



OXANA BANCHSHIKOVA

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SUMMARY

Oxana is performing artist, dance teacher and choreographer with 20 years experience. She is originally from Kazakhstan and currently settled in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her dance practice is deeply rooted in Bharatanatyam Indian Classical Dance. She has background in choreography and production, always seeking to further her dance experience by collaborating with artists from a variety of disciplines. Oxana excels at tapping into creative potential to deliver unique routines. She is well known for generating fresh ideas and encouraging other dancers to try new techniques. Her work is shaped by personal experiences and four countries that she calls home.

Recent performances/choreography works:

- **MaMa**, Hong Kong tour (with support from Creative Scotland), 2023
- **Nila**, Hong Kong-Edinburgh collaboration, Athens 2023
- **In/Out of Bounds**, presented by Beyond Bollywood (Hong Kong) at Edinburgh Fringe, Riddle's Court, 2022
- **Heads up**, Dance Base, Edinburgh, 2022
- **MaMa**, Edinburgh Fringe, Pianodrom, 2022
- **MaMa**, 4 weeks Scottish tour (touring fund by Creative Scotland), 2022
- **Brihathi, R&D**, Sharing during Beltane festival in Findhorn (Creative Scotland), 2022

Recent workshops/community engagements:

- **Community performance at McDonald Road Library** - as part of Living Knowledge Network, 2024
- **Monthly South Asian Dance Jam sessions** - Founder and facilitator at Dance Base, 2024
- **Series of parents/toddlers Indian Dance workshops**. As part of MaMa production during Scottish and Hong Kong tour, 2022 -2024

EXPERIENCE

DANCE ARTIST, 08/2019 - Current

Freelance, Edinburgh

- Managing health and fitness levels to maintain high standards of performance
- Delivered solo and group dance routines in front of live audiences and for recordings.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, 07/2019 - Current

Beyond Bollywood, Hong Kong

- Create long and short-range plans and approved marketing and advertising materials used for publicity.
- Manage conflict resolutions with crew members and actors to solve problems and keep projects on track.
- Manage choreography to verify sounds, lyrics and performances, delivering quality standards.
- Design theme, ensembles and visual elements to add flavour and character to performance.
- Recap post-production process by assessing overall quality and performance.

FOUNDER/DIRECTOR, 10/2009 - Current

Cosmic Dance, Edinburgh

- Teach Bharatanatyam and fusion dance classes to kids and adults.
- Implement class rules to verify each student could learn in healthy environment promoting respect and gentle discipline.
- Prepare and deliver carefully-crafted lessons to introduce students to proper dance techniques

and positions while building knowledge of Bharatanatyam.

- Make original choreographies appropriate for the age and level of the class;
- Identify current dance trends and innovations to stay updated.
- Organise recitals and special events/performances.
- Decide on artistic direction for Cosmic Dance and apply for grants and funding

DANCE INSTRUCTOR, 02/2007 - 01/2010

Planet Yoga, Hong Kong

- Led Bharatanatyam and folk dance classes to 20 - 30 students in each class.
- Devised every class to suit newcomers as well as experienced students.
- Researched what is on trend to make classes enjoyable and popular.
- Implemented changes to dance routines to address needs of students, measuring capacity and capability.

DANCE INSTRUCTOR, 02/2008 - 12/2008

lingnan University, Hong Kong

- Designed dance curriculum for Bharatanatyam course.
- Used different dancing methods and styles to teach beginners and advanced level, maximising potential of students.
- Delivered talks and presentations about history and theory of Indian Classical Dance as part of the University curriculum.

SKILLS

- Solo and group performances.
- Solo and group choreography.
- Strong leadership, communication and motivation skills.
- Interpersonal Relations: company dancers, students and parents.
- Devising and teaching Bharatanatyam classes for all ages and levels.
- Organising dance recitals and performances.
- Community workshops and outreach.

EDUCATION

Kalakshetra College of Fine Arts, Chennai, India, 2007

Diploma of Higher Education: Bharatanatyam

- Dance Theory, Dance History, Carnatic Vocal, Heritage, Nattuvangam, Kathakali, Yoga, Kalari & Fitness, **Languages:**Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu & English

Kalapeetam, Chennai, India, 2006

Diploma : Nattuvangam

- Rhythmic accompaniment to Bharatanatyam.

Kainar University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2000

Bachelor of Arts: International Relations and Foreign policy of Republic of Kazakhstan

CERTIFICATIONS

- Zumba instructor, Edinburgh, 2024
- Pilates Mat instructor, Polestar Pilates, Hong Kong, 2017
- Ying Yoga instructor, 2011

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1st aid certificate
- DBS certificate