

# VIDYA PRADEEP

MOHINIYATTAM ARTISTE

Vidya Pradeep is a Mohiniyattam practitioner based in Thiruvananthapuram. She is a senior student of Guru Dr. Neena Prasad. Vidya is the recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar (2023) awarded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. She is an empanelled artist with ICCR and SPIC MACAY, and a B grade artist of Doordarshan.

Vidya began presenting solo performances in 2006. She is deeply committed to the preservation and propagation of Mohiniyattam by performing the traditional choreographies of her Guru, while also expanding her repertoire through her own choreographic interpretations of classical compositions and newly conceived works.

She holds a postgraduate degree in Bharatanatyam from the University of Madras and has completed her MPhil from Kerala Kalamandalam. She is a former faculty member of the Dance Department at Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. Currently, she serves as a faculty member at the Sougandhika Centre for Mohiniyattam. She is also the founder of Antara Creations, an initiative dedicated to classical arts education, research, and cultural advocacy.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Recipient of the prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar in 2023.
- Empaneled artist of ICCR, SPICMACAY and Doordarshan B Grade Artist.
- SreeSankaracharya award 2006
- Kerala University Kalathilakam 2004

## Contact Information:

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Pettah, Anayara Post, Kerala - 695 029



## EDUCATION:

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in English Language and Literature
- Master of Arts (M.A.) in Bharatanatyam (University of Madras)
- M. Phil in Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University for Art and Culture

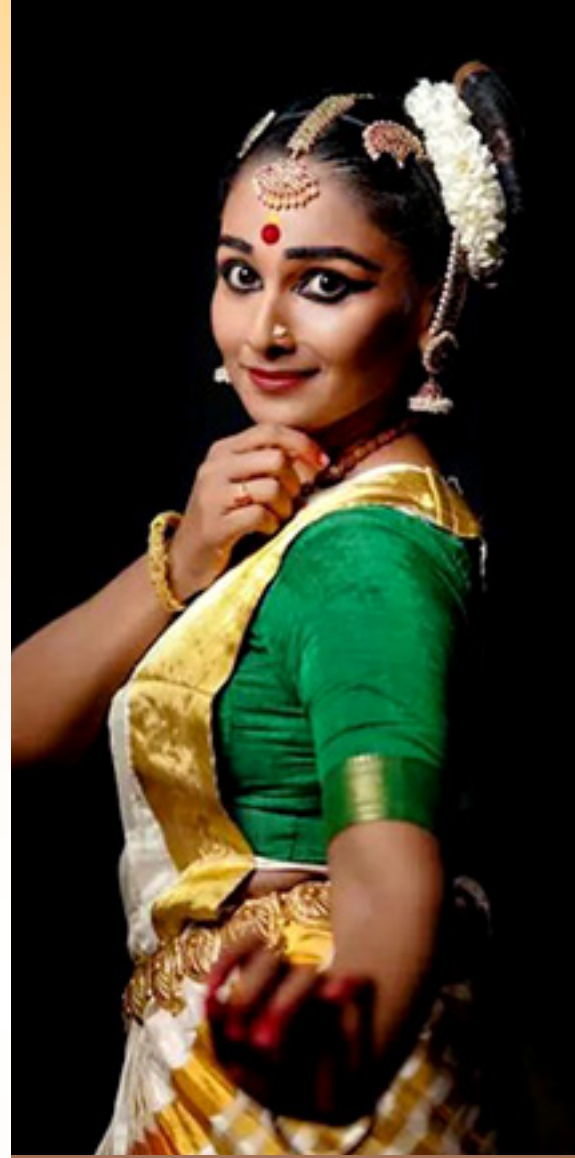
## CAREER MILESTONES:

- Recipient of the prestigious Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar in 2023.
- Empaneled artist of ICCR, SPICMACAY and Doordarshan B Grade Artist.
- SreeSankaracharya award 2006.
- Kerala University Kalathilakam 2004.

## PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE:

### Important Solo Performances:

- Sathyam Shivam Sundaram Festival, Chennai-Jan 2026.
- Soorya festival, Trivandrum, December 2025.
- Thribhangi Festival, Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Academy, August 2025.
- Tagore fest, Bharat Bhavan - Trivandrum, March 2025.
- Muktheswar festival, Jan 2025.
- Khajuraho Dance Festival, Feb 2024.
- Guruvayur temple festival, Feb 2024.
- Ananya Festival, Bangalore, May 2023.
- ICCR Horizon Series, Jan 2023.
- Soorya Mohiniyattam Festival, Trivandrum: 2017, 2018, 2021, 2023.
- Nishagandhi Dance Festival, Trivandrum: 2004, 2018, 2021, 2022.
- Nrithyathi Festival, Navaneetham Cultural Society, Trissur, Dec 2016.
- IDF, Bhuvaneshwar, Oct 2015.
- Natarani Festival hosted by DARPANA, Ahmedabad, April 2015 .
- Kalabharati Dance Festival, Trivandrum, Mar 2015 .
- Nrithyodaya Mohini Nrithyati, Vadodara, Dec 2014 .
- Kerala Samajam and Soorya for Mohini Nrityati of Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Academy, Ahmedabad, Dec 2014.
- Pragiyoti Dance Festival, Guwahati, Jan 2010 .
- Madras Mar ghazhi Dance Festival - Brahmagana sabha 2008, Sree Parthasarathi Sabha 2007, Mylapore Fine Arts 2006.



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### **GROUP PARTICIPATION:**

- Part of Sougandhika's Mohiniyattam ensemble since 2003
- Principal dancer in the dance productions like Seethayanam, Thour athirikam, Kavya Narthaki, KrishnaBhakthi of Sougandhikam ensemble
- Participated in various dance festivals worldwide including year of india in Russia, Anany festival- Delhi, Madras Music Academy Dance Festival etc

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

- Director and Principal teaching faculty at Antara Creations, Trivandrum
- Guest faculty at Bharatanjali Academy of Indian Dances, Trivandrum
- Guest faculty at Sougandika Centre of Mohiniyattam, Chennai
- Former faculty at the Department of Dance at Sri Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit - Kalady

### **OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST:**

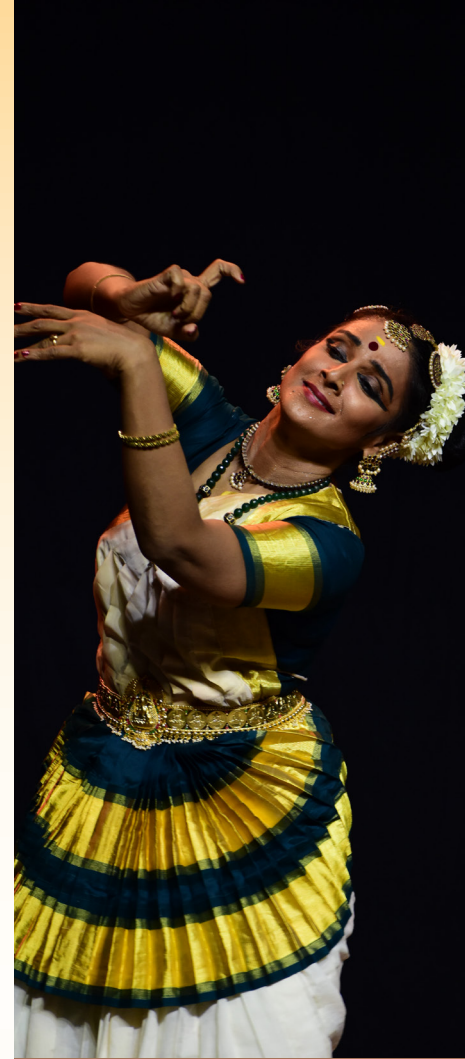
- Trained in Bharatanatyam, Kathakali and Kuchipudi
- Trained in traditional acting methodology through Guru G Venu's actor training program, Navarasa Sadhana
- Interested in learning various aspects of dance and culture, lakshana granthas, and nuances of Abhinaya

### **CHOREOGRAPHIES**

Vidya Pradeep's choreographic repertoire spans both classical compositions and innovative creative works that thoughtfully extend the expressive possibilities of Mohiniyattam. Her work includes choreographies of traditional kīrtanams, padams, and varṇams, approached with deep respect for classical structure and interpretive nuance. Alongside these, Vidya's original choreographic explorations engage with contemporary concerns while remaining firmly anchored in the aesthetic and philosophical core of the tradition. Her works are marked by introspection, narrative sensitivity, and a commitment to allowing classical language to respond meaningfully to present-day realities.

### **Her major choreographic productions include:**

1. Chitrangada – a contemporary re-reading of Mahakavi Rabindranath Tagore's play Chitrangada, exploring questions of identity, agency, and selfhood.
2. Our Thai Nadam – a choreographic interpretation of the renowned Malayalam poem by Sugathakumari, addressing themes of environmental consciousness and ecological responsibility.
3. Pinneyum Pritha Karayunnu – a reimagining of Kunti, offering a reflective and empathetic reading of her inner life and emotional legacy.



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