

## Profile

Yamika Mahesh is a young talented Kathak performer of Lucknow Gharana. Introduced to this divine art form at a tender age, she was groomed by her Guru Vidushi Malti Shyam. She has undergone a rigorous training with her gurus Pt. Jai Kishan Maharaj and Pt. Deepak Maharaj at Kathak Kendra, New Delhi. Taking dancing as her first love, she continued to learn the finer nuances of dance under the Kathak Maestro, Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj ji. The danseuse is known for her impeccable lyrical movements, technical expertise and immense artistry. Her excellent command of rhythm, striking facial beauty has left the audiences spellbound and has been critically acclaimed by connoisseurs.

### *Achievements and Performances*

A *Gold medallist* in Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Academy Sangeet-Pratiyogita (2004), Yamika Mahesh has won many accolades, including the *YOUNG TALENT AWARD* by International Academy of Mohiniyattam (2014), *TARANA YUVA PRATIBHA AWARD* by Tarana Music and Arts (2016) and *NRITYA MANI AWARD* by Utkal Kala Kendra, Cuttack (2017). Yamika is also a recipient of *SCHOLARSHIP To YOUNG ARTISTS (2015-2107)* by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

Yamika has performed at the prestigious major Dance Festivals of India such as Ananya Dance Festival, Khajuraho Dance Festival, Konark Mandap Music and Dance Festival, Delhi Youth Festival, Vasantotsava, Jahan-e-Khusrau, Wajid-Ali-Shah Festival, Nishagandhi Festival, Dance in the Park, Old Fort Dance Festival, Swathi Thirunal Festival, Amethi Mahotsava, Dharwad Utsava, Nimaad Utsava, Delhi Sangeet Utsava, All India Bhaskar rao Nritya and Sangeet Sammelan by Pracheen kala Kendra, etc. She has performed at the President's Estate in 2012 and 2015. She has also given performances overseas like Mauritius, Belgium, Czech Republic, Bahrain, Germany, Lebanon, etc and has been constantly appreciated for spreading the beauty of her art.

She recently performed in "*GHALIB, Begum Umrao ki Nazar se*", Dastangoi style of Urdu storytelling traditional Ghazal night conceptualised by Khalifa of Dilli Gharana, Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan Saheb. Yamika has appeared as a guest artist in Dance Dramas like *GOMTI*, a musical dance-ballet directed by famous film Director Muzaffar Ali; *SAILING the SILK ROAD*, under the Caracalla Dance Theatre at Baalbeck International Festival, Lebanon; *ROMEO & JULIET*, a theatrical dance-drama by kathak maestro Padma Vibhushan Pt. Birju Maharaj ji. Also, *Dara Shikoh*, *Badshah Rangeela*, *Jasma Odhan* and *Kabir* with the renowned Indian theatre directors. A child prodigy, with a unique charm and grace in her technique, she continuously attained distinction and scholarship at Kathak Kendra, successfully passing Diploma Course in 2012 with honours; Visharad from Bhatkhande Sangeet Vidyapith, Lucknow in 2006; Post graduate degree from Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya in 2017. Besides, she graduated in Psychology from Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi.

She is currently performing as a Solo artist, with eminent choreographers and contemporary Kathak Gurus and simultaneously imparting her teachings to the young aspirants of Kathak as a virtuous art promoter.