

About Guru:

Guru Smt. Sreedevi Yadlapati is a revered Kuchipudi dance teacher, mentor, and artist who began her dance journey at the age of six under Guru Bhagavathula Venkat Rama Sharma in Vijayawada, India. By the time she was 11, she had completed her Rangapravesam and performed for spiritual leaders such as Swami Chinmayananda Saraswati and Swami Sri Satya Sai Baba. She continued her training at the prestigious Kuchipudi Art Academy under the guidance of legendary Gurus Padmabhushan Dr. Sri Vempati Chinna Satyam and Guru Kalaratna Smt. A.B. Bala Kondal Rao, earned diplomas in Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam by age 19. Despite undergoing double knee surgery at 21, Smt. Sreedevi overcame the challenges and returned to the stage, later achieving her Master's in Kuchipudi. In 2000, she founded Sai Nritya Academy in the DFW metroplex, focused on preserving India's classical dance traditions. Smt. Sreedevi remains a dedicated advocate for cultural and youth organizations across North America and beyond, inspiring others through her resilience and passion for dance.



Meet Risha Ragi:

A Passionate Dancer and Compassionate Leader

For many, a mother is a daughter's first and best friend—this couldn't be truer for Swetha and Risha Ragi, a dynamic mother-daughter duo who share a love for half marathons and dance. Risha's journey into the world of Kuchipudi began at the tender age of 4, under the guidance of Guru Srilata Suri, and continues as a dedicated disciple of Guru Sreedevi Yedlapati.

At just 3 years old, Risha made waves as the youngest classical performer at the Tri-State Chicago Association, captivating audiences with her Lava Kusa semi-classical performance—a feat that earned her wide recognition.

With a deep passion for learning, Risha has honed her skills through years of rigorous training and has graced stages across both India and the U.S., including prestigious venues like Shilparamam in Telangana and Shilpa Kala Vedika in Andhra Pradesh. In the U.S., her performances have enriched cultural events and temple gatherings. She has also earned an undergraduate certification in Kuchipudi theory and techniques from the Sampada Dance Academy, affiliated with Potti Sriramulu Telugu University.

But Risha's talents extend far beyond the stage. She has been recognized at the national level through her involvement in the BPA (Business Professionals of America) and HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) clubs. Currently, she serves with the American Red Cross Club and volunteers at the Dallas Autism School, where she shares her passion for Kuchipudi by performing at special needs schools in the Dallas area.

Now a sophomore at Heritage High School, Risha continues to inspire others through her dedication to dance, community service, and leadership.



*Sai Nritya Academy
presents*

Kuchipudi Rangapravesam

Risha Ragi

*Disciple of Guru Sreedevi Yedlapati
Sunday, November 3rd, 2024*



Anandha Narthana Ganapathim

Raagam: Naattai

Taalam: Aadi

Composer: Ootukaadu Venkata Subbaiyyar

Choreography: Guru Sreedevi Yadlapati

This dance celebrates Lord Ganapathi's joyful and divine dance. His form radiates pure consciousness, and through this piece, we witness his blissful movements in an expression of cosmic energy.



Marakathamanimayachela

Raagam: Aarabhi

Taalam: Aadi

Composer: Ootukaadu Venkata Subbaiyyar

Choreography: Padmabhushan Vempati Chinna Satyam

This vibrant dance showcases the glory and splendor of Lord Krishna. With a mix of poetic expression and dynamic footwork, the performance is elevated by the use of a brass plate, creating a rhythmic masterpiece.



Shiva Parvathi

Raagam: Ragamalika

Taalam: Talamalika

Choreography: Guru Sreedevi Yadlapati

In this enchanting dance Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi are portrayed dancing together amidst their celestial entourage. The dance symbolizes the cosmic connection between them, with Parvathi gracefully responding to Shiva's powerful cosmic dance.



Koluvaithiva RangaSai

Raagam: RamaPriya

Taalam: Aadi

Composer: Sri Devulapalli Krishna Sastry

Choreography: Padmabhushan Dr. Vempati Chinna Satyam

This beautiful piece captures the divine presence of Lord Ranganatha Swamy. The performance poetically asks if we have enough eyes to fully take in the brilliance of the Lord, who eternally holds Goddess Lakshmi in his heart.



Balakanakamaya

Raagam: Athaana

Taalam: Aadi

Composer: Saint Tyagaraja

Choreography: Guru Sreedevi Yadlapati

This piece celebrates Lord Rama, the noble scion of the Raghu dynasty. Saint Tyagaraja extols Rama as a protector of virtue, adorned in majestic garments, and as the divine force that vanquishes the Asuras (demons). Through graceful movements and expressive storytelling, this dance brings to life the glory and valor of Lord Rama



Thillana

Raagam: Brindavani

Taalam: Aadi

Choreography: Guru Sreedevi Yadlapati

Thillana is an energetic and rhythmic conclusion to the performance. It showcases the full beauty of pure dance (nritta), with intricate footwork and vibrant movements, celebrating the joy of dance.

