

LEELA VENKATARAMAN

**INDIAN
CLASSICAL
DANCE**

The Renaissance and Beyond



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Leela Venkataraman

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- The book is beautifully illustrated, and multi-faceted, dealing with various aspects of dance, including sponsorship and patronage, the teacher-disciple relationship and the contemporary classical dialectic
- Unique in its vast range, covering all classical dance forms, *Indian Classical Dance* is a must read for dancers and dance historians, students and teachers of dance and those interested in this fascinating field of Indian culture

Covering eight classical dance forms of India – Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Manipuri, Mohiniattam, Odissi and Sattriya – Leela Venkataraman seamlessly weaves together a historical perspective with the contemporary scenario. Stripped of their association with the temple and the court, classical dance traditions in India went through a series of unprecedented change in the period marking the last few years of British rule and thereafter. From becoming part of the nationalist struggle when India was trying to rediscover its lost identity, to sharing the international stage today with dance forms from all over the world, the last sixty-six years have seen many changes in perspective and presentation of Indian Classical Dance – some intentional, others involuntary. While looking at these years closely and their impact on dance forms, one realises that this is a phase in an ongoing process, with each new generation of dancers and musicians adding to an already rich tapestry of tradition.

Contents:

Acknowledgements, Preface, Introduction, Legendary Gurus Show the way for Bharatanatyam, Kathak: From Durbar to Proscenium, Kathakali: Peaks and Downfalls, Sattriya in Monastic and Proscenium Manifestations, Manipuri: Striking a Uniquely Different Note, The Enchantment of Mohiniattam, The Changing Faces of Kuchipudi, Odissi: The Oldest in a Post-Independence Manifestation, Transmission in a Changing Teacher/ Taught Relationship, Patronage and Sponsorship of Classical Indian Dance, The Contemporary/ Classical Dialectic.

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