

## **PROFILE**

**Name:** Dr. Niyanthri. M

**Educational Qualifications:** Ph.D. (Dance - Bharatanatyam), M.P.A. (Dance - Bharatanatyam)

**Designation:** Assistant Professor,  
Department of Education in Arts and Aesthetics,  
National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi.



**Specialization:** Bharatanatyam, Post-colonialism, Post-colonial Feminism, Art and Materiality, Performance Histories, Indian Classical Dance Pedagogy.

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### **Academic Qualification:**

- PhD (2024) – Dance, Department of Dance, University of Hyderabad
  - Thesis title - “Aharya Abhinaya in Text and in Practice: A Study of the Bharatanatyam Aharya Pre and Post Revival Period”
- M.P.A. (2015) - Bharatanatyam, Department of Dance, University of Hyderabad.
- U.G. Diploma (2013) – Kalakshetra Foundation (Rukmini Devi College of Fine Arts), Chennai.
- Languages known: English, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi

### **Dance Training and Mentorship:**

Dr. Niyanthri. M has had the privilege of being under the tutelage of various stalwarts of Bharatanatyam (Kalakshetra Bani) who have shaped her as an artist. During her time in Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, she was trained in Bharatanatyam by eminent gurus such as Smt. Leela Samson, Smt. Nandini Nagaraj, Sri Rakesh K.P., Smt. Bragha Bassel, and Smt. Ambika Butch. She later continued her learning under guru Sri Sheejith Krishna. This diverse and rigorous training that has spanned over two decades has enriched her artistry and pedagogy. Dr. Niyanthri has performed extensively as a soloist and as part of leading repertoires including Kalakshetra Foundation, Athma Academy of Dance, Sahrdaya Foundation, and Kala Sadhanalaya for notable choreographers such as Sri Sheejith Krishna, Sri Shijith Nambiar, Sri

Madhusoodhanan, Smt. Revathi Ramachandran, Smt. Lakshmi Vishwanathan and Smt. Ambika Butch.

### **Teaching Experience:**

- Artistic Director - Arudra Nrityala School of Dance (2018 - 2025)
- Teaching Faculty, Costumes Manager, and Repertory Member - Athma Academy of Dance, Chennai (2015–2018).
- Junior Trainer - Shantharasa Academy, Chennai (2010–2016).

### **Research Contributions:**

#### **Major Paper Publications:**

- Niyanthri, M. Colonising the Costumes: The role of Colonial Thoughts in Re-Branding Sadir. (ISSN) 'Bridging Tradition and Innovation' Proceedings of International Performing Arts Conference, World University of Design, May, 2024. Pp 38-44.
- Niyanthri, M. Designing of Attire in Bharatanatyam – A Journey from Ethnic to Global Culture. (ISSN 2319-5339) 'Journal of Arts' (UGC Care Listed), IIS University. Vol. II (3), Jan., 2023. Pp 175-184.
- Niyanthri, M. Redressing and Re-dressing Sadir: Male Gaze as a Defining Factor in Bharatanatyam Aharya. (ISBN 978-81-19042-07-4) 'Women Across Popular Culture', Bharathiar University. Feb.2023. Pp 113-118.
- Niyanthri, M. Stitching out Sadir: Renaissance of the Bharatanatyam Aharya (ISBN 978-81-954161-5-8) 'Media, Language and Literature: Current Indo-German Approaches'. Department of German, University of Kerala. May, 2022. Pp 95-102.
- Niyanthri, M. Reading Between the Lines: An Analysis of the Dance Frescoes of Ramalinga Vilasam. (ISBN 81-86073-441-4) 'Natyaraameeyakam', Department of Dance, Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University. March, 2022. Pp 220-227.

#### **Major Paper Presentations:**

- Paper titled 'Colonising the Costumes: The role of Colonial Thoughts in Re-Branding Sadir' at the International Conference 'Anveshana' conducted by School of Performing Arts, World University of Design. 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.

- Paper titled ‘Redressing and Re-dressing Sadir: Male Gaze as a Defining Factor in Bharatanatyam Aharya’ at the National Conference on ‘Women Across Popular Culture’, conducted by Department of English and Foreign Languages, Bharathiar University. 22nd February, 2023.
- Paper titled ‘Stitching out Sadir: Renaissance of the Bharatanatyam Aharya’ at the International Multidisciplinary Webinar on ‘Media, Language and Literature: Current Indo-German Approaches’ conducted by the Department of German, University of Kerala. 10th – 12th January, 2022.
- Paper titled ‘Designing of Attire in Bharatanatyam – A Journey from Ethnic to Global Culture’ at the International Conference of IFTR, Shanghai, China. 8th – 12th July, 2019.

#### **Awards and Scholarships:**

- UGC-NET JRF Fellowship (2018–2023).
- University Gold Medal (M.P.A., University of Hyderabad, 2015).
- Overall Achievement Award (Kalakshetra Foundation, 2013).
- Best Dissertation Award (Kalakshetra Foundation, 2013).