

## GAYATRI BALAGURUNATHAN

BHARATANATYAM

Born on 18 February, 1976 at Chennai, Gayatri Balagurunathan, received her initial training in Bharatanatyam from her mother, Krishnaveni Lakshmanan and later specialized under Sharada Hoffman and N.S. Jayalakshmi at the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai. She also learnt Carnatic vocal music under Saleem Chellam Iyengar, and Veena under Dr Rajeshwari Padmanabhan.

Gayatri's notable talent as a performer has given her several opportunities to dance at various dance festivals within the country and abroad, including the Natyanjali festival, Chidambaram; Music Academy Festival, and the Natyarangam Festival, Chennai. She has also performed in U.S.A., Australia, Malaysia, Japan, South Africa and New Zealand. She has choreographed and co-produced many dance dramas including *Thrayee Shakti*, *Ayigiri Nandhini*, *Aran Aadal*, and *Aynkaran*.

Gayatri Balagurunathan has received many honours including the Balasaraswathy Endowment by Krishna Gana Sabha, Yuva Kala Bharati of Bharath Kalachar, T.S. Parthasarathy Award of Music Academy, Sathya Kalpana Praveena Sundaram of Bharathanjali Trust and Nrithya Chinthamani of Sumukhi Memorial Foundation. Presently, Gayatri is pursuing her Masters in Fine Arts in Bharatanatyam from Kalai Kaviri College, Tiruchirappalli.

