the Festival accompanied by the amazing Saswati Sen. We will also be holding our annual student showcase during the Festival.

Hemantika has grown into a very prestigious event in the UK and we thank all our students, and their families, for their continued support and participation. It is a great opportunity for SBDC students to be able to watch, learn and perform at this level.

This year, SBDC is premiering a Kathak reinterpretation of the magnum opus Swan Lake at the Festival. SBDC senior students and dancers will be part of this one-of-its-kind performance, using Kathak movements set to Tchaikovsky's legendary score. We hope all SBDC students will come and watch this inspiring show.

Tickets for most Hemantika performance are now on sale and we highly recommend booking at the earliest to avoid disappointment.

MORE DETAILS AT:

www.sbdc-kathak.com/hemantika

SBDC SUMMER RESIDENCY

2018

In July, SBDC held a very successful summer residency at the University of Hertfordshire. The Residency saw about 35 students from across the globe converge for a (very hot!) week of Kathak technique, choreography skills, movement analysis, dance history, ballet and African dance training. Students were taught by a wide range of experts including Fasih Ur Rehman, Rosemary Brandt, Chitra Sundaram, Akosua Boakyee, Nandita Shankardass and of course, Sujata Banerjee.

Says US-based Residency attendee Deepa Devasena, "Finding ways to constantly improve and build competence is a never ending task. This summer Sujata Didi intentionally designed a program to form developmental habits and then let those habits form you.... My sincere gratitude to Sujata Didi for asking me to do more, keeping things real, giving feedback and most importantly building my competence."

According to Bollywood dance teacher and Residency attendee Sumeet Sachdeva, "It's already been more than a week that we finished the Summer residency, however, I am still buzzing with all the energy. I just want to thank you and the entire team for putting up an amazing residency programme. It was a pleasure to be a part of such a professional camp which was completely focused on developing all round aspects of a dancer. You as a teacher are absolutely amazing and the knowledge of your subject shows through not only when you're delivering a class but also when we're having a casual conversation. I would love to be a part of any future residency programmes."

SAVE THE DATE

FOR SBDC's **2019**
SUMMER RESIDENCY

21 TO 28 JULY
2019



Photo Credit: Simon Richardson



USA TOUR 2018

SBDC had a very exciting USA tour this Easter with four performances in major cities: San Diego, Chicago, Milwaukee and Syracuse in NY State. Says Sujata didi, "I am so proud of our dancers - Jaina, Sonia, Mithun and Rupal, who performed brilliantly, assisted me in all 12 workshops and also helped many students in the USA. We also took two dancers from the USA - Gurmeet Marhas and Deepa Devasena, who I mentor regularly. We received a standing ovation in each performance and I am happy to announce that we've already had a booking for next year."

Said Sukanya Rajan, wife of the late Pandit Ravi Shanker, "Sujata and her students gave a fabulous performance in San Diego this spring. Sujata's solo pieces were beautiful and moving. Raviji's Tarana was executed with precise and fluid movements by Jaina and Sonia to the audiences' delight. The final piece 'Together We Can' was spectacular and they had an instant standing ovation."



WHO WE ARE

Founder & Artistic Director
Operations and Senior Project Manager (part-time)
School Administrator (part-time)
SBDC Administrator (part-time)
Teachers/ Assistant Teachers
Costume Management

: SUJATA BANERJEE
: AMBIKA KUCHERIA
: JAINA MODASIA
: VACANCY
: SRIPARNA BANERJEE, JAINA MODASIA,
TULANI KALYANI-SKEEF, ISHA MEHTA
: RABBY JANNATH



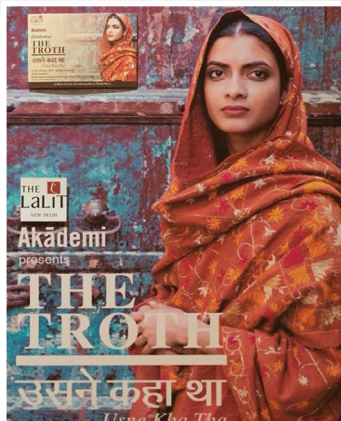
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STUDENTS' SUCCESSES

As always, SBDC students and dancers have been scaling new heights and we are delighted to share some of their successes.

VIDYA PATEL MITHUN GILL

Vidya is continuing to grow as an independent artist and has been appointed as the Associate Artist for the Deda Derby. Vidya was invited to perform twice at this year's Alchemy Festival at the Southbank – a collaborative piece 'About the Elephant' and in a leading role in Akademi's WW1 production 'The Troth'. In addition to touring in India and the UK, The Troth also performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival where it has received a number of awards.



In June, Mithun was commissioned to perform at the Outrageous Festival in Hackney. His duet with Jason Kwan combined traditional and contemporary styles. Mithun has recently filmed for a Channel 4 documentary with the legendary dancer Akram Khan and will soon be seen touring as part of Akademi's *The Troth*.



VOGUE

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SONIA CHANDARIA-TILLU

Following winning the Kalashram Kathak Contest London at Hemantika 2017, Sonia has taken a career break from her finance job to focus on full-time dancing. She has performed at a number of prestigious events such as the Birmingham International Dance Festival and Inspire Women Awards, and has even been featured in the Vogue.



Photo Credit: Simon Richardson

VEIDIKA CHOHAN

September began on a great note with the Rang Manch Pravesh of SBDC student Veidika Chohan at the Arts Depot. A Manch Pravesh is a very special performance in a dancer's life when their training, dedication, commitment and challenges all come together to test the student's passion and love for the dance. Veidika has been training with Sujata Banerjee for 14 years and has completed her Advance 2 ISTD exam. Veidika balances her work as a junior doctor with her dance training and regularly performs with the SBDC team.

Says Veidika, "It was a very tough training programme, but I realised if you really want to do something, you can." Veidika's Manch Pravesh was supported by Sujata Banerjee, brilliant musicians and her family. We want to congratulate Veidika on her fantastic achievement.