



Dr. Narthaki Nataraj

Artistic synopsis

Dr. Narthaki Nataraj is a distinguished *Bharatanatyam* dancer and Guru from the State of Tamil Nadu in India. Born in Madurai, the heart of Tamil culture, she pursued formal training in *Bharatanatyam* from the late *Guru* Namanur Jeyaraman in the Thanjavur-tradition. Her perseverance in the tradition led Narthaki to the ancient city of Thanjavur, where she pursued traditional *gurukula* training from the renowned *Guru* Kittappa Pillai. She completed 15 years of the intense in-residency gaining scholastic prowess from the late *Guru*. With this legacy and as an ambassador of the Thanjavur-tradition of *Bharatanatyam*, Narthaki has been spreading treasured repertoires, temple mysticism, Tamil literature, and rare choreographic concepts at local, regional, and international arts and culture festivals. Together with her lifetime mentor-companion Ms. Shakthi Bhaskar, she established the Velliamballam Trust – School of Dance. She is popular world-wide among patrons, connoisseurs, scholars, and youth, especially those pursuing a study of *Bharatanatyam*. Narthaki's exemplary works have been well-acclaimed.

Prominent accolades

- 2007 Kalaimamani Award / State Government of Tamil Nadu
- 2011 Sangeet Natak Akademi Award / Ministry of Culture, Government of India
- 2016 Honorary Doctorate - Periyar Maniammai University, Thanjavur
- 2017 Empanelled Outstanding Dance Artist / Indian Council for Cultural Relations
- 2019 Padma Shri Award – India's 4th highest civilian award / Government of India
- 2022 Nrithya Kalanidhi Award / The Madras Music Academy

Sociocultural activism

Identifying as transgendered at the tender age of 10 years, Narthaki overcame numerous societal barriers. Her high standing in the world of arts and literature has contributed immensely to her overall success in society. She coined the word '*thirunangi*' in Tamil, literally meaning the 'divine female', that has been officially adopted by the State Government of Tamil Nadu to designate 'transwoman'. Narthaki fosters an intersectional development programme by imparting *Bharatanatyam* training and opportunities to students from the LGBTQ2S and marginalized communities. Her inspirational life story is featured as a lesson in Tamil Nadu's State Board textbooks. Narthaki is an excellent scholar, orator, and speaker of Tamil literature. Her artistic and social status have earned her prominence, and currently Narthaki serves as an appointed Member of the Tamil Nadu State Development Policy Council.

Workshops with Dr. Narthaki Nataraj

Dates: May 22 to 24, 2023

Venue: LabO Theatre, 60 Waller St, Ottawa, ON K1N 6E2

Workshops are organized over 3 days, and the cost of attendance is inclusive of all 3 days.

	Duration/Day	Total duration	Included	Total Cost (Cdn \$) includes all 3 days.
Mentorship – Senior Limited to three participants only	1 hour Morning Sessions only	3 hours	Recorded music for the repertoire item agreed upon.	\$250
Abhinaya – Senior / All-Dance Genres	1 hour	3 hours		\$150
Rare Choreography – Senior	2 hours	6 hours	Recorded music for the rare choreography.	\$150
Traditional Choreography – Junior	2 hours	2 hours	Recorded music for the traditional choreography.	\$50

Timings:

	Monday 22-May	Tuesday 23-May	Wednesday 24-May
Senior Rare Choreography	1:00 to 3:00 pm	3:30 to 5:30 pm	3:30 to 5:30 pm
Junior Traditional Choreography	10:00 am to 12 noon	NA	NA
Senior Abhinaya – All-Dance Genres	3:00 to 4:00 pm	2:00 to 3:00 pm	2:00 to 3:00 pm
Senior Mentorship – Limited Participation	Morning	Morning	Morning

Additional Information:

Senior: Any age with strong foundation in Bharatanatyam; should have demonstrated solo performances or completed their arangetram.

Junior: Any age with a current registration as a student with a Bharatanatyam teacher. Consent from teacher required.

For the Abhinaya workshop, senior practitioners from all genres of Indian classical and allied dances can participate.

Workshop Instructions:

1. Deadline for registration will be May 12, 2023.
2. Fees must be paid before the deadline for registration to finance@tgifottawa.ca
3. Participants can take notes each day after Dr. Narthaki finishes teaching small segments of each piece during the short breaks given.
4. Final choreography video (taken during the workshop) will be available for participants (TBD).
5. Only registered participants will be allowed to attend the workshop.