

Abstract

Landmarks of Sri Lankan Dance Patterns

Sri Lanka, located in the Indian Ocean, between latitudes 5°55' and 9°51' N and longitudes 79°41' and 81°53' portrays a long history of developed culture and traditional practices in which Music, Dance, and Drama had been an integral part. Having its own traditional system of dance belonging to three geographical regions namely, Kandyan, Low Country, and Sabaragamu, they all signify the prolonged tradition of dance patterns of Sri Lanka. The most important fact about the Sri Lankan dance is its amalgamation with the authentic art and architecture sumptuously used by the Sri Lankan craftsman. However, through the course of time, the dance has become a part of social life and also an academic practice, and the real practice of traditional dance turned out to be a Performing Art in which the authentic characteristics of the so called traditional dance has been reshaped into a classical dance illustrating the finer aesthetic elements. One such dance pattern is the "*PanchaNari*," that portrays the *lasya* behaviour of a female. The very character, being portrayed in Sri Lankan ritual, traditional dance, motifs, and sculptures, was demonstrated by the Visual Arts & Design and Performing Arts Unit, Department of Fine Arts with its aesthetic essence through an experimental outlook. Therefore, this presentation elaborates the aesthetic characteristics of "*PanchaNari*," the Sri Lankan traditional ritualistic dance.



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