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**Odissi Dance Residential Intensive Todi, Umbria, Italy**

18th September to 22nd September 2017 Group 1

September 25th to 29th September 2017 Group 2

with **Monica Singh Sangwan**

and Manas Kumar Sarangi On the Mardala

Gurukul values combined with the simplicity of Franciscan living

Dear All,

I hope this finds everyone in good health and joy. So here we are again looking at more dancing and refinement towards our chosen form of expression **Odissi**. As you may or may not be aware next year I wish to offer my skill and expertise through a more **intensive format of teaching and interaction**.

A residential **Odissi dance intensive in Umbria, Italy**.

Firstly a little more about what a residential learning entails and my reasons for it. The Gurukula system of learning was the traditional format of learning in the past and all our classical art forms were passed onwards through only this method. In the ancient days the artists had Patrons, which freed the Guru to concentrate on, refining their Art form and taking in students that they wished to take based on talent and ability. The close proximity of living ensured an all round development of the student as not only a refined artist but essentially a human being with values and sensibilities that helped to preserve the art form from stagnation. There was a lot of affection, care and love between the student and teacher, which lasted a lifetime.

In today's more capitalist modern world we face a deeper challenge and yet there is also a liberation that comes from the freeing up of older modalities of learning which may not be entirely practical in today's world. Yet something is lost in the transference of the art when students and teacher only meet formally over formal class times and know nothing of each other on a deeper human value of interaction which is so necessary to go deeper into the skin of the art. The art form is transferred through a person. The teacher becomes a living embodiment of value and culture that cannot be completely transferred through a class-to-class only basis.

In my 23 years as a Professional dancer and teacher I have come to understand the deeper nuances of culture that can only be passed on and valued by living together even if for a short time and teaching round the clock. The teaching happens not only in class but also through daily chores of cooking, cleaning and observation of each other's habits and

values. I wish to share my completeness as a dancer and a person open and vulnerable to each and everyone of you.

Accommodation ; We will be staying in a beautiful homestead in Gubbio which is a place surrounded by nature in the ancient land of **Umbria**.

<http://www.agriturismoarabandita.it/>

To enable me to do complete justice to each of you I have decided to offer two workshops instead of one. Looking at the response and interest that this has generated I do not wish to over crowd us into one intensive week. Each group can only house a maximum of 12 participants each. So there will be two groups (five days each).

With each group apart from the dance compositions I will work on Basics and technique for both **intensively**. Beginners basic group is also specially recommended for **TEACHERS OF ODISSI dance to help them formulate a more comprehensive style of teaching** ( 20 steps Chowk/Tribhangi and 7 Arasas with notation )

Theory will cover all the traditional and out of popular circulation Tala patterns of **Odissi** .

Practical application of Talas learnt to compose new patterns and choreograph Arasas.

How to write and speak Bols of Manglacharan , Battu, and Pallavis learnt.

Senior Group will learn advanced Abhinaya Astapadi and Nritta based composition .

We will be following the Gandharva Mahavidhalaya **Odissi dance Syllabus** .The syllabus is exhaustive and I promise to cover as much as I can in the time we have together

Each group will also be learning new **Odissi dance compositions**.

We are also inviting a senior mardala player from India to be a part of our teaching staff.

Classes will be always to Mardala and not recorded music. That is hopefully Italian Visa gods permitting .

Daily Yoga for dancers .

Compulsary Music class in Oriya Classical Music.

Understanding the essentials of Pakhawaj /Mardala playing