



**BHARATHANATYAM**  
 RECITAL OF  
**S.S.D.**  
**NIRANJANA MENON**

**PERFORMER**  
**SREE SANKARA SCHOOL**  
**OF DANCE, KALADY**

DISCIPLE OF GURU  
**SUDHA**  
**PEETHAMBARAN**



**Niranjana Menon**, Daughter of Sri A. R. Anilkumar, Retd. Associate Vice President, Federal Bank and Muralist Smt. Sujatha Anilkumar, started learning classical dance at the age of 4 under the tutelage and guidance of Guru Smt. Sudha Peethambaran, Dooradarshan - ICCR Artiste and Director, Sree Sankara School of Dance, Kalady.

Niranjana, who hails from Vengoor near Kalady, the birth place of Jagadguru Adi Sankaracharya, did her 'Arangetram' in the year 2010, at the prestigious National Sree Sankara Dance and Music Festival conducted at Kalady.

Within a short span of time, she could stage more than 150 performances in different parts of Kerala and Karnataka. Niranjana has also taken part in CBSE Sahodaya competitions and has bagged top rank in state level competition. During the period, she got training in Bharathanatyam under the tutelage of RLV Sri Subesh and Kalakshethra Sri Amalnath. Presently, she is undergoing online classes under the guidance of Bharathanatyam exponent Smt. Rama Vaidyanathan.

## **Education**

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After her schooling at Viswajyothi Public school, Angamaly, she completed her UG course from Mount Carmel College, Bengluru, where she was the Secretary of Indian Dance Association, throughout her academic career in the college.

## **Workshops, Seminars & Lec -Demos**

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She took part in many Natyasasthra Sibirams organized by SSD under the direction of eminent Natya Guru Dr. C.P.Unnikrishnan. She also took part in workshop on 'Adavu' by Senior Guru Sri Payyannur N.V. Krishnan. Also attended various workshops conducted by Padma Bhooshan Awardee Smt. Swapna Sundari, Smt.Rama Vaidhyathan, Smt.Meera Sreenarayanan, Smt. Sharmila Biswas, Dr. Neena Prasad, Kalakshethra Saritha. Smt. Gopika Varma, workshops on dance medicine, stretching exercise for overall health of dancers, chuzhippu, chorography, to mention a few under the supervision of Natya Guru Dr. C.P. Unnikrishnan etc. are some of the academic sessions attended by Niranjana Menon which enriched her knowledge in classical dance.



## Programmes watched

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As a student and a performer of SSD, She got a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the classical dance performances of veteran dancers and senior gurus like Padmabhushan Awardees Nrutha Choodamani V.P. Dhananjayan, Santha Dhananjayan, Dr. Padma Subramaniam, Dr. Swapna Sundari, Padmasree Awardees, Smt. Malavika Sarukkai, Kalamandalam Kshemavathy, Smt. Bharathi Shivaji, Smt. Manju Bhargavee and Dr. Geetha Chandran, Dr. Vasundhara Doraswami, Smt. Gopika Varma, Dr. Neena Prasad, Sri Sreedhar & Smt. Anuradha Sreedhar, Smt. Priyadarsini Govind, Smt. Rama Vaidhyathan, Dr. Alekhya Punjala, Guruji Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya, Smt. Sudha Peethambaran, Smt. Paramitha Maithra, Smt. Paris Laxmi, Dr. Methil Devika, Smt. Rukmini Vijayakumar, Smt. Asha Sarath, Dr. Aiswarya Warriar, Sri Parswanath Upadhye, Smt. Sruthi Gopal, Dr. Jayaprabha Menon, Sri. Renjith & Smt. Vijna, Smt. Sarita Mishra, Smt. Sreelakshmi Govardhan, Smt. Dakshina Vaidhyathan, Prachi Saathi, Preetham Das, Smt. Pratheeksha Kasi, Ms. Sayani Chakraborty, Kavya Ganesh, Dr. RLV Ramakrishnan, Dr. Anupama Menon, Sophia Salingaros, Nitya Narasimhan, Karuna Sagari, Subhamani Chandrasekhar, Shreema Upadaya, Mahati Kannan, Meera Sreenarayanan, Harini Jeevitha, Sharmila Biswas, Adithya P.V., Et Alia.

## Major Performances

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She has performed classical dance in major dance festivals like International Sree Sankara Dance & Music Festival, Kollur Mookambika Navarathri Festival, Guruvayoor Temple, Nelluvai Dhanwandari Temple, Thottuva Dhanwandari Temple Festival, TDM Hall, Ernakulam, Pavakkulam Temple, Kaloor, Mookambika Temple, North Parur, Ayyappankavu Temple, Ernakulam, Narasimhaswami Temple, Thuravoor, Alappuzha, Siva Temple, Poonkunnam, Thrissur, Sreekrishna Temple, Kalady, Flames Festival organized by FBOA, Aluva, Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Federal Bank Officers Association at Adlux, Angamaly, FAS, Perumbavoor, Silver Jubilee Festival of SSD, Cultural Festival conducted by Kanjoor Co-operative Bank, Pallippattukavu Temple, Desom, Ananthapuram Temple, Desom, Kannampuzha Sree Krishna Temple, Chalakudy, Durga Devi Temple, Vengoor, Ernakulam Karayogam Navarathri Festival, NSS Taluk Union Drishyotsavam, Puthiyedom Temple, Nellikkuzhi Temple, Koottala Bhagavathi Temple, Mookkannoor, Sree Sankara Natya Mandapam of SSD, Kalady.





## Major Productions

She played the lead role of little Krishna in Sreekrishna Kathamrutham – a major production of SSD and supporting roles in Sankaram Loka Sankaram – A Natyabhashyam and Gurudeva Charitham – A Natyabhashyam directed by Dr. C.P. Unnikrishnan. She still participates in all mega events of SSD.

## Masterpieces

Her masterpiece items 'Krishnam Sangeetha Sagaram' directed by Dr. C.P. Unnikrishnan and 'Chinmudra' written Prof. P.V. Peethambaran which was choreographed by Niranjana herself, captured special attention of art lovers.

## Skills

Her abhinaya skill had captured the attention of art lovers when she played the role of 'unnikrishnan' in 'Sreekrishna Kathamrutham' at the age of 10. Later, her abhinaya skill was nurtured by Dr. C. P. Unnikrishnan, when she staged the new choreography, 'Krishnam Sangeetha Sagaram'. Niranjana's abhinaya skill came to limelight, when she staged 'Chinmudra' through own choreography in 2022.



## THE HINDU

### Dance programme on social themes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

The students of the Sree Sankara School of Dance (SSD), Kalady, will stage three dance performances based on socially-relevant themes. "Mullaperiyar", "Chinmudra" and "Ayyante Yathra", as the performances have been titled, will be screened online on July 8, 9, and 10.

Mullaperiyar deals with the fears and concerns of the people living in Idukki and neighbouring districts. Choreographed by sisters Anusree V. and Ais-

warya V., who will also perform it, the composition reflects the situation of the legendary dam. Chinmudra will be presented by Niranjana Menon from Bengaluru. Ayyante Yathra, choreographed by Parvathy V.S., is based on the life and times of the social reformer Ayyankali. Professor P.V. Peethambaran has scripted all the three productions.

The programme will be staged online on July 8, 9, and 10 at 7 p.m. It is open to all and can be viewed on the Facebook page of SSD, Kalady.

### മെട്രോ വാർത്ത

## നിരന്തരജനയുടെ നൃത്തപരിപാടിയുടെ ഏക-2021 ആരംഭിച്ചു

കൊച്ചി: നരതകലാർ സമാജം നൃത്തം പരിപൂർണ്ണമായും ഏക-2021 മുറുന്ന പരിപാടികൾ കൊച്ചിയിൽ തുടരുകയാണ്. ചിത്രമായ അ നൃത്തത്തിൽ നിരന്തരജനയുടെ അഭിനയം പൂർണ്ണമായും അർപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽ ഇരുപത്തിയെട്ടാമത്തെ നൃത്തം നൃത്തം പരിപാടി ആരംഭിച്ചു. ഇരുപത്തിയെട്ടാമത്തെ നൃത്തം നൃത്തം പരിപാടി ആരംഭിച്ചു. ഇരുപത്തിയെട്ടാമത്തെ നൃത്തം നൃത്തം പരിപാടി ആരംഭിച്ചു.



നിരന്തരജനയുടെ ചിത്രയുടെ നൃത്തപരിപാടിയിൽ അഭിനയിക്കുന്നു.

മാതൃഭൂമി  
2021  
നൃത്ത പരിപാടി തുടങ്ങി

മാതൃഭൂമി  
2017  
നൃത്ത പരിപാടി

മലയാള മനോരമ  
2021  
നൃത്ത പരിപാടി

## Credits



### **Prof. P.V. Peethambaran**

Prof. P.V. Peethambaran, Promoter of Sree Sankara School of Dance, Kalady, is a well known classical art organizer. He mooted the idea of International Sree Sankara Dance & Music Festival at Kalady, the serene birth place of Adi Sankaracharya

with a view to developing Kalady as an International Cultural Centre. Organised under the auspices of P.T.A., SSD, nearly 5000 world famous, upcoming young artistes took part in the Fest since its inception in 2003.

He introduced many novel ideas to promote and motivate rising artistes like 'Accreditation', 'Choreofest', 'Eka Fest', 'Vision 2020 Artiste Scheme', 'Arangu', 'Tharangam', 'Parampara' schemes and Cultural Ambassador Scheme 2022. The latest of the series is Professional Dance Festival -2023. His recent attempt to promote dance based on reformative ideas was a grand success. So far ten poems written by him have been choreographed by upcoming danseuses. He has written many motivational books for upcoming dancers.



### **Sudha Peethambaran - Direction & Nattuvangam**

Sudha Peethambaran, Director, SSD and Dooradarshan - ICCR Artiste is a well known Mohiniyattam Dancer. She has encouraged many dancers by imparting systematic and meticulous training to them. She is the Chief Dance Co-ordinator of ISSDMF and has staged many dance programmes based on traditional and contemporary themes within and outside India. Her dance programmes have attracted the attention of the media and connoisseurs of arts alike. Sree Krishnaya Namah is one of her masterpieces. She has also won several awards in the field of classical dance including Kalamandalam Award, Prof. Vasudevan Elayathu Award, Kalasagar Award and the Pride of Cochin College Award.



### **Dr. C. P. Unnikrishnan**

Dr. C.P. Unnikrishnan is an authority on Nattiyasasthra. As the Technical Director of SSD, he has guided many seminars, workshops and lecture demos for students of classical dance. He has choreographed three mega dance programmes dealing with the messages & teachings of Adi Sankaracharya, Sree Narayana Gurudev and Lord Krishna.

He has also choreographed many dance programmes based on traditional and contemporary themes. Sankaram Loka Sankaram, Gurudeva Charitham, Sreekrishnaya Namah, Daivadasakam, Kundalinippattu, Kannaki, Kaalinatakam etc. are some of his crowd pulling choreographies.

Linguistic support - Prof. S. Padmanabhan,  
Former H.O.D. of English, S.S. College, Kalady





**Sri. Sreekumar  
Urakam**  
Vocalist



**Sri. RLV Venu  
Kurumassery**  
Mrudangist



**Sri. A. Anil Kumar  
Edappally**  
Violinist



**Sri. A.K. Reghunathan  
Savithri**  
Flutist



**SSD  
Akshara V.R.**  
Nattuvangam



**Sri. Varghese  
Antony**  
Makeup



## **SREE SANKARA SCHOOL OF DANCE, KALADY**

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