

BANI RAY

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Education

Odissi training,

- Guru Shri Durga Charan Ranbir, 1990-present
- Late Guru Shri Nath Raut, 1975-1987
- Shri Hari Krishna Behera, 1970-1975

Mohini Attam, Manipuri, folk dance

- Guru Shri Valmiki Banerjee, 1974-1975

Yoga

- Late Guru Dhyana Chand Sharma

Bachelor Of Science, 1987

University of Delhi, New Delhi, India

Experience

- Trinayan Collective, New York, NY
 - **Director, choreographer & performer, 2003-present**
- Nehru Institute of Odissi Research and Training, New Delhi, India
 - **Joint Director, 1995 - present**
- Lotus Music & Dance, New York, NY
 - **Odissi Instructor, choreographer & performer, 1998-present**
- NJ Arts Council & NJ State Council on the Arts
 - **Roster Artist, 2000-2004**
- I.C.C.R.
 - **Registered Artist**
- YWCA, Hightstown, NJ
 - **Choreographer & performer, 1998-2000**

Performances

- 2004
 - **Evening of Classical Dance, Sunset High School, Portland, OR**
- 2003
 - **Bharata Natyam and Odissi - CUNY Graduate Center, NY**
 - **New York Ramayana – Sylvia & Danny Kaye Playhouse, NY**
 - **Day of Vesak, United Nations, NY**
 - **Festival of Odissi Dance – Merce Cunningham Studio, NY**
 - **2nd International Odissi Festival, Washington DC**
 - **IDEA, Washington DC**
- 2002
 - **Wadsworth Auditorium, SUNY Genesco, NY**
- 2001
 - **New York Ramayana – John Jay College Theater, NY**
 - **Dance Theater of Harlem, NY**
 - **Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University, NJ**
 - **United Nations School, NY**
 - **Augusta Savage Gallery, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, MA**
 - **Ross Institute, East Hampton, NY**
 - **Bryant Park, NY**
- 2000
 - **Museum of TV and Radio, NY**
 - **150th Anniversary Cultural Events, Trinidad & Tobago**
 - **New York Ramayana – Pace University, NY**
- 1999
 - **American Express Event, Madison Square Garden, NY**

- **Bryant Park**, NY
- **Prudential Life Insurance Event**, Dryden Hall, NJ
- **Asian Dialogue Westfair-99**, Northern Westchester Center for the Arts, NY
- 1998
 - **Low Plaza**, Columbia University Campus, NY
 - **Long Island University**, Brooklyn Campus, University Plaza, NY
 - **William Paterson College**, NJ

Lectures and Workshops

- 2003
 - **Mercer County Community College** – High School of Performing Arts, NJ
- 2002
 - **Mercer County Community College** – High School of Performing Arts, NJ
 - **Cicely Tyson School of Fine and Performing Arts**, Montclair, NJ
 - **Professional Development Summer Program at Rutgers University** – Camden, NJ
- 2001
 - **Somerset Vocational-Tech School**, NJ
 - **Augusta Savage Gallery**, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, MA
- 2000
 - **Thomas Hunter Hall**, Hunter College, NY
 - **P.S. 139Q**, Rego Park, Queens, NY
 - **P.S. 62**, Queens, Richmond Hill, NY
 - **Ballet Tech School Students** (9th & 10th Grade), NY
 - **Hunter College**, NY
- 1999
- 1998
 - **Low Plaza**, Columbia University Campus, NY

India

- International seminars & symposiums, 1995-1996,
- Odissi training program, 1988, 1991 & 1993

Reviews

‘...Bani is a special asset as a fantastic dancer and charming speaker...’

- Jennifer Done, Ross Institute

‘...Ms. Ray handled [the students] with cleverness, creativity and panache. Her artistry and skill with Classical Indian Dance is quite clear as she demonstrated dance movements and hand gestures in class...Ms. Ray conveyed a strong sense of cultural identity...’

- Mercer County School of Performing Arts, 7/19/02

‘[Bani’s] classes were excellent. [Bani] is an accomplished teacher and a wonderfully humble human being. [Her] presentation of the history of the people and the meaning of each dance...taught and performed was informative. [Her] description of the music, costumes and the concept of gesture was very helpful.’

- UMOJA Dance Company, 7/25/02

‘[Bani’s] costume style and technique are both beautiful and enthralling. I found it inspiring as did the students.’

- Mercer County School of Performing Arts, 5/6/02

‘...Bani Ray was an excellent Sita, and it was easy for us to follow what was happening in that scene because of the clarity of her movements.’

- Asia Society, 3/19/99

‘Everyone was entranced by the artistic, graceful skills of Bani Ray, as a result, some members are aspiring to become her students.’

- International Society for Krishna Conscious, 3/21/99

‘Polish marked Bani Ray’s Odissi...Bani has a petite personality most suited to Odissi. Her items and abhinayan displayed her involvement.’

- Aashish Khokar, The Sunday Times of India, 2/23/97

‘Bani has been learning Odissi with dedication and commitment. She is a good performing artist.’

- Guru Ramani Ranjan Jena, 3/1/97

Delectable Odissi: *'The Oriya song, 'Mohane deli chahi' brought out Bani's abhinayan prowess convincingly. The quick change-overs in epyopms were registered subtly and succinctly..'*

- The Statesman, Delhi, 4/15/96