



Arathi School of Dance

Phoenix/Tucson, AZ

in association with

GoBrahma Productions

presents



Asha Gopal

Founder & Artistic Director
Arathi School of Dance



OCT 31 &
NOV 1, 2026



12:30 pm
to 4:00 pm

DR. SANJAY SHANTARAM'S CHANDRALEKHA THE LOST COURTESAN



KHANKHANĀ

THE SOUND OF DANCING FEET
BY NRITYAGRAM

Dr Veena Murthy Vijay



Curator



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Kalashri Asha Gopal, a distinguished dancer and educator, is the founder and director of the Arathi School of Dance. She is an expert in the Pandanallur style of Bharata Natya, having trained under eminent teachers, Guru Muthiah Pillai, Guru Kittappa Pillai and Professor U.S. Krishna Rao.



Through her illustrious career, Asha Gopal has represented, both the Governments of India and Karnataka, as cultural ambassador, performing for dignitaries, including Sikkim for King of Sikkim, Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau of Canada, two Presidents of India and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. And, she has captivated the audience with memorable performances in Canada, Europe, Mexico and the USA.

Asha Gopal's dedication and untiring work has earned her accolades and many prestigious awards and citations. The Guinness Book of World Records for graduating the most number of students with Arangetrams (2016), Woman of Distinction Award (2026), Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Fine Arts Association of Arizona (2023) and the Soorya Performing Arts, St Louis, Missouri (2024), 'Abhinaya Saraswathi' award from the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia (2019), Citizen of the Year Award from the Asian American Association of Arizona (2000), NRI Excellence Award (London, England, 1993), Karnataka Kalashri Award (1999), and 'Singar Mani' title from Sur Singer Samsad (Mumbai, 1969).

Asha Gopal's fervor for promoting Indian culture abroad led her to the establishment of Arathi School of Dance in Phoenix, in 1981. It has since seen the graduation of over 250 students. The school feels justly proud and gratified that the school graduates, and other students, have bonded with our art, culture and heritage, and acquired the fortitude to pass it on to the next generation.

Asha Gopal's tireless energy and dedication has drawn heart-warming felicitations and awards from India: 'Classical Dance Virtuoso Abhinaya Saraswathi' award, Srivani Center, Bengaluru (2025), Shivapriya School of Dance, Bengaluru (2014), Sangeetha Sambrama, Bengaluru (Nirantharam Festival, 2012), Drishti Art Foundation, Bengaluru (Drishti Nrityakala Puraskara, 2011), 25-year Vasundharotsava, Mysuru (2010), Sri Raja Rajeshwari Kalaniketan, Bengaluru (Natya Saraswati award, 2008), and Sri Ragam Fine Arts Society, New Delhi (Balasaraswati dance award, New Delhi, 2005).

Asha Gopal has served on the Phoenix Arts Commission as a panel judge for grant applications. She served as judge for dance competitions at the Kannada World Conference in Orlando, Florida in 2004 and at the University of Michigan Raas Association in Ann Harbor, Michigan in 2008. She has served as guest examiner in India for board exams in dance.

