

CHOLA'S GOT T★LENT

The Art Of

Kathak

With

MS. GAUTAMI

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Grace

in Every Step



Introducing **Ms. Gautami**, a passionate Kathak dancer and a valued member of our HR team. Blending the precision of her profession with the grace of classical dance, Gautami brings stories to life through rhythm, expression, and movement. Her journey in Kathak reflects dedication, discipline, and a deep love for an art form that continues to shape her both on and off the stage. Intrigued by her passion, we sat down with her for a short chat to explore her journey and the beauty of Kathak.

SO, WHAT WAS YOUR INTRODUCTION TO KATHAK LIKE?

I started learning Kathak in the 3rd grade. During my initial days, I started slowly, but soon I wanted to learn the traditional form properly.

That's when I began formal training with my mother. What started as a small step grew into a deep passion over time.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE YOUR CAREER WITH YOUR PASSION?

I practise three days a week, and so far, I feel I'm managing both well. I'm also fortunate to have very supportive colleagues who encourage me.

HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN KATHAK TO SOMEONE UNFAMILIAR WITH IT?

Kathak is a story-based dance form. 'Katha' means story, so a Kathak dancer is essentially a storyteller. There are various themes, including epics and shringara (expressions of love and emotion). Sometimes, a dancer portrays multiple characters within the same performance. For me, Kathak is my space, my bubble, where I let go of all worries and simply immerse myself in what I love.



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE STARTING THEIR KATHAK JOURNEY?

Patience and time are key. The more you practise and dedicate yourself, the more you evolve. That's where the magic truly happens.

WHO HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCE?

My mother has been my biggest influence in both life and Kathak. She constantly encourages me to push my limits. During classes, she becomes a teacher first and doesn't show any bias, which has helped me grow stronger.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST MEMORABLE PERFORMANCE?

When I was in the 11th grade, I performed at a venue in Besant Nagar. It was a professional setup with live musicians accompanying me. That experience made it incredibly special and memorable.



YOU'VE PERFORMED ON SEVERAL STAGES. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE KATHAK AS AN AUDIENCE?

I am extremely grateful to everyone who appreciates Kathak. I would encourage people to respect the art and the artist. In today's reel era, where short-form content dominates, some art forms are best experienced in their full, authentic form.



HOW DO YOU SEE KATHAK EVOLVING IN THE FUTURE?

Like all art forms, Kathak is evolving too. Drawing inspiration from other styles is valuable, but preserving authenticity is essential. Mastering the traditional form is the foundation for meaningful evolution.

WHAT ARE YOUR ASPIRATIONS GOING FORWARD?

I hope to continue balancing my passion and profession. In the future, I would also love to teach and inspire the next generation, helping carry this beautiful art form forward.

As Gautami continues to balance her professional journey with her artistic passion, she stands as a beautiful reminder that dedication and discipline can help us pursue excellence in every sphere of life. We wish her many more inspiring performances and continued success, both at work and on stage, as she keeps the timeless art of Kathak alive through every graceful step.

Chola is proud of you, Gautami!

