

Bharatanatyam exponent - Bala Devi Chandrashekar

□ *Suman Doonga, Delhi*

Bala Devi Chandrashekar is a Bharatanatyam exponent, research scholar, and a passionate committed teacher of Bharatanatyam. Bala is known for her distinct scholarly style and takes on subjects based on ancient texts, backed by intense research, collaborates with renowned scholars in the respective fields, carving messages from ancient texts relevant to the contemporary world and actively presenting across the world. Bala Devi's lineage is from a family of philosophers and literary scholars. Bala through her classical dance strives to interpret ancient philosophical and spiritual concepts and presents in a classicism that is always contemporary in interpretation and communicates across cultures. All her productions are accompanied by world class

music. Extremely passionate about teaching, and as a Professor of Practice & as the Artistic Director of SPNAPA Academy of Performing Arts, Princeton, New Jersey, she imparts valuable knowledge to



her many dedicated students. Bala constantly works on developing and perfecting the style that would be seamless and fluid while yet retaining the precision, power and purity of

line - typical of classical dance. As a Professor of Practice, Bala is constantly developing "Performing studies" in collaboration with Theater and Dance, History, Philosophy, Linguistic anthropol-



ogy and and lectured / taught at Universities Princeton, Upenn, Mount Holyoke, Yeshiv etc South Asian Departments of various Universities Princeton, Mount Holyoke and served as Fellow and Artist in Residence at The Carl A fields Center @ Princeton University. Bala is one of the few Bharatanatyam artist worldwide to have released eight critically acclaimed dance production based on her extensive research. They are Nandanar Charithram, MLV favorites, Krishna Arpanam, Uddhava Gita - Lord Krishna's last message, Vishwam - The Omnipresent, Tripura - Divine Feminine, Karna - Destiny's Child, Brihadeeswara - Form to formless through the eyes of a Devaradiyal. All of these works are been available in digital format.