

Short Biography-

Divya Kasturi - a rare blend of Tradition and Innovation! Divya is a cultural trailblazer in Dance whose career spans continents and disciplines. She has been blending the rich traditions of Bharatanatyam with cutting-edge technology for the past decade alongside performing exquisite classical work. With performances spanning global stages, having lent vocals to legends like Maestro Ilayaraja, Sir Paul McCartney (Beatles) and Nitin Sawhney, and a groundbreaking fusion of 3D hologram technology with classical Dance, Divya is consistently at the forefront of artistic innovation. Her work spans not just Dance-performance but also Carnatic Music, Choreography, Teaching/Education, Curation, and International outreach, making a huge impact in the lives of young people and her community of dancers. She is a current recipient of Time & Space Commission with Sadlers Wells (East), London. Other credits include QuestLab artist with Studio Wayne McGregor, Classical Intensive Choreographer Observer with Akram Khan Company, Actor-performer in Complicite's multi-award winning Theatre production *A Disappearing Number* having worked under the visionary director SimonMcBurney, Visiting faculty and Choreographer at London Contemporary Dance School(LCDS/The Place) and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London.

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Dance and Choreography

Divya's artistic roots lie in her Bharatanatyam having training under the revered Smt. & Sri Aravindan (*Kalakshetra*) and *Karnataka Kalashree* Guru Udipi Sri Laxminarayana. This classical foundation, imbued with her personal flair, has brought her performances to audiences from New York to Paris, Sydney to London, spellbinding global spectators. Expanding beyond Bharatanatyam, Divya embarked on a journey into Kathak, training under Smt. Jigyasa Giri and further honing her craft with masters like Smt. Gauri Sharma Tripathi, Smt. Kumudini Lakhia, and Smt. Aditi Mangaldas. Her Manch-Pravesh(Graduation-performance) in Kathak as well was a showcase to her versatility across classical forms.

Her work as a choreographer extends beyond her professional company (Divya Kasturi Company- DKC) works and the Indian/Asian Community to notably Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London School of Contemporary Dance, National Youth Music Theatre (UK), University of Winchester among others.

As part of the award-winning British theatre company Complicité, she performed in the multi-award winning, acclaimed production *A Disappearing Number*, which toured internationally, including Broadway, London's West End and National Theatre's NT Live. She continues her choreographic prowess collaborating with other contemporary artists and companies.

Music and Collaboration

Music, deeply ingrained in Divya's life stems from her family. Divya grew up steeped in *Carnatic* Vocal music with her mother Smt. Booma Kasturi, being a renowned musician herself. Being vocally trained with maestros such as Prof. Dr. T.V. Gopalakrishnan, Smt. Janaky Ramanujan, and Chitravina Ganesh has shaped her into a concert-level vocalist, uniting the worlds of sound and movement in her artistic practice.

Divya's musical prowess has led her to lend vocals to global legends, including Sir Paul McCartney, Maestro Ilayaraja, and Nitin Sawhney. Divya is also one of the rare artists who does Vocal and Nattuvangam simultaneously and her recent performance credits include rendering vocals for Bharatanatyam Arangetrams as well.

These encounters across diverse musical landscapes have defined her as an artist who seamlessly bridges the classical and contemporary worlds, from the rhythms of Carnatic music to Western symphonies.

Technology and Innovation

A pioneer in integrating technology with traditional dance forms, Divya became the first South-Asian dance artist to use 3-D hologram technology in her performances. Her master's dissertation set the record for pioneering the first virtual South Asian Dance Practice-as-Research M.A Dissertation (Roehampton University, London).

Divya is also the first-of-her-kind to take Bharatanatyam into the world of Virtual Reality Headsets. Through her Eye/I Create onto MargaM, Divya is on a ground-breaking path into this interdisciplinary endeavours.

Most recently, she has launched a large-scale outdoor reimagination of her path-breaking VR work MargaM involving projection-mapping in collaboration with Guildhall Production Studios' award-winning Creative Head Dan Shorten.

Her innovative approach has pushed the boundaries of performance arts and solidified her reputation as an artist unafraid to explore the future while staying rooted to the past.

Presently she is the TIME & SPACE commissioned artist with SADLER'S Wells, East, London. Her recent credits also include Projection-Mapping Bharatanatyam in collaboration with Guildhall Production Studio, London with a latest artwork exhibited at Vibrance Festival 2026 (MargaM-reimagined)

Education and Mentorship

In addition to her performances and choreography, Divya is a passionate educator. She founded DKC Young Talents (DKC YT, UK) to nurture future generations of Indian dancers and is a visiting faculty member at prestigious institutions such as Trinity Laban and The London School of Contemporary Dance. Her teaching, much like her performance, is an intricate balance of classical knowledge and modern exploration, fostering a deep respect for tradition while encouraging innovative thinking. She has presented her students through the Dance-debut/Arangetram modes (DKC YT students) as well as parallelly mentoring serious Bharatanatyam teachers/Practitioners through a sustained regular model of mentorship, coaching and bespoke tailored 121 support.

Divya's extended influence in India made her found SRINIDI Cultural Trust in 2005. Through SRINIDI, she curates an annual arts festival in Chennai, India, showcasing performances and nurturing an appreciation for the Indian Classical Arts every year since 2005! She is a recipient of Fellowship from Government of India, Department of Culture, an ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) empanelled artist and an "A" Grade artist at Doordarshan (National Channel of India). In 2007, she was awarded Tamil Nadu State's Highest award title of "Kalaimamani". Some of the other titles received include: *Natya Bhairavi*, *Yuva Kala*

Vipanchee, Nrithya Kala Sironmani, Yuva Kala Bharathi, Natya Selvam, Vani Kala Sudhakara, Natya Kala Priya, Nadanamamani, Natya Kalai Vani among others.

Theatre and Television

Divya has also made significant strides in Television. Working with major Indian channels like Sun Network, Jaya TV, Doordarshan, and Raj TV, she took on roles ranging from news reading and program anchoring to directing a children's dance-learning series. Her contributions to the BBC's Look East have extended her reach to a broader, international audience.

Ongoing work and Future Projects

Divya's lifelong commitment to learning continues with celebrated mentors like Smt. Nandini Ramani and Shri Mavin Khoo. Her recent selection as a Time & Space Artist with Sadlers Wells(London), QuestLab Artist at Studio Wayne McGregor (London), and participation in the Doing Dramaturgy course through South East Dance, UK, have deepened her explorations of dramaturgy in dance and performance.

Her critically acclaimed one-woman show, *To Varnam...With Love*—which merged storytelling with classical forms—toured the UK, leaving audiences captivated by its depth and emotions. Following this success, she launched *#OurVarnam*, an international outreach project aimed at connecting global audiences to the intricate beauty of South Asian classical arts.

AUTUMN 2025- she nationally toured the UK with her recent choreography [Genesis](#) (created with LCDS students as part of their final year BA Dance project) alongside her own WIW (Woman-inWaiting) based on Sangam poetry (R & D'd online as part of OJAS, Upasana Arts 2021).

This project enabled a vital link between providing professional career paths for fresh Dance Graduates as also enabling community-trained dancers to have valuable Industry-experience and exposures.

Divya also choreographed, conceptualised and set the Music as well for Dr. Debbie Ganguly-Patel's "Shades-of-Woman" (Satyam Dance, UK)- an Arts Council funded project with ongoing development and mentorship for Dr Debbie.

SPRING 2026- Divya is currently working on the next phase of creative -iterative development of her ground-breaking VR work *MargaM* through a current Arts Council funding.

Whether Divya is on stage performing, in the studio teaching, or behind the scenes creating new work, her passion for dance, music, and innovation shines through constantly. Her ability to break down barriers—whether cultural, disciplinary, or technological—makes her not just a dancer, but a true Ambassador of the Arts.