



**GURU SHASHADHAR ACHARYA  
EMINENT EXPONENT OF CHHAU DANCE OF SERAIKELLA**

Representing the fifth generation in the family of traditional performers who have significantly contributed in the evolution and development of this art form. Shashadhar Acharya, is steeped in the tradition of Seraikella Chhau. He has inherited the knowledge of this art in legacy from his father, Guru Lingaraj Acharya. A quest to know and a desire to learn the differing perspectives of Seraikella Chhau from masters representing various schools within the tradition led him through a journey of intensive study. The great teachers besides his father Guru Lingoraj Acharya that he trained with include Guru Natshekhar B.B. pattanaik, Padmashri S.N. Singh Deo, Guru Kedar Nath Sahoo and Guru Bikram Kumbhakar.

This eclecticism in his own training has led him to develop a comprehensive system with which he has shaped his technique, which is reflected in the art of Shashadhar Acharya has enabled him to communicate, through his dance the inherent spirit of Seraikella Chhau. Though he is creative in his methods of presentation he always aspires to be true to the traditions that he has inherited.

Performing extensively, the traditional repertoire of Seraikella Chhau on prestigious platforms across the country and abroad, he has often stretched his knowledge to use the technique in innovative ways both in dance and theatre. A deep-rooted knowledge of his art gives him the confidence to use it in collaborative works with dancers, actors and directors of both traditional and modern discipline.

**To develop deeper into the art Shashadhar Acharya has worked on several Research Projects that were done with the help of Fellowship grants awarded by prestigious organizations.**

- Awarded Junior Fellowships from the Department of Culture, Government of India to undertake research work on the topic **Teaching methodologies, in Seraikella Chhau.**
- A study of compositions **in Akhada system in Seraikella Chhau on financial assistance from Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.**
- Awarded Junior Fellowships from Department of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi for research and study on **The Evolution and usage of Masks in Seraikella Chhau** with Senior scholarship from the Dept. of culture, Govt. of India. For research and study **on RHYTHMIC STRUCTURE AND MELODIES IN SERAIKELLA CHHAU.**

### **Contribution as a Teacher and Associates for Works in Seraikella Chhau**

The survival of a tradition depends on its transition from one generation to the next and contributing towards its continuity is the responsibility of every practitioner of a traditional art form Shashadhar Acharya teaches with a passion that is rarely seen in someone so young. Devoting a large part of his time to teaching he nurtures each student to develop as an artist while respecting the tenets tradition.

### **LIST OF EMINENT ARTISTS AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL TRAINED UNDER SHRI SHASHADHAR ACHARYA.**

- Dr. Annie Mary Gaston, Canada.
- Dr. Lida Sctanidies, Greece.
- Ms. Shagun Bhutani, Delhi.

- Ms. Louisa, Italy.
- Priyadharshini Ghosh Shome, Hongkong.
- Raka Maitra, Singapore.
- Artists of Flying Fish Theatre Company, Germany.
- Mr. Fabion Schnider, Germany.
- Ms. Philapa, United Kingdom.
- Ms. Sabine Paulic, Re Union Island.
- Ms. Radhanjali, Austrila.
- Ms. Brandy Lary, Canada.
- Nora lamadred, Maxico.
- Ola Alakzandre Poland.

A selfless devotion to a tradition that he was born into has made Shashadhar Acharya a consummate performer a devoted teacher and exemplary artist.

## **Landmark Performances**

### ***International***

- Festival of India in USSR sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, 1988.
- Festival of India in Germany sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations 1992.
- Celebrations for 50 years of Indian Independence in Japan, 1997.
- International Dance Festival & Workshop in Canada, 1997.
- International Dance Festival in Korea, 1998.
- Performed in Thailand, Burma, Malta, Greece, Egypt, Holland, the Reunion Islands and United States of America, 1986.
- Performed in the Festival of Singapore Theatre Box, Singapore, 1990.
- Workshop performance at Milano (Italy) and Romania sponsored by UNESCO Theatre Institute, 1996.
- Performance and Workshop in Nepal for Flying Fish Theatre Company, Germany.
- Festival of India in Japan in collaboration with International Trade Promotion Organization, 2005.

- Festival of India in Japan sponsored by Japan Department of Culture, 2007.
- Performance and Workshop at Natya kala Mandir, Vienna, 2007.
- Performed at Vietnam, Japan, China and Vladibastok (Russia) sponsored by ICCR, 2009.
- Performed at Asian Food and Culture Festival, Zurich (Switzerland), 2009.
- Performed at AFRICA at African congress meet in Ethiopia 2011.
- Performed at Opening Ceremony India festival in South Korea 2011.
- Performed at Bahrain in contemporary festival 2011.
- Performed at REUNION ILAND (France) 2012.
- Performed at Intangible heritage Festival Jonju South Korea 2012.
- Performed at India Festival Taiwan 2012.
- Performed in Namaste India in Japan 2013.

### ***National***

- Yuva Mahotsava organized by Sahitya Kala Parishad, New Delhi.
- First International Seminar on Dance & Marital Arts of Asia, organized by PADATIK, Kolkata 1987.
- Festival of Chhau, organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi 1989.
- Performed for World Trade Organization at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi 1989.
- Performed for Alliance France at New Delhi 1990.
- Performed for France Embassy, New Delhi 1990.
- Performed at British School in Indian Festival with Sharon Lowen, New Delhi 1990.
- Performances sponsored by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi at Bhubaneswar, Orissa, Karnataka and famous temple sites of Chidambaram and Ikeri 1991.
- Performance at Krishna Gana Sabha, Chennai 1991.
- Bhabha Institute and Russian Cultural Centre in Mumbai 1991.
- Performed at 105<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru at Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Performed for Spic-Macy, New Delhi 1993.
- Performed for Cancer Society, Delhi 1993.
- Indian International Dance Festival organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi and Indian Council for Cultural Relations 1994.

- International Mask Dance Festival, organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- The Rajgir Festival 1990.
- The Khajuraho Dance Festival at Khajuraho, organized by Madhya Pradesh State Government 2001 & 2008.
- The Sharadotsava organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, U.P 1999.
- The Ganatantra Mahotsava in Guwahati & Shillong organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, Assam.
- Vedavyas Festival at Rourkela.
- Monsoon Festival, organized by Art India Foundation, New Delhi.
- Krishna Festival, organized by Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- Konark Dance & Music Festival, organized by Orissa Dance Academy, Bhubaneswar.
- Sindhu Festival, Leh & Ladak.
- Patali Putra Mahotsav, Patna.
- Jharkhand Day at Pragati Maidan sponsored by Department of Culture, Jharkhand.
- Performance at Nritya Parva at Ahmedabad (Gujarat) sponsored by Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- Natarhat Festival sponsored by Department of Tourism, Bihar.
- Award Ceremony of Sangeet Natak Akademi, 2004.
- Nritya Utsav, Haryana.
- Performance at Festival organized by World Social Forum, Mumbai.
- Dance Festival organized by Odissi Forum, New Delhi.
- Festival organized by Meera Dance Academy, Pondicherry.
- Mumbai Festival, 2007.
- Nritya Sangam Festival, Manipur organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, 2007.
- Guru Sishya Parampara Festival at I.I.C. New Delhi, 2007.
- Delhi International Festival, Delhi, 2008.
- Krishna Gana Sabha, Natya Kala, Chennai, 2007
- Virasat Alva Festival, Manglore.
- Bhamanighati Dance Festival, Orissa, 2008.
- Seminar on Chhau Music & Dance, Mayur Art Centre Bhubaneswar, 2008.
- Performed at Brahma Utsav, Hyderabad, 2009.
- Performed Trimurti at Sankhya Utsav, Hyderabad, 2009.

- Performed at Chhau Parva (festival) Bhubaneswar organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi New Delhi 2009.
- Performed in Natya Santati a festival of traditional theatre , Pune and Mumbai, 2009.
- Performed at Yatra Festival, Mumbai, 2009.
- Performed at Batawa festival Bidisha organized by Dept.of.Culture Madhya Pradesh 2009.
- Performed on Delhi Day at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi Sponsored by Sahitya Kala Parishad, 2009.
- Performed at Chandralekha Memorial Festival, Chennai, 2009.
- Performed at Nisha Gandhi Festival, Tiruvananthapuram, sponsored by Kerela Tourism, 2008.
- Performed at Nritya Pratibha, Jabalpur (M.P.) Sponsored by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, 2010.
- Performed at Tirupati Devsthanam, Tirupati, 2010.
- Performed at Ravindra Pranati organised by Sangeet Natak Akademi, 2010.
- Performed at Nritya Pratibha Utsav at Simla, Himachal Pradesh organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, with students.
- Performed at Pune & N.C.P.A Mumbai 2009.
- Performed at Chandralekha Memorial festival Chennai 2009.
- Performed at Contemporary dance festival Kochi 2010.
- Performed at Krishna Gana Sobha Chennai 2010.
- Performed at Kala Ghoda festival Mumbai 2011.
- Performed at National centre for performing arts 2011.
- Performed at Ghungroo festival 2011.
- Performed at Chaitra parva Seraikella 2011.
- Lec/ Dem & Performed at Krish Gana Sobha 2011.
- Performed at Chaitra Parva in Seraikella 2012.
- Performed at Dharani festival in Kochi, Kerela 2012.
- Performed at Bangalore International festival 2012.
- Performed at Sruti foundation day Chennai 2012.
- Performed at Sindhu Festival Mumbai 2012.
- Performed at Mudra Dance festival NCPA Mumbai 2012.
- Performed at Nad Bindu Festival Pune 2013.
- Performed at National Chhau Festival (Govt. of. Tourism & Odisha S.N.A.) Odisha 2013.
- Performed at Guru Devparasad Das Samman 2013

- Performed at Jasene Azadi Organised by Rajsthan Sangeet Natak Akademy 2013.
- Performed at ICCR festival with Japanese artists 2013.
- Performed at Festival of Classical Dance in Vadodara in M.S.University 2014.
- Performed at 25<sup>th</sup> Pt. Durgalal festival Mumbai organised by Samved Mumbai 2015.
- Performed at Natya Sangam organised Sangeet Natak Akademi NewDelhi in Tripura 2015.
- Performed at Basant Utsav organised by URASHI centre Gurgaun(Hariyana) 2015.
- Performed at Basant Utsav organised by Padateek dance centre Kolkata at NewDelhi 2015.
- Uttar Purva Nrutya Parva Tripura organised by Sangeet Natak Akademi NewDelhi 2015.
- Performed in NIT Rourkella for convocation Odisha. 2016.
- Performed at Secererd festival organised by Ahaliya bai fort Maheswar M.P. 2016.
- Performed in KHAJARAH festival 2016 in M.P.
- Performed in Chhau festival Rairangpur Odisha organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi NewDelhi & Angika Bhubeneswar 2016.
- Performed in Anjika for martial art & theatre dance 2016.
- Performed in Centennial festival of SNTD Womens university Mumbai 2016.
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### **COLLABORATIVE WORKS IN DANCE IN NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL EVENTS**

- He has worked with Renewed Danseuse Padmavibhushan Smt. Sonal Mansingh on several occasions including an extensive tour of the USA and Canada in 2003. KRISHNA'S WIDOWS a production using Bharatanatyam and Seraikella Chhau with Ms. Pratibha Prahalad renowned Bharatanatyam exponent.
- Choreographed "**VEERABHIMANYU**" for the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- Choreographed "**THE MASKS OF GOD**" presented in New Delhi.
- Choreographed "**PREERNA**" by Utsav Cultural Society, New Delhi.
- Choreographed "**NATYAYOGA**" in the Reunion Islands 2000.
- Choreographic Direction for Dance Theatre presented by Centre for Indian Classical Dances "**UDDAN**" for Smt. Sonal Mansingh. 2007

- Choreographed **“TRIMURTI”** for Nritya Sanrachana Festival of Sangeet Natak Akademi Based on Both Three Style of Chhau 2009.
- Choreographed **AHIMSHA & ASHOKA** for ARCC of REUNION ILAND 2012.
- Choreographed **MAHANAYAK GAURUDA** for Festival of India in Indonesia 2015.



### **WORKSHOP, DANCE DIRECTION AND CHOREOGRAPHY IN THE FIELD OF THEATRE**

- Has been teaching movement at the National School of Drama, a premier institution of theatre in the country.
- Conducts workshops for amateur actors at the Shriram Centre for Arts & Culture, New Delhi.
- Conducted workshops at the University of Reunion (France) and University of Malta.
- Conducted workshops in the Department of Indian Theatre, Punjab University in Chandigarh.
- Conducted workshop at Natya Institute of Kathak and Choreography in Bangalore.
- Conducted movement workshop at Himachal Culture Research Forum and Theatre Repertory in Mandi.
- As a National Expert for conducting workshops for amateur actors in Patna, Shimla, Jammu, Chandigarh and Bokaro invited by the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.
- Has choreographed Sanskrit plays like Abhigyanshakuntalam, Vikramorvashiyam, Urubhangam, Dootghatatkach, Kundmala for institutions like Kalidas Academy, Ujjain.
- Has Choreographed plays for National School of Drama like Avimarak, Garbhanal, Rashmirathi, Thank you Baba Lochandas and Pahiya.



- For the National School of Drama Repertory under eminent directors like Shri. B.V. Karanth, Shri. B.M. Shah, Shri. S.M. Kulshreshtha, Shri. Suresh Sharma , Shri. Rajendra Awasthi, Jamil Ahamad(Bangladesh) & K.S.Rajendran.
- Direction in movement for productions by Gurukul a Theatre Institute in Nepal.
- Choreographic Direction for production by Flying Fish an International Theatre Company.
- Workshop conducted at Lasya an Institute of Dance in Mumbai on the occasion of International Dance Day.
- Conducted Workshop on Movement for Young Theatre Directors organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.
- Conducted Workshop for theatre sponsored by National School of Drama, New Delhi, Jaipur, Banaras, Bhopal, Solapur, Patna, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Simla, Jammu, Bangalore, Kurukshetra, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Conducted Workshop at Bharatendu Natya Akademi, Lucknow.
- Conducted Workshop at Film Institute of India, Pune.
- Conducted Workshop at Lasya Institute of Dance, Mumbai.
- Conducted Workshop at Kalidas Akademi, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- Bihar Tablo on the occasion Republic Day Parade, 1992 at Rajpath, New Delhi.
- Cultural items Choreographer of Republic Day Parade in 1992, 1997 to 2001 at Rajpath, New Delhi.
- On the occasion of Martyrdom Day of former Prime-Minister Late Shri. Rajiv Gandhi at Veer Bhumi.
- Conducted Workshop at Assam (Hatbor) for Theatre Students in 2008.
- Conducted Workshop at Manipur for Theatre Students in 2008.
- Conducted Workshop at JNMDA with Repertory in 2008.
- Conducted workshop at Paditik Calcutta2011.
- Conducted workshop on Natya Shastra in Bhopal 2012.
- Conducted Seminar at IIC on Chhau Dance Of Seraikella 2013.
- Conducted Seminar at Tamil Sangam NewDelhi on Rhythim on Chhau Dhol 2013.
- Conducted Workshop at Janna Prabha Shastra & proyag Chhau & Natya Shastra at Varanasi 2014.
- Conducted Workshop at Janna Prabha Varanasi for Sanskrit Drama 2015.
- Conducted Workshop at at Lasya Institute of Dance, Mumbai 2015.

- Conducted Workshop / Production DOOTGOTOTCOACH Sanskrit Play for National School Of Drama 2<sup>nd</sup> year students 2015.
- Conducted workshop/ Production KARNA BHARAM Sanskrit play for Janna Pravaha Baranasi 2015.

Shashadhar Acharya presently teaches at Triveni Kala Sangam, located at Tansen Marg, Mandi House, New Delhi. Here he has trained both students of Dance and Theatre for the last Twenty five years and has been largely responsible for bringing Chhau to New Delhi. He also Heads a Project funded by Central Sangeet Natak Akademi to train dancers for creating a Performance Repertory based in New Delhi.

**SERVED AS AN EXPERT IN VARIOUS COMMITTEES FOR SELECTIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP/FELLOWSHIP AND OTHER AWARDS IN THE FIELD OF CHHAU DANCE.**

- Member of the Selection Committee for the National Scholarship of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi.
- Expert Member in the Committee for Research Fellowship, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi.
- Member of the Committee as a Chhau Expert in the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi.
- Expert on Dance and Theatre in the Committee of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi.
- Expert Member in the Committee of the Centre for Cultural Research and Training, Papankala, Delhi.

**SERVED AS AN EXPERT FOR THE FILM PRODUCTION ON CHHAU FOR SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

1. Centre for Cultural Resource and Training for a production of Documentary Film on Seraikella Chhau in two parts.
  2. Film productions by a leading company from Israeli.
  3. Film production by Mafam Production Company from Japan on Seraikella Chhau.
  4. A documentary film on Chhau dances of India for Sangeet Natak Akademi New Delhi.
- **For his sustained and innovative work in Seraikella Chhau, Shri. Shashadhar Acharya has been awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 2004.**
  - **Rajkiya Samman in the year 2005 by Jharkhand Government.**

- **Guru Dev Prasad Das Samman 2013 by Tridhara Odisha.**
- **Gaurav Puraskar by Sarfojiraje Bhosale Centre Mumbai 2014.**
- **Lifetime Achivement Award by Govt. of.Jharkhand 2015.**
- **Guru Shri Hari Nayak Samman by Angika Bhubeneswar Odisha 2016.**
- **Natya Chatena Samman by Natya chatena Khordha Odisha 2016.**