

KIRAN RAJAGOPALAN

2563 Decatur Avenue, Apt. 6 Bronx, NY 10458

Mobile: 646-465-0067 • Landline: 347-758-7290

Email: kiran.rajagopalan@gmail.com

Artiste Summary

Co-founder & Artistic Director of Daya Arts; professional Bharatanatyam (Indian classical) dancer, choreographer, educator, & writer with over 25 years performance experience; over 7 years writing experience on performing arts, travel, & science. Accomplishments include:

- Over **80** solo performances
- **10** major group productions
- **12** dance dramas
- Over **20** publications

Education

Master of Arts – Performance Studies (2015)

New York University – New York, NY, USA

Master of Arts – Bharatanatyam (2010)

University of Madras – Chennai, India

Bachelor of Arts – Behavioral Neuroscience and Spanish (2008)

Boston University – Boston, MA, USA

Classical Arts Training

Bharatanatyam (Indian Classical Dance)

Nrithyalakshana – Chennai, India

2008 – Present

Artistic Director: A. Lakshmanaswamy

Abhinaya – Chennai, India

2009 – Present

Artistic Director: Bragha Bessell

Shri Kalaa Mandir – Cleveland, OH

2001 – 2008

Artistic Director: Sujatha Srinivasan

Soorya Dance Company – St. Louis, MO

1997 – 2001

Artistic Director: Prasanna Kasthuri

Dances of India – St. Louis, Missouri

1991 – 1997

Artistic Director: Asha Prem

Bhagavata Mela Natakam (Dance Drama)

Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Jayanti Melattur Bhagavata Mela

2010 – Present

Natya Nataka Sangam – Melattur, India

Artistic Director: S. Natarajan

Carnatic (Indian Classical) Violin

A. Kanyakumari & Anusha Sreeram – Chennai, India

2010 – Present

Awards, Fellowships, & Residencies

- PASS Artist-in-Residence (2017) – Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden – Staten Island, NY
- HAF 2017 Artist (2017) – Harlem Arts Festival
- “A” Grade Artiste (2015) – Doordarshan National
- Pandit Durga Lal Endowment (2013) – Sri Krishna Gana Sabha

- Talent Promotion Scheme (2012) – Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram
- “Nrutya Bhushan” (2011) – Utkal Yuva Sanskrutik Sangh
- “Nrutya Jyoti” (2011) – 1st Place (Bharatanatyam) – Devdasi Nrutya Mandir
- Fiscal Sponsorship – New York Foundation for the Arts (2010 – Present)
- “Singar Mani” (2010) – Best Performance – Sur Singar Samsad

Solo Choreography

- “Sāmityam” (2017) – Celebrating the 1000th Birth Centenary of Ramanuja (Thematic Lecture & Performance)
- “Flawless/Yoncé (KK Masculist Remix)” (2014) – Thematic presentation blending Hip-Hop & Bharatanatyam
- “The Unsung Hero” (2013) – Lecture-Demonstration on Abhinaya Repertoire for Male Dancers
- “Bharata Itihasa” (2013) – Dance-theater presentation on the legend of India’s birth
- “Mani Nupura Dhari” (2012) – Dance Compositions of Oothukkadu Venkatasubbaiyer
- “Setubandham: Bridging the Cultural Gulf Between Indonesia & India” (2011) – Lecture & Program Series on Valmiki’s Ramayana
- “Chaturveda” (2008) – Thematic Presentation on the Four Vedas

Solo Performances

- “Sāmityam” – Mahatma Gandhi Center – St. Louis, MO (2017)
- “Sāmityam” – Sri Venkateswara Temple – Pittsburgh, PA (2017)
- Harlem Arts Festival – Marcus Garvey Park – New York, NY (2017)
- BAAD! Bronx Academy of Art & Dance (2017) – Out Like That! Choreographer’s Showcase – New York, NY (2017)
- “No Rest in the Kingdom” – _____ Fest – New York, NY (2016)
- “Narthaka: Dance Like a Man” – Samskriti – Houston, TX (2016)
- “30th Birthday Dance Performance” – New York, NY (2015)
- Kalashraya Dance Festival – Washington, D.C. (2015)
- Wassaic Project Summer Festival – Wassaic, NY (2014)
- Alliance Française de Bangalore – “World Dance Day” – Bangalore, India (2014)
- South Central Zone Cultural Centre – “Bismillah Khan Memorial Youth Festival” – Vijayawada, India (2014)
- “Kuchipudi Dance Festival” – Kuchipudi, India (2014)
- Piravimarundeeswara Temple – Thiruthuraiipoondy, India (2014)
- “The Unsung Hero” – 7th Nartaka Dance Festival – Chennai, India (2013)
- “Bharata Itihasa” – Solo International Performing Arts Festival – Surakarta, Indonesia (2013)
- India International Centre – Summer Festival – New Delhi, India (2013)
- Narada Gana Sabha – Isai Natya Nataka Vizha – Chennai, India (2012)
- Krishnanjali Academy of Performing Arts – 9th Year Natyothsavam – Chennai, India (2012)
- Abhinaya & Saweraa – Fundraiser Program – St. Louis, MO (2012)
- “Setubhandam” – Jogja International Performing Arts & Asia Tri Jogja Festivals – Yogyakarta, Indonesia (2012)
- Kalpashree – South India Dance Festival – Bangalore, India (2012)
- Sri Guruvayoorappan Asthika Samajam – Chennai, India (2012)
- “Mani Nupura Dari” – Doordarshan Television – Chennai, India (2012)
- Cheras – Kapaleeshwara Temple – Chennai, India (2012)

- Tamil Isai Sangam – Pollachi, India (2012)
- Naradha Gana Sabha – Karur, India (2012)
- 72nd Bhagavata Mela Nataka Mahotsav – Melattur, India (2012)
- J.G. College of Performing Arts - “World Dance Day” – Ahmedabad, India (2012)
- Orissa Dance Academy - Udayaraga Festival – Bhubaneshwar, India (2012)
- Heritage – Gudiya Sambrahma – Bangalore, India (2012)
- Kalpa - Pragjyoti International Dance Festival – Guwahati, India (2012)
- Sri Krishna Gana Sabha – Chennai, India (2011, 2012)
- Sur Singar Samsad – 55th Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan – Mumbai, India (2011)
- Utkal Yuva Sansrutik Sangh – India Theatre Olympiad 2011 – Cuttack, India (2011)
- “Setubhandam” – Wisma Seni & Institut Seni Indonesia, Surakarta (2011)
- Devdasi Nrutya Mandir – 5th Naveen Kalakar – Bhubaneshwar, India (2011)
- Natyanjali Festival – Mayavaram, India (2011)
- Natyanjali Festival – Thirunallar, India (2011)
- Natyanjali Festival – Nagapattinam, India (2011)
- Vichitra Vaibhavam – Sri Kasi Viswanathar Temple – Chennai, India (2011)
- Sri Thyaga Brahma Gana Sabha – Chennai, India (2011)
- Delhi International Arts Festival – Young Artist Festival – New Delhi, India (2010)
- Kartik Fine Arts – Chennai, India (2010, 2012)
- Natyanjali Trust – 4th Nartaka Dance Festival – Chennai, India (2010)
- Sur Singar Samsad – 49th Kal Ke Kalakar Sangeet Sammelan – Mumbai, India (2010)
- Bhagavata Mela Nataka Mahotsav – Melattur, India (2010)
- Saraswati Educational Trust – Vasant Utsav – Chennai, India (2010)
- 11th Sai Nrityotsav Festival – Bengaluru, India (2010)
- Natyanjali Festival – Chidambaram, India (2010)
- Natyanjali Festival – Kumbakonam, India (2010)
- Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha – Chennai, India (2010 – 2012)
- The Mylapore Fine Arts Club – Chennai, India (2009)
- Bharat Kalachar – Chennai, India (2009)
- Natyanjali Trust – Chennai, India (2009, 2010)
- The Music Academy – Chennai, India (2009)
- Kalaanjali School of Dance & Music – Madison, WI (2009)
- St. Louis Dance Festival Showcase – St. Louis, MO (2009)
- Abhinaya – St. Louis, MO (2009)
- Brahan Natyanjali Festival - Thanjavur, India (2009)
- Natyanjali Festival – Tiruvarur, India (2008 – 2011)
- The Indian Fine Arts Society – Chennai, India (2009)
- Vipanchee – Chennai, India (2008, 2010)
- “Chaturveda” - Nruthya Bhushana Festival – Mysore, India (2008)
- Narada Gana Sabha – Natyarangam Monthly Program – Chennai (2008)
- Brahma Gana Sabha – Chennai, India (2008, 2010, 2011)
- Hamsadhvani – Chennai, India (2006, 2007, 2010)
- Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan – Chennai, India (2006)

Collaborative & Group Work

- “Twin Rivers” (2017) – Production on West African & Indian Spirituality with Wesley Beeks, Tony Yemaya, Chéredyn Martin, Priya Darshini, & Sharanya Manivannan – Pratt Institute & Snug Harbor Botanical Garden & Cultural Center – New York, NY
- “Incandescent: The Luminous Love-Story of the Sun” (2016) – Dances of India – Skip Viragh Performing Arts Center – St. Louis, MO
- “Leela” – Thematic Performance on Stories from Hindu Mythology – Booth Tarkington: The Center for Performing Arts – Choreography: Mangala Anand – Indianapolis, IN (2016)
- “Transcendent Arts of Tibet & India” – Site-specific Performances with Malini Srinivasan & Dancers – New York, NY (2016)
- “Foundation” – Collaboration with Raghavendran Rajasekaran & Maya Dance Theatre for “Letters From Home: An Evening of Dance” – La MaMa Theater – New York, NY (2015)
- “Nindati Candanam” (2014) – Bharatanatyam & Contact Improvisation with Janet Werther – Concept & Choreography: Kiran Rajagopalan
- Kumbhalgarh Festival – Government of Rajasthan – Kumbhalgarh, India (2014)
- Alauddin Khan Festival – Government of Madhya Pradesh – Maihar, India (2013)
- “Pratikriti” – Tour to Spain, Germany, & France – Choreography: Priya Venkataraman (2013)
- Khajuraho Festival – Government of Madhya Pradesh – Khajuraho, India (2013)
- “Parishvanga Pattabhishekham” – Choreography: Anitha Guha – Chennai, India (2012)
- “Vittu Viduthalaiyaagi Nirpaay” – Natyarangam – Thematic Presentation of Bharathiar’s Poems on Liberation – Chennai, India (2011–Present)
- Artists Respond Globally – Chicago, USA – “In My Backyard I Can See the World” – Photography Collaboration with Ramnath Siva (2011)
- Ramayana Shatabdi Samaroh – Rabindra Parishad – Patna, India (2011)
- Vysakhi Nrityothesav – Visakhapatnam, India (2011)
- “Workshop Dari Pergelaran Tari Tradisional” – Institut Seni Indonesia, Surakarta – Dance Workshop with Ronnarong Khampha (Thai Lanna Dancer) – Surakarta, Indonesia (2011)
- Bhagavata Mela – Various Lead & Supporting Roles – Melattur, India (2010–Present)
- “Sangamum Sangamum” – Lead Role – Choreography: Lakshmi Ramaswamy – Chennai, India (2008)
- “Akbar’s Magic Trunk” – Dances of India – Choreographed Lead Role – St. Louis, MO (2008)
- “Narasimha” – Dances of India – Choreographed Lead Role – St. Louis, MO (2007)
- “Pibare Krishnarasam” – Principal Dancer – Choreography: Sujatha Srinivasan – Cleveland, OH; Chicago, IL; Rochester, NY – (2003–2005)
- SAFMOD – Cleveland, OH (2003)
- The Cleveland Museum of Art – Dance Workshops & Performance – Cleveland, OH (2003)
- “Avatara – Incarnations” (2000)
- “Samarpan – The Struggle for Freedom” – St. Louis, MO (2000)
- “Parabhakthi” – Lead Role as Sankaracharya – St. Louis, MO (1998)
- “Ramayana” – St. Louis, MO (1996)

Events, Lectures, & Conferences

#NoTension2017

BAAD! Bronx Academy of Art & Dance

- Co-curated a sold-out festival of queer & trans South Asian artists with Anuva Kalawar for Pride in June

NeuroArt Talks

- “Science and the Performing Arts” (Panel) – Neshemah – New York (2017)
 - “The Neuroscience of Choreography” (Lecture) – Neshemah – New York (2016)
 - “The Mystery of Habit” (Lec-Dem) – New York University (2016)
 - “Art is in the Eye of the Beholder” (Lec-Dem) – New York University (2015)
-

Relevant Work Experience

Part-time Program Coordinator, Arts Horizons

12/2016–Present

Englewood, NJ

- Coordinating with administrators, faculty, staff, & teaching artists at community-based organizations & schools to develop arts education residencies in NYC
- Assessing & evaluating all ongoing residencies through regular site visits

Teaching Artist (3-8th Grades)

LeAP, Inc. & EM Arts – New York, NY, USA

01/2016–12/2016

- Developed & conducted novel residencies integrating science, reading comprehension, poetry, & Indian dance to underserved communities in public school system

Graduate Assistant, New York University

10/2014–05/2015

New York, NY, USA

- Event organizer & assistant coordinator of hospitality, media, & space for CROSS-TISCH, a faculty-driven seminar series promoting intradepartmental collaboration

Voiceover Artiste, British Council

09/2012–04/2014

Chennai, India

- American English accent work for British Council’s “Learn English” app

Arts Intern, DakshinaChitra

07/2009–11/2010

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

- Compiled research for online resource database for building capacity in Indian arts organizations

Freelance Writer

04/2008–Present

Chennai, India

- Commissioned writer for research & general interest articles on science, performance, Indian culture, and travel
 - Regular contributor to: *Tiger Tales* (Singapore); *AngloINFO* (London); *Sruti* (Chennai); *KutcheriBuzz* (Chennai); *Narthaki.com* (Chennai)
-

Selected Reviews & Interviews

- Sai, V. “Boys with Ankle Bells.” *Tehelka* 11(8), 22 Feb 2014.
- Venkataraman, L. “Many Stories, Many Cultures.” *The Hindu*: 5 Jul 2013.
- Srikanth, R. “From Student to Artiste.” *The Hindu*: 27 Dec 2012.
- Subramaniam, A. & M. Srinivasan. “To Be or Not To Be...” *The Hindu*: 12 Jul 2012.
- Chakra, S. “Platform for Rising Dancers.” *The Hindu*: 6 Apr 2012.

- Panda, N. "Rhythmic Adieu to Udayaraga – Male Dancers Conquer Hearts." *The Telegraph*: 30 Mar 2012.
- Srikanth, R. "Switching Roles with Ease." *The Hindu*: 3 Feb 2012.
- Dave, R. "A Journey from Neuroscience to Adavus." *Asian Age*: 15 Dec 2011.
- Chakra, S. "Celebrating Indian Dance." *The Hindu*: 23 Jun 2011.
- Dave, R. "Busting Myths About 'Videshi' Invasions." *The Asian Age*: 11 May 2011.
- Vasudevan, A. "Magna Cum Laude." *PageSeven* 1(1), Feb 2011: 13-15.
- Nandakumar, G. "In Step with Diverse Worlds." *The Hindu*: 24 Dec 2010.
- Shankar, V. "Young Dancers Festival: An Impressive Show." *Afternoon Dispatch & Courier*: 29 Jun 2010.
- Nagaraj, V. "Sai Nrityotsava 11." *Narthaki*: 10 Apr 2010.
- Srinivasan, M. "Follow Your Heart." *The Hindu*: 10 Dec 2009.
- Srikanth, R. "Strong and Graceful." *The Hindu*: 2 Oct 2009.
- Putinja, I. "Dance Journeys – NRI Dancers at Chennai Festival." *Pulse*: Spring 2009.
- Nagaraj, V. "Striking Poses." *The Hindu*: 19 Dec 2008.
- Srikanth, R. "Accuracy and Pace Set Him Apart." *The Hindu*: 23 May 2008.

Selected Publications

- Rajagopalan, K. "Who's/Whose Lives Matter: The Politics of Participation in the Black Lives Matter Movement." *Theories of Spectatorship*: 15 May 2015.
- Rajagopalan, K. "Common Ragas in South Indian Classical Dance Music." *Sangeetha*: June 2014.
- Rajagopalan, K. "Mythos, Modernity, & Masculinity." *Narthaki*: 22 Dec 2013.
- Rajagopalan, K. "Going Solo in Solo." *Sruti* 325, Oct 2011: 50-53.
- Rajagopalan, K. "Learning Experience for Young Dancers." *Sruti* 318, Mar 2011: 25-27.
- Rajagopalan, K. "Assessing Accessibility to Antiretroviral Therapy in AIDS-Stricken Africa." *Centre for African Affairs & Global Peace: Africa Policy Watch*, 2(4), 2009: 5-19.
- Harvey, R.C., Dembro, K.A., Rajagopalan, K., Mutebi, M.M., Kantak, K.M. "Effects of self-administered cocaine in adolescent and adult male rats on orbitofrontal cortex-related neurocognitive functioning." *Psychopharmacology (Berl)*, 206(1), 2009: 61-71
- Harvey, R.C., Dembro, K.A., Rajagopalan, K., Mutebi, M.M., Kantak, K.M. "Differential effects of cocaine on neurocognitive functioning of the orbitofrontal cortex in adolescent vs. adult rats." *The College on Problems of Drug Dependence Conference*. June 14-June 18, 2008. San Juan, Puerto Rico.