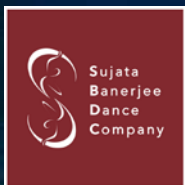


KATHA



SBDC'S **NEW**
ANNUAL
MAGAZINE



Edition 1
Summer 2022

Sujata Banerjee Dance Company

enriching education ~ nurturing talent ~ promoting innovation

We provide world-class dance training to students of all ages and levels. Sujata has developed a unique method of teaching combining her classical dance training and sports science knowledge. She has been teaching for over 40 years, training some of the leading young dancers of the UK and mentoring teachers from all over the world.

Under Sujata's mentorship, all SBDC classes are taught by trained and passionate young teachers.

Students are trained to prepare for ISTD graded and vocational exams and also get opportunities to perform at various events and festivals.

Classes ~ Performances ~ Workshops

For all age groups

More information:

www.sbdc-kathak.com

Enquiry:

admin@sbdc-kathak.com

SBDCkathak@gmail.com



Message from Sujata Banerjee MBE

*Welcome to the first edition of
Katha – which means story.*



The word Kathak, which is derived from the word Katha, means storyteller. There is a saying, '*katha kahe so Kathak kahave*', if you tell stories you are a Kathakar.

Stories are an integral part of life and we can connect through stories much more easily – regardless of age, ability, geographical location or culture. The ability to tell stories, or to communicate more generally, is a skill that everyone, in all professions, strives for – whether it's verbally or through movements or through writing we need this skill as it helps us to engage and build our empathy as well as understanding of human experiences. In dance we learn the technique and art of storytelling; so let's embrace dance in our lives.

Dance training offers various transferable skills, which no other training can – it makes us realize who we are, gives us awareness of our surroundings - how we take space, place ourselves in it and own it; *make friends with Dance and through Dance.*

Sujata Banerjee, director of SBDC.

Shankar 100

at the Southbank Centre



On 5th March, SBDC took 100 dancers to the Royal Festival Hall to participate in the delayed celebration for the Centenary of Panditji Ravi Shankhar, starting off with a workshop in the Clore Ballroom, which attracted a huge group of people to experience Kathak and Indian classical dance for the first time. After this, we saw a number of short performances in a programme called Mangalam, including a performance by Sujatadi herself. This all culminated in a wonderful concert led by Anoushka Shankhar, collaborating with musicians from all over the world. As the musicians took their bows at the end of the performance, 100 SBDC dancers came through the entrances to the venue and filled every aisle in the auditorium with a beautiful yet simple choreography as petals fell from the ceiling and the audience was left in a wondrous rapture. From the faces of the performers and the dancers I spoke to on the night, it was clear that creating such a magical finale to honour and celebrate such an amazing musician was a true privilege for SBDC to be a part of.

Chico Chakravorty, SBDC trustee

Festival of Colours

Organised by Sampad

Tulani and I had the joy of going on a small road trip to Barrow-in-Furness to perform as part of Festival of Colours, organised by Sampad. We rehearsed our solos and duets with Sujatadi before we left, making sure they were perfect for the performance!

Whilst having the opportunity to perform outdoors and twice indoors, the weather held up beautifully and the atmosphere around Barrow was incredible. The day consisted of a solo performance from both Tulani and I, followed by a couple of duet pieces.

This festival gave an insight to different aspects of Indian dance, music and culture to the people from Barrow and it was many people's first time watching Kathak and they loved the introduction. The festival line up included Bollywood, musicians, Bharatnathyam and much more. The weekend ended with an outdoor Holi party with music by a live DJ and lots of dancing! We returned home the next day, proud to represent SBDC at Sampad's Festival of Colours.

Jaina Modasia, SBDC company dancer and teacher



Youth Group Update



If you were at Hemantika 2021, you will remember the ‘Kathak girls with Attitude’ – yes, the youth group at SBDC is full of energy, attitude and excitement to make Kathak a part of their Gen Z lives. At SBDC, the Indian classical dance tradition of handing down learning from the guru/mentor is practised in its true spirit – it is a way of coaching and shaping young minds to think freely, be creative and stay rooted in the classical form through discipline and Riyaz (practice). The Youth Group was started by Sujatadi a few years back and this year it received Arts Council funding to become a structured programme for dance development. Sujatadi is a leading voice in the UK to advocate for investment in creating dance career pathways, and for her a structured programme for young dancers is just the springboard that the sector needs to engage and motivate young dancers!



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The youth group members are an enthusiastic bunch of 11-14 years olds selected through auditions. On a regular weekly session, you will find them practising a performance piece, doing a creative session with Sujatadi or learning hip hop or flamenco. It is a wonderful space for them to bond, connect and work together for performances. It was an honour for the group to perform Mangalam at the centenary celebrations of Pt Ravi Shankar at Southbank Centre and on 5th June, they performed with English National Ballet's youth group to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, Watch this space for more exciting news about the youth group!

Subhaluxmi Mukherji,
ex-student and parent of a youth group dancer.

Spotlight

Spotlight is an initiative started in 2021 to encourage and inspire our students to take dance as a serious hobby. The spotlight will be on someone who has shown commitment, dedication, hard work and consistent progress in Kathak. The chosen student will get a chance to present a solo/duet performance in an appropriate SBDC event. We are monitoring everyone's progress and the spotlight is **ON** - keep working hard!



Hemantika 2022



Hemantika is a seasonal (Autumn) Classical Indian Dance festival, which is an initiative SBDC, started in 2016. The festival over 7 years has grown to a prestigious platform where the audience can have a true experience of the richness and amazing range of classical styles. The festival promotes international and UK based artists, youth groups, and we offer master-classes and workshops for all.

The festival is the showcase of all SBDC's strands of work: presentation of outreach workshops, commissions and performances by SBDC students, as well as talented and highly skilled artists. Stay tuned for more information on venues, guest artists and choreographers for the most exciting Hemantika yet...

Hemantika and Beyond!

Confirmed venues:

November 2022

- **6th:** The Drum, Wembley
- **12th:** Sadler's Wells, Angel
- **20th:** The Bhavan, West Kensington



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SBDC'S New Initiatives

We are dedicated to raising awareness of the small differences we can make through our actions. We are bringing our focus to sustainability and wellbeing of all our students through these two new initiatives.

Contact: **admin@sbdc-kathak.com** for more information or to get involved.

Dance Clothes Recycling

SBDC is now accepting reusable, good quality dance wear, which will be made available to give to the students.

Please contact Susmita:
admin@sbdc-kathak.com



SBDC will be hosting a workshop in October led by sustainability professionals about making your own makeup removal products using environmentally friendly materials.

Watch this space for further details!

Health & Wellbeing Support Group for all SBDC students

This group will meet monthly on Zoom to share stories, offer empathy and discuss strategies in a safe environment. Please get in touch with us if you want further details.

admin@sbdc-kathak.com

International Students

Living in Seattle for over 2 decades, I was fortunate to have trained with Sujataji since 2004 whenever she would visit USA throughout the year. Although we were craving online classes, it was never an option, hence I could never experience a regular class just like my other peers, who lived in London. When the world experienced Covid, I was extremely thankful that I could train regularly with Sujataji on Zoom. As the world was opening up post-Covid, I made a trip to London in March 2022 to experience my first in person set of classes with SBDC.



It was indeed an exhilarating experience – the energy in a live classroom can never substitute an online one and I felt that what I had learnt in a live classroom in 3 weeks was more impactful than learning in front of a screen. Now I hope to be able to continue visiting London as often as I can to enhance and improve my Kathak journey with SBDC.



Written by Manisha Advani, intermediate student

Congratulations to Avni Yadav!

Winner of the ISTD bursary award 2022

When Sujata Didi asked me to prepare a dance for the award I thought she had set me an impossible task, with just a week to go. But I decided to give it all, working very hard and enjoying learning a new piece, the rehearsal process, preparation and the filming. I had zero expectations, so when I received a text from Sujata Didi saying I had won, I read it twice before I believed it. Then I laughed all the way home, grinning like an idiot, it felt amazing. I am inspired to take on more challenges in dance now!" -

Avni Yadav, grade 5 student.



Information for students

Our students' health, safety and well-being is very important to us. We are happy to announce that we have now updated our safeguarding policy.

Details available on request:

admin@sbdc-kathak.com



**It's been a busy season for SBDC!
Here's what we've been up to...**

In March we hosted a collaborative workshop with Jose Agudo and SBDC at The Place.

In April / May we had free online Hindi classes for students.

In May, SBDC company dancers performed Together We Can at the British Medical Association conference.

In June, our Youth Group performed with English National Ballet for the Queen's Jubilee

Dates for your diary

30th July

SBDC students will be part of an outdoor ensemble performance at the 2022 European Women's Football Championship in Wembley!

31st July

As part of U Dance Festival, our youth group's performance of *Mangalam* will be screened at the BFI Southbank at 10.15am

10th September

SBDC will be performing with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as part of Wemba's Dream Festival in Wembley Park.

Sujata Banerjee Dance Company presents

HEMANTIKA

FESTIVAL 2022

PERFORMANCES ~ WORKSHOPS ~ MASTERCLASSES
NOVEMBER 2022

6TH: THE DRUM, WEMBLEY
12TH: SADLER'S WELLS, ANGEL
20TH: THE BHAVAN, WEST KENSINGTON

TICKETS ON SALE SOON!
WWW.SBDC-KATHAK.COM



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