

Walk-Jump-Run: Story-telling through gestures and movements

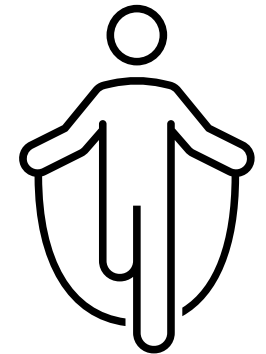
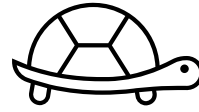
An introduction to Odissi

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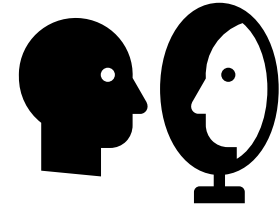
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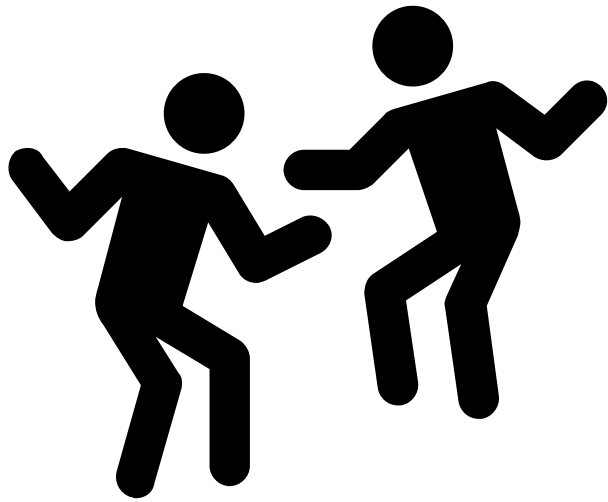
Introduction



- Hello all of you! I hope you all are having an amazing day. I understand we are going through difficult times. In order to make these horrible times a little easier and add an element of fun to this, I have created this story-telling session.
- I am Sinjini Chatterjee.
- Second year PhD. student in Dept. of Dance at University of California, Riverside.
- I am from India, a country in the south of the continent Asia.
- I am an Odissi dancer, and my research is on Odissi dance.



India and its Classical Dance Forms



- The country India has a rich culture with 8 classical dance forms
- India has 28 states. Each classical dance form belongs to a particular state.
- These eight classical dance forms are:
 1. Odissi
 2. Bharatanatyam
 3. Kathak
 4. Manipuri
 5. Mohiniattam
 6. Kuchipudi
 7. Kathakali
 8. Sattriya



India: Its States and their dance forms

Map of India showing the different states and the dance form of those states



STATES	DANCE FORMS
1. ORISSA	ODISSI
2. TAMIL NADU	BHARATANATYAM
3. UTTAR PRADESH	KATHAK
4. MANIPUR	MANIPURI
5. KERALA	MOHINIATTAM
6. ANDHRA PRADESH	KUCHIPUDI
7. KERALA	KATHAKALI
8. ASSAM	SATTRIYA

Mohiniattam and Kathakali

Kelala

Bharatnatyam



Pictures showing the dances!!

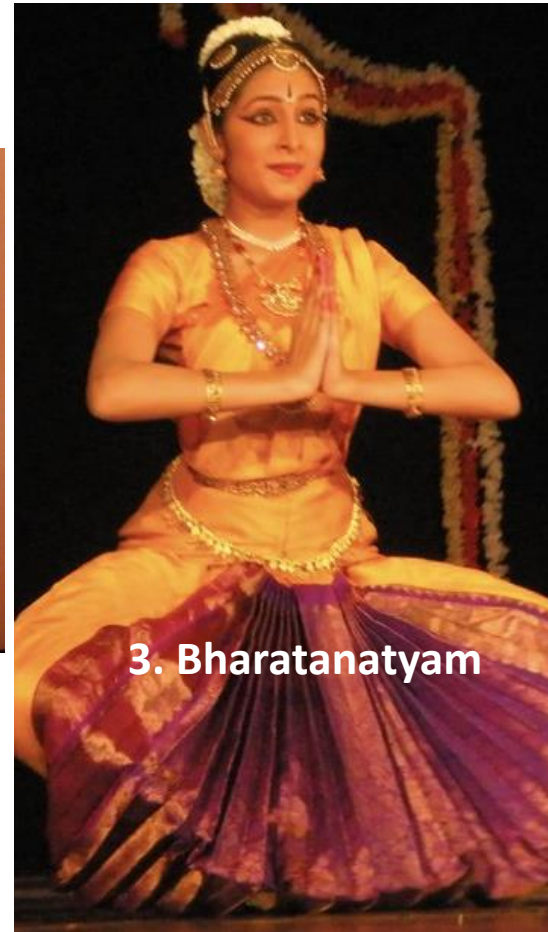
1. Manipuri



2. Kathak



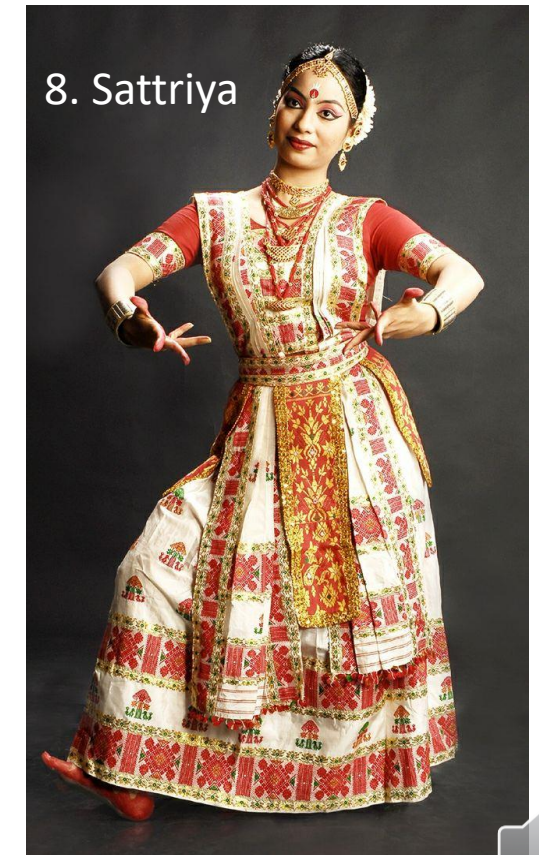
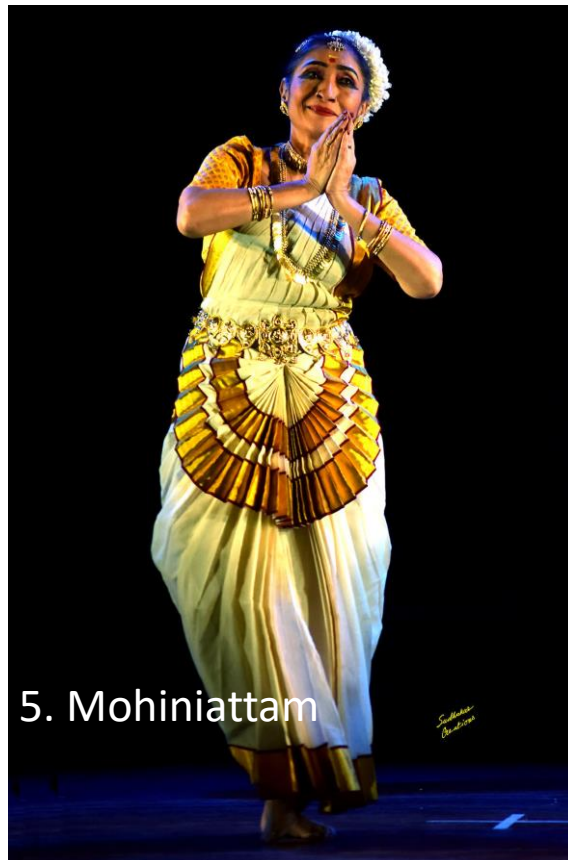
3. Bharatanatyam



4. Odissi



Pictures showing dances Part II !





What is Odissi Dance ?

- Odissi is one of the eight classical dances of India
- Odissi originated nearly 2000 years ago in the Eastern Indian state of Odisha
- Odissi draws vastly from temple sculptures, and manuscripts.



1. An Odissi dancer posing in a temple. The temple walls are full of sculptures.



Odissi through Pictures

1. A woman dancing on stage



2. Another dancer on stage



3. Example of temple sculptures



Manuscripts!



1. A tied up palm leaf manuscript



2. An open manuscript. Image shows both writing and paintings which inspire Odissi dance.



Story telling



- Abhinaya literally meaning 'acting' is crucial element of Odissi.
- Abhinaya can be translated as story telling.
- To narrate a story Dancers, use 3 things:
 1. facial expressions,
 2. hand gestures,
 3. movements
- Dancers usually perform to a recorded story
They only use hand and face gestures to narrate
- These stories are generally mythological tales, or stories with a moral.



Two generally Used Hand Gestures

1. This gesture is called '*suchi*'. It is used to represent the number 1. Example: 1 day, 1 thing, a person



2. This gesture is '*simha-mukha*'. It is used to represent certain animals, for example- lion, cows, deer etc. We will learn more about this later in the program.



Facial Expressions

1. Expression showing anger. Eyes are enlarged. No smile on face.



2. Expression showing sorrow. Eyes are closed, the eyebrows are scrunched up. No smile



3. Expression showing wonder. Eyes are closed, slight smile on face.



The story of the Blue Jackal



A. The first page of the oldest surviving book of Panchatantra. The writing is in Sanskrit (ancient language of India).

Let us now watch a video as an example to see how story telling is done through dance.

- This is the story of a blue jackal!
- It is from the book named *Panchatantra* or The 5 tenets.
- This is a typical Indian mythological story. It also comes with a moral at the end!
- Performed by: Rajashri Warriar
- While watching the video look out for
 1. Hand gestures used to represent the jackal
 2. Movements used to show how the jackal is walking
- Please click on the link below The Blue Jackal:
<https://youtu.be/xPXzsg5RQ-c>



Today's session !!

-
- As you saw, Rajashri used a lot of hand gestures and few movements to narrate the story.
 - Similarly, in this program we are going to learn:
 - a) a few hand gestures and
 - b) a few animal movements in order to narrate a story.
 - We will learn how to narrate the hare and tortoise story. This story is very common in India and is often enacted in different classical dances. This story is also taken from the *Panchatantra*
 - It is story about how a hare challenges a tortoise to a race but then loses at the end. More about the story later on!



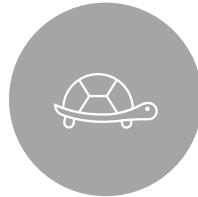
Steps to follow for today:



Today we will learn 3 hand gestures and 2 basic movements



First, we will learn the hand gesture and movements used for the hare . Look for the file titled ***The Hare***.



Second, we will learn the hand gestures and movements for the tortoise. Look for the file titled ***The Tortoise***



At the end of the learning, you all will watch me perform the story!!!! Look for the video titled ***The Story!***



Conclusion:

- After watching me perform, I would love if all of you to perform this for your friends or family. You all can also perform it with your family or friends.
- Donot forget to click pictures while doing so!!



Thank you all for watching
this! Now let us get
learning!

