

Synopsis and Background

It has been 15 years since Sanskruti Cambridge opened its doors to children and adults to learn and enjoy South Asian performing arts. To celebrate our remarkable one and a half decades, Sanskruti's Bharatanatyam and Bollywood students – from the Beginners, learning basic movements, to the experienced Dance Explorers – have brought you the school's home production, **The Blue Avatar – Tales of a Flute Boy from Vrindavan**.

The show follows the life of Krishna, the friendly and cheeky cowherd, who lives in a village called Vrindavan with his dad, mum, and older brother. He throws tantrums, he is a prankster, he mesmerises the whole village with his melodious flute, and he loves to dance! Come and share our joy as we weave a tapestry of Krishna's stories with a medley of colours, songs and dance.

We have used five Indian dance styles: (1) Bharatanatyam, (2) Bharatanrityam, including Karanas and Natyashastra *charis*, (3) Dandiya Raas (from North India) or Kolattam (from South India), (4) Garba and (5) Bollywood dance to showcase the talent and versatility of Sanskruti students.

The Blue Avatar tells Krishna's stories through dance, theatre, music, narrative, props and costumes following the principles of Natyashastra. Although Natyashastra was written almost 2000 years ago by Bharatha as the Indian treatise on performing arts, we at Sanskruti have tried to keep it relevant for today's audience.

About Sanskruti Cambridge

Sanskruti Cambridge is an award-winning dance school and company. The school trains students in Bharatanatyam, Bollywood dance and Karanas. The professional company, supported by Arts Council England, creates dance theatre for children and families, including our award-winning productions, Apple 'N' Spice and Magical Honey.

"I loved your dance/storytelling performances. I could tell the young people worked hard on their performance." – **Audience Feedback**

"You have made Bharatanatyam accessible" - Audience Feedback

"Making a Difference" - BBC Cambridgeshire

"...Is Superb" - BritishTheatre.com

CREDITS

Performers

Aarthi, Linnea, Oishani, Martina, Gayathiri, Roopa, Neethu, Sia, Ana, Elaanya, Anjali, Mouboni, Aadya, Dhanvika, Manasi, Diya, Niveditha, Medha, Akshitaa, Esha, Nandita, Ojasvi, Sadhana, Saisha, Shambhawi, Tanvi, Tessa, Saanvi, Ashera, Anvi, Ragavi, Aradhana, Sonakshi, Kriti, Esther, Ishanya, Arya, Amaeya, Nina, Manishwini, Jayathi, Jia, Dhana, Hemaashri, Emma, Jayani, Indira, Mehuli, Catherine, Ila, Anika, Anaya, Reya, Meera, Parvati, Saanchi, Sanvika, Anushka, Sissy, Annapoorna, Akira, Shloka, Dhruvi, Geetika, Nina, Alga, Eva, Hetal, Richard, Anita, Isla, Niamh, Reya, Sunishka and Arjun.

Stage Management: Lynne Otto, FitSteps, St. Neots

Chaperones and Backstage Management: Lisa-Marie Montoute, Louisa Hewitt, Amanda Dibben, Gayathiri Subramaniam, Martina Ghinetti, Neethu Vivek, Krishna Zivraj-Nair

Lighting Design: Lynne Otto, FitSteps, St. Neots **Sound and Music Mixing:** Chris John Mathew

Technical Support: Donvan Lever & Hendrix Martin, Cambridge Junction

Event Management: Leo Howse, Cambridge Junction

Box Office Ticket Sales: Cambridge Junction

Photography: Simon Richardson

Videography: Chris John Mathew

Photography for Poster and Marketing: AmanVani Photography

Poster and Marketing Design: Martina Ghinetti and Krishna Zivraj-Nair

Voiceover artist: Anjali Das

Script, Screenplay and Dialogues: Anjali Das and Krishna Zivraj-Nair

Teaching and Choreography Assistants: Linnea Husmann, Martina Chinetti,

Neethu Vivek, Anjali Das and Gayathiri Subramaniam

Props and Costumes Concept and Design: Krishna Zivraj-Nair

Props Creation: Linnea Husmann, Martina Ghinetti, Neethu Vivek, Anjali Das, Gayathiri Subramaniam and Krishna Zivraj-Nair

Costume Making:

- 1) Anubhav and Ekta, Team Folktastic, Mumbai, India
- 2) Dayanand Shetty, Hamsa Tailors, Bangalore, India
- 3) Beena Aji, The Fashion Touch, Sultan Bathery, Wayanad, Kerala, India
- 4) Stitch Well, Haripad, Kerala, India

Costume Coordination: Dimple Abraham, Neethu Vivek, Deepthi Francis, Maha Acharya, Anita Chabra and Krishna Zivraj-Nair









L to R - Dimple, Deepthi, Maha, Neethu and Anita

Concept, Choreography, and Direction: Krishna Zivraj-Nair

Produced by



Acknowledgements

With thanks to all parents, students, teachers, families, and well-wishers of Sanskruti Cambridge for their support and commitment throughout the production of *The Blue Avatar... Tales of a Flute Boy from Vrindavan*









