

Yaman Kalyan Pattanaik

LONG BIO

Yaman Kalyan Pattanaik is an Odissi and Indo-Contemporary dancer, choreographer and instructor based in Southern California.

Her foundation is the classical Odissi body — chowk and tribhangi, the bhangis that travel between them, the hastas and the long sculptural line — and, above that, abhinaya: the expressive craft that lets a face and a pair of hands carry meaning rather than decorate it. She began training at the age of seven under Guru Smt. P. Sudharani at the Sudha Institute of Odissi, Ahmedabad, continued under Guru Shri Ramesh Chandra Jena at Orissa Dance Academy, Bhubaneswar, and now studies under Guru Shri Pabitra Kumar Pradhan at Ishwara Dance and Yoga Academy, California. She holds the Visharad Purnam certification from Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Mumbai, and has 24+ years in the form, deepened through workshops with Padma Shri Guru Smt. Aruna Mohanty, Guru Smt. Bijayini Satpathy and Smt. Sharanya Mukhopadhyay Sekhri.

Around that classical core she has built a wider vocabulary: Indo-Contemporary floorwork, weight-sharing and release; semi-classical and Bollywood fusion; and cross-form collaboration, including a fusion of Odissi with Sri Lankan Kandyan dance. Her choreography works at that meeting point — the temple repertoire's devotional poetry and mythological women, set against contemporary scores, contemporary structure and the demands of the screen, where framing and edit become part of the choreography itself. Musicality is where she pushes hardest: odd counts, syncopation against a classical line, phrases that resolve later than the ear expects. In Nirmohiya she structured the work on the Fibonacci sequence so it grows the way a raga does; Raga of Revenge sets Odissi against a contemporary film score to reach an anger the classical repertoire knows well but rarely states plainly; Breaking the Frame, commissioned by the IndianRaga Online Dance Fellowship, stretches the form through multi-art collaboration.

Born in Bhubaneswar, Odisha — the city Odissi comes from — and raised in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, she learned the form at a distance from its source and then travelled back toward it. She has performed at Odissi Odyssey (University of North Carolina, Charlotte), the Lotus Festival in Los Angeles, the Asian American Dance Festival in San Diego, the Irvine Global Village Festival, The Art of Living World Culture Film Festival, and Blackman Auditorium at Northeastern University, and she teaches and choreographs with Rangeela Dance Company in Los Angeles.

Yaman builds her artistic life alongside a career in engineering. She holds a Master's in Engineering Management from Northeastern University and works as a Senior Solution Architect at Niagara Bottling — a discipline of systems thinking that, she has found, sharpens rather than competes with her choreographic process.

Contact: ypattanaik@gmail.com