

## 2. My Journey With Odissi

I was not very sure what I would do in life after leaving a full time managerial job (after i got married) until in 2011, i came across a video of Odissi performance on a national channel at my place. I immediately struck by the elegance and charm of the dance form. I felt it had the main elements of all dance forms. The spiritual connection it had was rich and deep and this made it complete from all aspects."

"It was god's grace that I found contact of Guru Smt.Suprava Mishra and got an opportunity to join her Aum Arts Dance Academy (Institute of Odissi Dance) in 2012.

I began learning Odissi a year ago.Soon i started realising that Odissi has shaped my perception of the world and the way in which I communicate.

"The thing about dance is that for most people, it's not a job; it's who they are,"

I explored that odissi is an expression of my inner most feelings, throwing away feelings of inadequacy and being myself completely. Actually a way of living, a form of acting with elegance and grace.

Within three months of time after joining Odissi dance class i got an opportunity to be a part of odissi dance performance as one of the group members on stage for the second book of Guru Smt. Suprava Mishra "Odissi Nrutya aur Bharatiya Sanskuti "(in Hindi Language) launched at Ahmedabad Management Association by Padmabhushana Mrinalini Sarabhai and Padmabhushana Kumudini Lakhia on 10th Mar 2012. Program was organized by JCARC and OSCA.

I was also fortunate enough to be a part of newly choreographed 'Vaishnava Jana To tene re Kahiye....' A famous bhajan of great poet Shri Narshi Mehta performed by Guru Smt. Suprava Mishra and students of Aum Arts Dance Academy on 16th August at H.K. arts college, Ahmedabad organized by Tatwa Ashram.

Odissi dance performance on 'Panch-tatva Stuti' by Smt Suprava Mishra and students of Aum Arts Dance Academy on the inauguration of 'Kankaria Carnival 2012' at Ahmedabad on 25th Dec 2012.

'Vaishnava Jana To tene re Kahiye.....' ,in Odissi dance performed by Smt Suprava Mishra and students of Aum Arts Dance Academy on 29th Dec 2012 at 'Kankaria Carnival 2012' at Ahmedabad.

Thereon my dancing journey is still continued and nurturing under the tutelage of my Guru Smt. Suprava Mishra. I would like to offer my gratitude and respect to my dance guru Smt. Suprava Mishra whom I studied with and received much inspiration on my Odissi dance journey.

*Niti Pandey , is a MBA and doing her full time managerial job before marriage and now learning odissi under Guru Smt Suprava Mishra*