

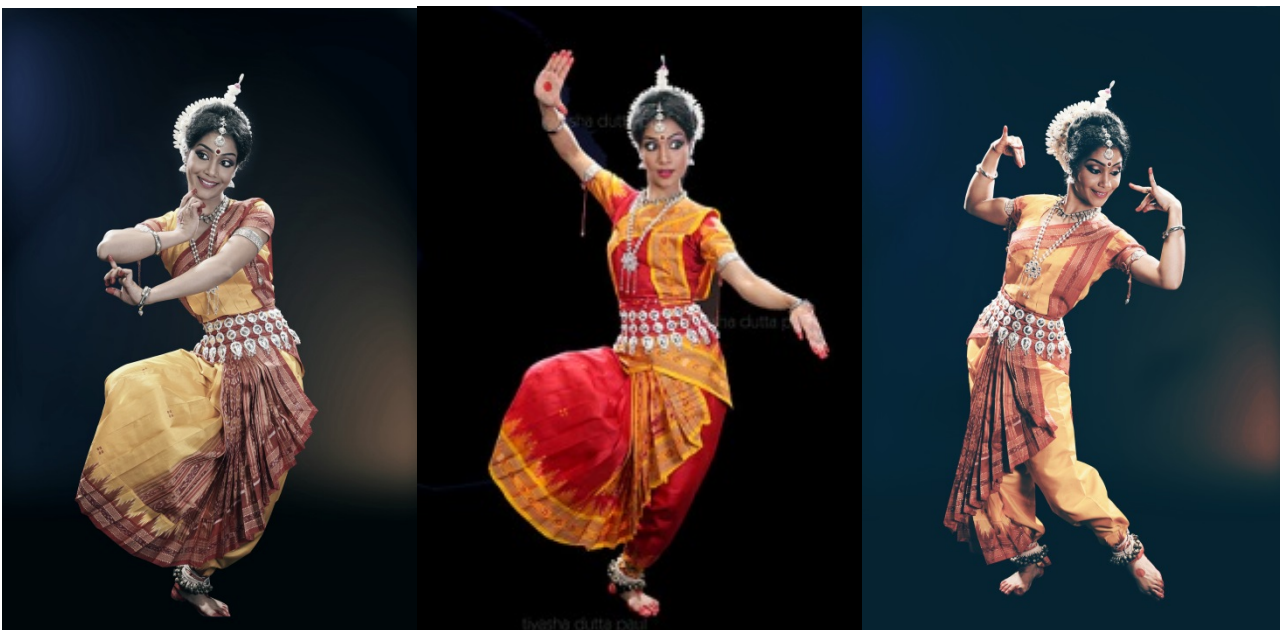


RECREATING 'ODISSI' DANCE AND TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE IN MODERN INDIA

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Abstract: Odissi is a classical Indian dance form from Odisha, an eastern state of India bordering the coastline of the Bay of Bengal. In this lecture, I will first trace its lineage to the temple dance traditions of Indian antiquity and discuss the significance of such rituals which ultimately found their way into temple architecture. I will further demonstrate how rituals, broadly based on Mahari and Gotipua dance traditions, have been re-interpreted in the classical canon of Odissi in India after Independence. Finally, I will elaborate on the formal aspects of the dance that help the body to perform *pallavi* and enact *abhinaya*, highlighting the mythological content of the dance, which explains the social role of the dance form both in history and in contemporary India.

Bio-note: Educated at Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, and the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, Tiyasha Dutta-Paul has trained in the classical Indian dance form Odissi since 1994, under Guru Giridhari Nayak and Subikash Mukherjee of Sankalpa Nrityayan, Kolkata. She has attended workshops under Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, Guru Ratikanta Mohapatra, Guru Sujata Mohapatra and Dr. Ileana Citaristi. She has performed in Kolkata under Sankalpa Nrityayan and in Puri under Srjan. Apart from India, she has performed for the Odissi Ensemble in London, under Akademi at Rich Mix, and for India Tourism Board, representing Odissi at the World Trade Market London 2016. She is also one of the key members of Poorvika, a collaboration of the dances of East India, performing in London in 2016. She has lectured at SOAS on Odissi and Indian Mythology: Dance in Indian Art.