



**An Initiative by Philadelphia Ganesh Festival @ Bharatiya Temple
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Introduction

MUDRA Dance Festival (MDF) is as a single day event organized on a Sunday during 10-12 day festivities at Philadelphia Ganesh Festival and is staged at Bharatiya Temple. Philadelphia Ganesh Festival is a largest 10-Day Public Ganesh Festival in North America where 15+ organization of Indian Americans participate and offer services to devotees of Lord Ganesh.

MUDRA Dance Festival's Mission & Need

MUDRA Dance Festival's mission is to felicitate The Dance Gurus and the Dance Academies, for their selfless service of providing education of NrityaYoga, one of the few critical art forms, available to achieve union with Almighty. We desire to encourage Indian Classical dance education movement and spread the information about the work done by many talented Gurus in the PA-NJ-DE based community.

Going further, MUDRA Dance Festival's mission is to invest its collective resources brought in by 15+ participating Indian associations, to commission the area dance schools and area musicians to collaborate together and produce full length Indian Dance Dramas.

Greater Philadelphia area is home to More than 20,000 Indian American Families. Many Indian families are interested in imparting the formal education on India's strong cultural traditions to their children and grand children. There are many great Indian Dance *Gurus* in our community doing outstanding service by treaching 8-9 year long dance education to our next generation. MUDRA Dance Festival provides a non-competing platform for dance academies in the Greater Philadelphia to showcase the best education they have to offer to our community and to give opportunity to their best students to showcase that they learnt not only great dancing skills but also

imbibed discipline, enhanced focus and received encouragement of their creative genius from their Gurus.

MUDRA Dance Festival Format & FAQ

Who Should Perform in Mudra Dance Festival?

Performance participation in MUDRA Dance Festival is by INVITATION ONLY. This is a stage for senior students and Gurus to show what best they have to offer to community and what our children should expect to become after going thru 8-9 year long dance education with full dedication and discipline at the academies.

MDF is not a stage for beginner or intermediate students. This event is not our Annual Talent Show Program where children perform.

The Event & Audience?

MDF is staged on outdoor stage on SUNDAY during the 10-12 days of Philadelphia Ganesh Festival. Community leaders, parents of young kids and mainstream American audience is expected.

MUDRA Dance Festival is a non-competing event. Audience entry is free. MDF wants nothing in return from Dance Academies or Audience. By providing an honest and positive platform to invited dance schools, MDF will be fulfilling the all-inclusive noble mission of Bharatiya Temple. Full honors & Felicitations to Gurus will be accorded for the service being performed in community and for their achievements.

At this festival, each Invited Dance Academies will have opportunity to perform 2-3 dance kritis. Dances on Pre-recorded Music or Live musical orchestra are welcome.

Invitation Process & Criteria?

- Mudra Dance Festival's committee's lead & co-lead will invite about 6-8 Gurus from full-time dance academies that offer regular weekly education during school year. As an oversight for following all guidelines true to the mission, Mudra Dance Festival committee will consult with PGF Core Team and Festival's mentor Ms. T Sarada and Mukund Kute to finalize the invitations.
- Our criteria for invitation is based on how dedicated the dance academies and Gurus are. Our aim is to invite different academies every year so as to invite most of the 2 dozens plus of academies from our area in the cycle of 2-3 years.
- We will also go by recommendations from Community leaders and president's of participating Associations.
- We will try to invite different dance academies offering many types of dance forms.
- PGF Core team volunteers will gladly attend Annual Programs and

Arangetrams of senior students from area dance academies if invited, and will make their recommendations to MUDRA leaders.

- We are open for suggestions and will strive to improve this process as we progress thru every year.

The take away for Audience & Community?

Mudra Dance Festival is audience's opportunity to learn more about dance academies performing outstanding service to community. Audience will see best students and Gurus perform at MDF and will recommend the showcased schools for admission to their family friends. Community will know the support needed by dance academies and need for scholarships awards.

The take away for Dance Schools?

Get appreciation from high spiritual institution like Bharatiya Temple. The praise and felicitation coming from a volunteer driven & service oriented organization to another doing similar selfless service, is more valuable than many stage-managed awards given at competitions. Dance Academies will have this spiritual platform to showcase their best without any worries of false competition and good schools are likely to gain many new students. MDF will include free short information about Invited dance schools in the Philadelphia Ganesh Festival brochure mailed to 5000 homes in greater Philadelphia.

Are solo performances acceptable?

Yes, solo dances are acceptable If Gurus feel that such a solo dance will show case their best talent. However, as organizers we feel that group of 4-8 dancers performing will be better since. The final call is Guru's.

Is there a age limit?

We have said in the document that this is not an opportunity for beginners and intermediate students but for Senior Students and Gurus themselves. We leave the age issue to Gurus to choose their best talent.

Are folk dances and semi classical dances acceptable?

Yes, all Indian dances are acceptable. When we say a dance academy can present 2-3 Kritis, we can suggest to them an example that one Kriti could be presented in Classical style while other Kritis could be presented in semi-classical style and folk/fusion style.. This way, the wide ranging capabilities of dance school will be show cased. If a dance school just teaches only one type of dance, we can leave the decision to Guru on how he/she wants to use the 2-3 Kritis opportunity.

Mudra Rules& Regulations:

(A) All invited dance schools should submit the names of performers, details about music, choreographer, coordinator and Gurus to the MDF team within 3 weeks of their acceptance of Invite. There is no fee for participation. Everyone is requested to stay back till the end when all invited Gurus receive their felicitation from temple's priest.

- (B) A dance school may submit no more than 3 dance kritis/items/entries.
- (C) Mudra Dance festival committee reserves the right to cancel the event in extreme circumstances like bad weather or any other venue related emergency. Adequate prior notice will be given based on weather forecast. We have an option to move the festival to our smaller indoor auditorium.
- (E) Since the dances are being performed in Hindu temple's religious and spiritual complex, maintaining the sanctity of this place is binding on all participants. Please ask if there any doubt. MDF Volunteers will happily guide you on dos and don'ts. Consumption of Alcoholic drinks and meats, smoking, violence of any kind and fighting should be avoided at Bharatiya Temple complex.
- (F) Suggestions from Gurus on sequencing their dances early or later due to other commitments are considered but the final decision of hosting MDF's team should be respected and followed in the spirit of mutual respect.
- (G) Timely reporting at back stage, 1 hour before scheduled performance is expected.
- (H) We expect all participants to observe safety rules. Please ask permission beforehand if you plan to use Confetti, Disco balls, Pyro-techniques, or Special effects with smoke etc. All such effects must have prior approval of MDF team
- (I) Mutual respect between organizers and participant academies is a very DESIRABLE. Technical difficulties if any should be handled with patience from all sides. We promise that every one will be treated with courtesy. We expect same from all participants. MDF values participation by Audience and performers. Organizers and Performers hold each other harmless from any and all claims for damages, injuries, causes of actions, or losses of any kind sustained at Bharatiya Temple complex.
- (j) Organizers and performers have full rights to any photos, video or audio recording on the event day and can use those for non-commercial promotional activities of respective institutions.
- (k) Your acceptance of invite will necessarily mean acceptance of all our rules and regulations

Mudra Committee Process

