



INDIRA P P BORA

A Danseuse with a Difference

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Today Satriya dance has emerged as a global signifier of Assamese cultural heritage because of the whole hearted endeavour of none other than Indira P.P. Bora, an Indian classical dance exponent, choreographer and guru of international repute. A disciple of Rukmini Devi Arundale and an exponent of three Indian classical dance forms - Bharat Natyam, Kucchipudi and Satriya dances, she has been extensively performing nationally and internationally. For her pioneering contributions in Satriya dance she has received many prestigious awards including National Sangeet Natak Akademi Award of Government of India and National fellowship in dance. She has the honour of being a top grade artiste of Indian National Television Network and an empanelled artist of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Indira P. P. Bora is a disciple of late Rukmini Devi Arundale of Kalakshetra, Chennai (in Bharata Natyam) and Dr. Vempatti China Satyam of Kuchipudi Art Academy, Chennai (In Kuchipudi). She is one of the pioneer female dancers to develop and promote Satriya

dance from its ritualistic dance form as practised in the Satras to a classical art form suitable for stage performance. Indira along with her daughter and new generation dancer Menaka P.P. Bora have successfully mapped the cultural geography of Satriya dance and its manifestations across many parts of the globe. The credit of translating the subtleties of the symbols of satriya dance and its resonances for the world audience goes to Indira and her cultural troupe.

Satriya dance was initially exposed to the Western world by Indira in 1960s and 1970s along with Rukmini Devi's Kalakshetra dance troupe. Indira P.P. Bora along with her daughter Menaka P.P. Bora familiarized the audience of USA, UK and South Asia with Satriya dance from 1985 to 2009 by a series of dance performances, workshops and television demonstrations. Her Satriya dance works have been preserved in the form of video documentation at Lincoln Centre for Performing Arts in New York.

In 1982, she along with her husband P.P. Bora has founded Kalabhumi (a pioneer classical dance education centre of North East India) in Guwahati where hundreds of students have been learning classical and other dance forms, opening many dance avenues and platforms for the younger generations. And yet the most notable aspect of Indira P.P. Bora's personality is that she likes to maintain reticence about her spectacular performance and achievements and that itself speaks volumes about her humility as well as unflinching commitment to the cause of culture, particularly Satriya dance. □□