

Smt. Prathibha Prahlad

Personal Profile



Padmasri awardee Prathibha Prahlad is a highly respected performer, choreographer, author, scholar, arts administrator & Guru. With indefatigable energy and passion, Prathibha Prahlad has pioneered India's most prestigious arts festival - Delhi International Arts Festival. Her innovating efforts in creating India's Signature Arts Festival, DIAF, has given a new dimension to India's cultural footprints globally.

A renowned culture specialist, she is a frequent invitee to international conferences.

Prathibha Prahlad heads the Prasiddha Foundation & Forum for Arts Beyond Borders, both of which she has established into premier cultural organizations of the Country. Prasiddha Dance Repertory, of which she is the Artistic Director, is frequently invited by International Festivals for performances.

She has served extensively on several Government of India Committees on culture. As the convener of the Culture Committee of Commonwealth Games 2010 & designed the Opening & Closing Ceremonies and has served as a member of the Jury for National Film Awards and Dada Saheb Phalke Award. She has also designed the syllabus for dance for NCERT and contributed to MHRD's Master's degree program online.

She is the only artiste of her generation on an Indian 'My Stamp' of Rs.5, released by the Dept. of Posts & Telegraphs, in her honour.

Prathibha Prahlad has been conferred the PADMASRI & Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards. She has received the Karnataka State Government Award & 'Karnataka Kalasri'.

Prathibha Prahlad says - ***“Culture is the wealth you pass onto future generations. It is our identity and is the only truly unifying force in this divisive world. It is our collective responsibility to invest in culture”***

Smt. Prathibha Prahlad is an acclaimed & celebrated Bharatanatyam & Kuchipudi dancer whose multi- faceted personality reflects in the exemplary work she continues to do in the arts field. **She is A Performer, Guru, Educator, Choreographer, Arts Administrator, Author and A Cultural Visionary.** Her contribution to the arts field goes much beyond her own trail-blazing dance career of over 40 years, which has taken her to prestigious platforms all over the world.

Prathibha Prahlad has performed in over 85 Countries and has given more than 3000 performances in India.

A distinguished performer, her dance has a magical quality that is at once gripping and soul stirring. She brings the same quality of excellence to her teaching and choreographic works.

Her work in the field of arts of showcasing Indian arts and artistes on a global platform is profound and unparalleled in contemporary dance history. The world famous Delhi International Arts Festival of which she is the founder festival director is a cultural equity that brands India on the world stage.

Prathibha Prahlad is the Founder Festival Director of India's Largest & Internationally Famous Cultural Festival -DELHI INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL- Where INDIA MEETS THE WORLD (2007 -2019). It has been a cultural equity that brands India on the world stage for more than a decade now because of Prathibha's vision, direction, conviction and hard work. **The Dept. of Posts, Govt of India, released a 'First Day Cover' of the Delhi International Arts Festival in 2011, with Prathibha Prahlad's Mission Statement.**

Prathibha Prahlad also has the unique distinction of being the only dancer of her generation to be on **an Indian Postal 'My Stamp' of Rs.5 /- released by the Indian Posts & Telegraphs Dept., as a special honor to her extraordinary work in the arts field.**

Prathibha Prahlad heads the Prasiddha Foundation & Forum For Arts Beyond Borders, both of which she has established into premier cultural organizations of the Country.

Prasiddha Dance Repertory, of which she is the Artistic Director and Choreographer has become a much sought after dance group and is frequently invited by International Festivals for performances. Her choreographies are renowned for their high aesthetic quality, technical brilliance and emotional connect. **Prasiddha Dance Repertory**, of which she is the Artistic Director and Choreographer has become a much acclaimed dance group and is frequently invited by International Festivals for performances. Prasiddha Repertory has performed widely in China, Japan, Belarus, Malaysia, Europe and most recently in Georgia and Armenia.

Her multi-style productions- VANDE MATARAM ,PAANCHAJANYA -sights & sounds of INDIA, SATYA SWACCH SUR, 'SILK SUTRA -DANCE OF THE WEAVES' 'SITA -PARALLEL REALITIES', 'KRISHNA's WIDOWS' have won her huge accolades and have been emulated by many of her contemporaries and seniors in the field.

Several Titles & Awards

Smt.Prathibha Prahlad is the recipient of numerous awards and titles. The Govt. of India has honored her with the **PADMASHRI (2016)** in recognition of her yeoman service to the arts. She is the youngest recipient of **the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for dance (2001)**. She has also received the **Karnataka State Government Award (2001)**, **Karnataka Kalasri (1997)**.

Besides these, several governmental, semi-governmental and private organizations have conferred honours and titles on her. Most recent being **MSME Award for Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur in Culture, PHD. Chamber Samman for Outstanding leadership in the Arts, BHARAT SHIROMANI, NRITYA SHIROMANI, OUTSTANDING WOMAN in**

LEADERSHIP & ARTS from Women Economic Forum and Humanitarian & Leadership Award from Prasanna Trust.

A post graduate degree in Mass Communications and an enviable experience in the performance, print and television media add to her distinction as an arts interlocutor. Prathibha writes articles in leading newspapers and is a **frequent invitee to seminars and other academic activities nationally and internationally**. She has produced, directed and acted in television serials. Prathibha Prahlad has also *authored books on dance* & other related subjects. **Her book on Bharatanatyam was the No 1 bestseller on Amazon for 10 years after it was published & has been reprinted several times.**

Prathibha Prahlad is a highly respected speaker at TEDx and memorial talks at Universities and educational institutions.

Served Extensively on Government Committees

Prathibha Prahlad has served extensively on several Government Committees on culture and worked for the propagation of Indian performing arts. **She was the convener of the Culture Committee of the Commonwealth Games 2010, a member of the expert committee that designed the Opening & Closing Ceremony of the Games. She has served on the expert jury for Dada Saheb Phalke Award of the Govt. of India, National Film Awards Jury.**

Prathibha Prahlad served as Member of the Executive Board of the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi (1998-2003),

She was responsible for India Pavilion in *HANNOVER EXPO 2000* as member of the Cabinet Committee for Culture of Ministry of Commerce, for where she designed the entire cultural component of the Indian Pavilion besides

choreographing the main Indian presentation there.(ITPO –Ministry of Commerce)

She has also served as Member, Expert Committee for Tableaux Selection for Republic Day(Ministry Of Defence),Member, Expert Committee for selection for Dance Scholarships-(Ministry Of Culture),Member, Expert Committee for Junior and Senior Fellowships-2001,2004,2005,2007,2009,2010,2012,2013-(Ministry Of Culture),Core Committee Member, Culture, for Afro Asian Games (Hyderabad). Besides these, Prathibha Prahlad has also been member of Committee to design the Syllabus for dance for CBSE Boards -10th and 12th – 2008,2009,2010,2011.

She was also requested to design the model Question Paper for C.B.S.E Boards for general and practical – Arts-2009/2010 and was on N.C.E.R.T- Committee to design Syllabus and teaching methodology for cultural studies.

Prathibha Prahlad designed the senior syllabus for DANCE for MHRD (Ministry of Human Resources Development) for their E-Patashala programme of procuring Masers Degree through online learning 2015-16.

Prathibha Prahlad's other significant and unique contributions to the arts field include procuring travel concession in trains for all artistes travelling for performances, dance direction & performance in the documentary film 'Nectar in Stone' on Belur & Halebid temples, which won the best film award from UNESCO , production and acting in popular TV serial 'SHRUTI' on the life of a dancer, making a film on 50 years of dance in Karnataka which won her a national award. **She was responsible too for the structuring of the 'Hampi Vijayotsav Festival', which she handed over to the Govt. of Karnataka to organize. 'Sharad Vaibhava' and 'Eka Aneka' festivals of dance and music** have won her the appreciation of the large artistic community.

Prathibha Prahlad performed extensively and organised programmes to collect funds for the PM's Relief Fund through her programme 'Karnataka for Kargil' for which she received a special acknowledgement from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

International Acclaim As Culture Expert On India

Prathibha Prahlad continues her work in culture as a special invitee to speak on 'Culture -India' at prestigious international festivals such as the Adelaide International Arts festival, Tokyo International Arts festival, China Shanghai International Festival, Taiwan International Arts Festival, Beijing International Festival, Festivals in Poland ,Denmark ,Israel and others. She was invited to present her production 'Vande Mataram' for the closing of Festival of India in Malaysia in June 2015.

Her recent tours abroad include China Shanghai Festival (2013, 14, 17, 18), In Feb 2017, Prathibha Prahlad opened the prestigious Sarajevo Winter Festival with her group the Prasiddha Dance Repertory. Thereafter, they performed in several cities in Bosnia, Herzgovina and Hungary. In October 2017, Prathibha Prahlad and Prasiddha Dance Repertory toured Georgia and Armenia for the 70th Anniversary celebrations of India's independence.

She continues to be a frequent invitee to international conferences and Festivals and is very popular on the national & international arts circuit

Born in Mysore, Smt. Prathibha Prahlad had her early training in dance under Smt. & Prof .U.S Krishna Rao. Years after her formal Rangapravesha on 1st January, 1977, Smt. Prathibha underwent rigorous training in Bharatanatyam under stalwarts like Padmabhushan Smt. Kalanidhi Narayanan and Guru V.S

Muthuswamy Pillai and in Kuchipudi under Guru Dr. Vempatti Chinna Satyam. By the time she was 20, she was an established professional dancer.

Apart from her tremendous and illustrious work in arts & culture, Prathibha Prahlad is known as a fierce advocate for all issues pertaining to 'politics of culture', 'safety of the girl child', women's rights issues, and issues pertaining to redefining the idea of secularism.

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https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRWr7l_J4iTCHTZNgajfu1g