

ARTS EXPRESS

Quarterly Newsletter



From the Founder's Desk

Greetings to fellow UCPAians!

UCPA is happy to release its second edition of the Quarterly Newsletter - 'Arts Express', to connect with each one of you and keep you informed of the happenings within UCPA and its operations. This edition covers the UCPA buzz pertaining to the quarter - July to Sept 2021.



As we continue to ride on the digital wave for now, all the events conducted in the bygone quarter have been online and strictly adhering to the safety norms whenever students were required to be at the institution premises for practice or recording purposes.

This quarter has had a mix of interesting events involving not just the students but also the UCPA family, leading to an increased level of qualitative engagement amongst all UCPA family members, right from the youngest student to the senior most grand parent.

Each event has been unique in its own way. While some of them catered to the entertainment quotient, a couple of them were educative and of great learning experience. A new series called 'Kalanubhav' was also introduced during this quarter. As part of the industry connect program, UCPA had the fortune of listening to and interacting with a pioneer in the field of liberal education.

On the whole, it has been a very fulfilling experience for me personally, and for all the UCPAians as well.

Finally, the events calendar for the next quarter is already up and I am personally looking forward to the same.

Stay happy, stay safe and stay connected.

Geetha Ganesan
Founder Director

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A Retro Evening

A talent showcase by UCPA's extended family

Our culture beautifully & thoughtfully emphasizes the relationship hierarchy each one of us share, from the time of birth throughout our existence. Yes, for most of us, parents are the first 'everything' - mother, who brings us into the world and nurtures us, father who gives us exposure to the world and guides us through. They are our first mentors, first friends, first well-wishers and first love too. They make small and big sacrifices to ensure we get the best. As children, we might not have understood and realized this and often taken them for granted. But as we grow, we begin to realize their importance.

Over the years, most parents have gotten so involved in their professional and family life that they hardly have time to spare for themselves and their passion. One of the common statements often made by parents being, 'we could not learn the art form during our time for various reasons - we at least want our children to learn and pursue them'. They seem to have pushed aside their own passion for the sake of kids.

To recognize their efforts, UCPA celebrated Parents' Day on the 1st of August 2021 - an evening dedicated to the wonderful parents in the UCPA family, primarily aimed at encouraging them by providing a platform to exhibit their talent. The theme of the program was 'Retro Evening', where the parents had to come up with retro film-based creative performances.

The highly enthusiastic parents and grandparents came up with a range of mind-blowing performances, which included - songs, dances, mono acting and a skit.

The evening began with a bang. It started with a Retro Bollywood song by Mr. Kannan and then dances to retro numbers by Ms. Sangeetha, Ms. Poulomi, Ms. Vrushali, Ms. Udayalakshmi, mother and daughter duo - Ms. Ashritha and Ms. Roja retro songs sung by Ms. Subha, Mrs. Lakshmi Priya, Ms. Harini, Ms. Geetha, Ms. Marudwathi, Ms. Aruna. The evening also saw Ms. Vijaya Lakshmi who played the Veena, Ms. Ambika who danced as "Mahanati" Savitri to the film song 'aha na pellanta', mono acting and flawless delivery of few dialogues from the movie 'Swarna Kamalam' by Mrs. Karuna and Mrs. Suvidha enacting the Telugu Silver Screen Supremo - Chiranjeevi.

Performance by Ms. Pramila and Mr. Venkatesh Kumar singing a duet Bollywood number came as a pleasant surprise, while a beautiful episode from the movie Gitanjali was brilliantly enacted by Ms. Kalyani and Mr. Venkatesh Prasad Chilakapati, was one of the highlights of the evening.

Icing on the cake being, two 'young at heart' performers who proved that 'age is just a number' through their performances with the highest pedigree of enthusiasm. Mr. C.S. Mohan Rao, in his early 70's, beautifully rendering the timeless classics of Ghantashala and Mr. Hariharan, in his early 80's, enacting the evergreen actor Devanand. Their performances were an inspiration to all of us.

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A Retro Evening

A talent showcase by UCPA's extended family

It seemed like each of the participants roaring as 'Hum Kisi Se Kam Nahin!' – a great takeaway for the viewers. Such was the spirit of the evening whereby the event went on for about three hours with full cheer and attendance.

UCPA Honchos – Rishika, Navya, Amrutha and Nihaarika coordinated this event, while Amrutha and Nihaarika anchored the show.

UCPA expresses its indebtedness to all the parents and grandparents for sparing their valuable time, participating, entertaining and enjoying all the performances throughout the evening.



Kalanubhav Series

Ms. Kankana Singh - Manipuri Dancer

What is the purpose of any art form, especially Performing Arts?

As Bharatha mentions in the 'Natya Shastra', the performing art form is meant to bring an aesthetic flavor called the 'Rasa' (essence). This essence is an experience both for the performer and the audience. This experience is called 'Anubhava', and when it is amalgamated with an art form, it is termed as "Kalanubhav". With an intent to providing varied artistic experiences of different indigenous art forms of our country, UCPA has come up with its series called 'Kalanubhav'.

The Kalanubhav series is an experiential learning platform where artists from various genres share their knowledge on their respective art forms, their artistic journey and also insightful experiences. It aims at providing an opportunity for learning and understanding the diverse art forms of our country. This series was inaugurated on the 15th of August 2021, to coincide with the Indian Independence Day, thus respecting and recognizing our Nation's cultural diversity.

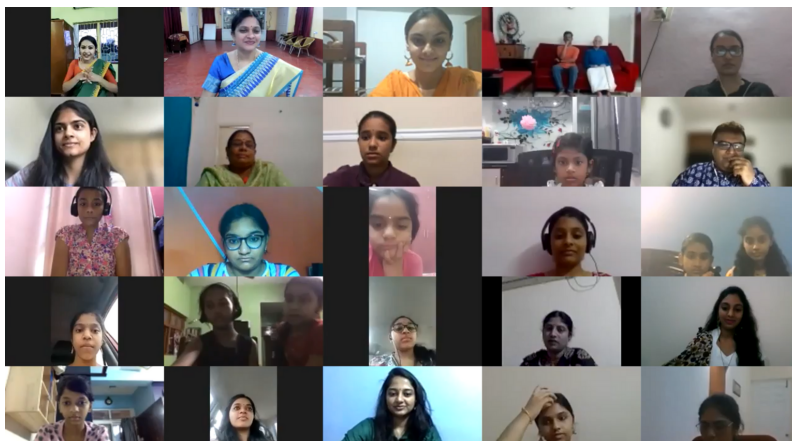
Ms. Kankana Singh - Manipuri Dance

Known for its jaw-dropping landscape, flora and fauna, Manipur is indeed the 'Jewel of India'. Coming from this land is a beautiful dance form called 'Manipuri' which is also recognized as one of the nine classical dance forms of our country. Kankana Singh, a passionate Manipuri artiste, an ace performer, teacher and soloist with almost two decades of training and performing experience, was the first artist to be invited to speak in the Kalanubhav series. She is currently the Creative Director at Nartanangan.

Addressing the students of UCPA, she spoke about the rich cultural heritage of Manipur, History and evolution of the Manipuri dance, various dance movements in brief, costumes & makeup and also the presentation format. It was an enriching experience to all those who attended this two hour presentation which also had a short practical session to get a first hand experience of 'nritta' in this dance form, which looked very different from Bharatanatyam, both in style and approach.

The session had a few practical demonstrations by Kankana which was well received and reciprocated by the UCPAians. This event was facilitated by UCPA Honcho, Navya Sravani.

Many more interesting sessions are on the cards. Stay tuned.



Teachers Day Exclusive

**Gurur Brahma, Gurur Vishnu, Gurur Devo Maheshwarah
Guru Saakshaat Parabrahma, Tasmai Shri Guruve Namah**

Teachers are abundant in this world, but Gurus are limited. While the teacher disseminates unconditional knowledge and makes you learn, a Guru hand holds you in every walk of life. The Guru travels with you in ensuring that you are in the right trajectory. UCPA is ever grateful to Geetha Ganesan for having played the dual role of both being a teacher and guru. For over two decades, Geetha has been instrumental in connecting with her students, cultivating their talent and collaborating them with performing arts. She has stood by the tenet of UCPA and played both the role of a teacher and guru with a perfect blend.

Guruprasad Deshpande (Guru da as he is fondly known as and classmate of Geetha Ganesan), onboarded UCPA during February 2017. An entrepreneur and a co-founder of 7 successful start-ups across India and Southeast Asia, he has been instrumental in leading the musical crescendo for UCPA in addition to bringing the industry compliance and best practices. He has been a pioneer in introducing the enterprise wing for

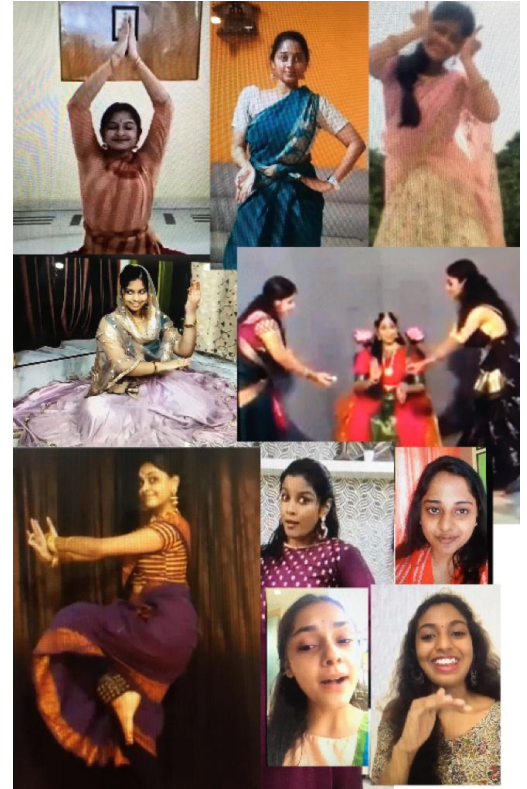
UCPA and providing a platform for select UCPAians and a few parents, to directly connect and interact with the industry - so that the exclusive members of the Industry Connect Program get a complete and real time appreciation of the Industry Challenges and Opportunities. He has been a mentor to a couple of senior students within UCPA in leading them towards leadership, entrepreneurship and focus.

In a small attempt to show their love and respect to both Geetha and Guru, the honchos, along with a few UCPAians, came up with a lovely surprise to celebrate their mentors through performances and wishes.

The event was exclusively hosted by the Honchos and was moderated by Rishika Venkatesh and Navya Sravani V.

UCPA has grown tremendously as a performing arts institution over the years. The founders were happy to see that they have been able to impact the lives of UCPA constituents. The very warm regards that they received from the students, further filled their hearts with immeasurable joy.

Apart from the artform, the students were grateful to have learnt the core values encompassing the right attitude, tradition, culture, humility and discipline.



The 'Next Gen' Performers

A token of appreciation for the new students of UCPA

Until a year ago, various performing arts stakeholders including artists, teachers, parents, audience were quite skeptical about the future of performances. Thanks to technology for teaching a wonderful lesson to all of us encompassing the agility and adaptability.

The pandemic has enabled new avenues both in teaching and delivery methodology, which is being embraced by the entire performing arts Industry. We, at UCPA, are no exception to the digital ride. We have seamlessly embraced the digital norm, which has turned out to be more effective and productive.

Upholding the tradition of encouraging the institution's budding talents, UCPA recently organized performances by the young students on the 19th of Sept 2021, as part of the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

The performances were divided into three groups.

Group I: Alarippu

- Pranavi Krishnapriya R. – Class IV, Kiran International School, Hyd
- Muskaan Bhatia – Class V, Johnson Grammar School, Habsiguda, Hyd
- Nihira Bandi – Class IV, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sec'bad



Group II: Alarippu

- Iniya Nachiyar – Class VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1, Uppal, Hyd
- Nakshatra Badami – Class VII, Oxford Grammar School, Hyd
- Ramya - Class VI, BRR Girls High School, Hyd

Group III: Shabdam

- Shrikari Chillara – Class VI, Delhi Public School, Nacharam, Hyd.
- K. Yuvathi – Class X, Sri Vidyanikethan International School, Hyd

It was indeed a new experience for these young performers, as it was their first ever virtual show, and for some of them, their debut performance too. The joy on their faces and the enthusiasm with which they had participated in the online practice sessions as well as on the day of recording, seemed worth every effort taken. The performers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to their Guru Geetha Ganesan, as well as their seniors – Subhanvitha, Sreshtha and Navya, who have been instrumental in preparing them for the event. It is worth mentioning here that the entire show was an in-house production. It was well received and appreciated by all the viewers present that evening.

UCPA congratulates the next generation performers and appreciates the commitment of the seniors in handholding them. The entire event was moderated by Shrestha with utmost professionalism.

Industry Connect Program

'Performing arts is non negotiable' - Dr. Indira Parikh

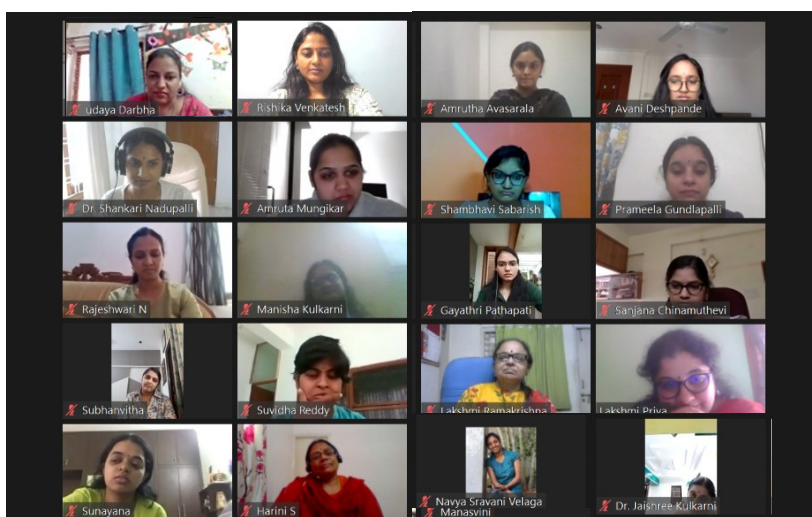
As individuals, we come across many circumstances in life where we are forced to take tough and impending decisions while being on befuddled crossroads. 'That is when the undaunted succeed and become distinguished from the rest', Dr. Indira Parikh, former Dean of IIM-Ahmedabad and founding member of FLAME (Foundation for Liberal and Management Education) University, Pune, said, while addressing a curated gathering at UCPA (Uttaraa Center for Performing Arts, Hyderabad), recently.



The guest of honor Dr. Parikh, curtain-raised the event by sharing an anecdote of how a set of students listened to their 'inner voice' and rallied themselves in quest of survival and success, thereby becoming change makers for the rest of their followers. Had they not listened to their inner voice, the students would have stagnated themselves and wouldn't have had the excitement to curvet through the trajectory – she added. Dr.Parikh has been one such valiant person, who believed in innovating the Indian education system with an on-demand form of education, "The Liberal Education"

Advocating performing arts as a non-negotiable ingredient, she remarked that dance, music and theatre are the most powerful tools that students should get handshake with, early in their lives, to have a sustained qualitative lifestyle. She urged the students to embrace performing arts with academics, with equal importance, as studies revealed exceptional results with this kind of a complimenting approach.

The former IIM Ahmedabad Dean shared that when she had launched the courses at FLAME University, she came up with the idea of a four-year study program. She emphasized that blending Performing Arts with the academic pedagogy helps the learner in inculcating discipline, confidence and expressiveness, which is extremely important in one's growth. Dr. Parikh further stated that it is not essential to know the art form to seek an admission, but what is important is the desire to explore, learn and sustain the art form, post seeking an admission.



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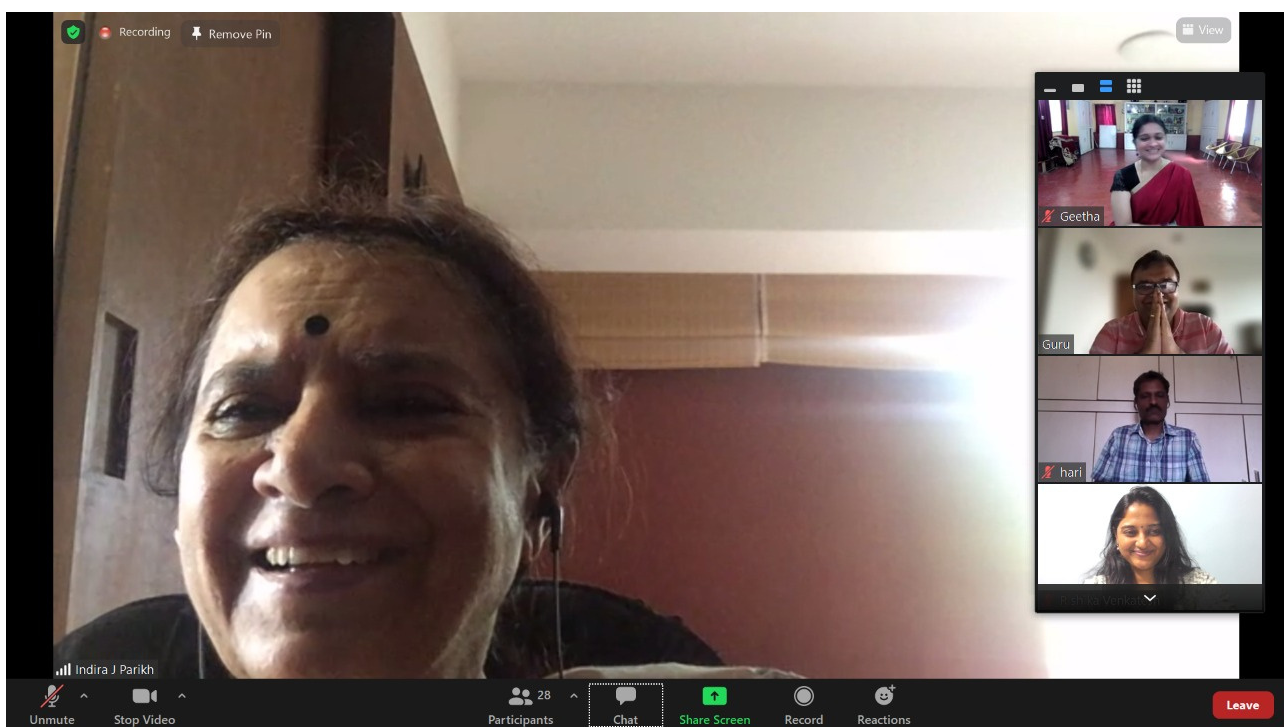
Industry Connect Program

'Performing arts is non negotiable' - Dr. Indira Parikh

Recalling an incident with pride, she said that a student had joined a course and chosen Bharatanatyam as her elective. The student was so inspired by dance, that she missed her academics in her quest to deep dive into the art form. But considering her passion and sustenance towards performing arts, an exception was made, and the student was allowed to return and complete her academics at a later stage. Such is the power of performing arts in liberal education – she added. During her tenure with FLAME University, both Performing Arts and Sports were made mandatory as part of the Liberal Education. Such a combination makes students – humble, nimble, grounded and expressive – she added.

During one of the questions raised during the Q& A by a student of UCPA on the integration of science with liberal education, she stated that Science and Arts as a career, go hand in glove with Liberal Education. “Our Rishis and Munis were scientists who also excelled in Music as an art form. Science takes you to a logical conclusion whereas Liberal Education broadens the horizons,” Dr. Parikh explained.

She complimented the management team of UCPA, its students and parents, for all the relentless efforts in building a world-class performing arts institution and encouraged the students of UCPA not to give up on performing arts. She also advised the students to encourage liberal education, as this form of education would be the trendsetter for the Indian Education System in the years to arrive.



UCPA Buzz

Katta Nandini



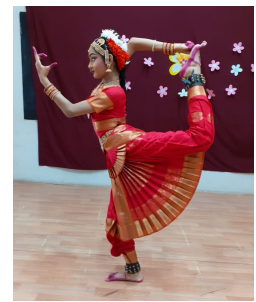
- 1st Prize in Nrityanjali, 5th Online Classical Dance Festival & Competition 2021, New Delhi
- Performed during Ganesh Chaturthi

Hasitha Reddy



75th Independence Day Celebrations at Indo Canadian association - PEI, Canada

Yoshitha Biswas



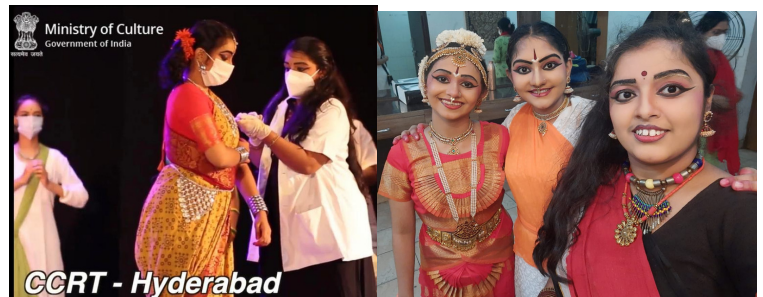
2nd Prize, Solo Dance (Classical) at Virtual Molicol Fest. Little Flower School, Uppal

Sarvani Gundlapalli



- Sep 5th - Teacher's Day, TIME school
- Aug 15th - Independence Day, TIME school

S. Subhanvitha, Shambhavi Sabarish, Aditi Kulkarni



CCRT Scholarship holders of UCPA participated at the 43rd National Cultural Festival - 'Amrith Sthambh' as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'

UCPA congratulates each of you who have actively participated in the competitions and events. We wish you all the best.

A Note of Thanks



“People will hate **you**, rate **you**, shake **you** and break **you**. No reasons to complain about it. But how strong you stand, will only **make you**.” This was the new doctrine of the quarter.

Our trajectory of success has come from contributors, fence sitters and naysayers. We are grateful to all the three communities without whom, we wouldn't have rallied ourselves in the direction where we are in today.

While reading through all the chapters of this newsletter, you must be wondering on how diverse a performing arts institution such as yours (UCPA), could have got. We also echo your inner surprise and wish to place on records that, five quintessential elements have gotten us there.

1. Acquiescent Attitude
2. Focus on the moment
3. Embracing adversity
4. Agility
5. Humility

Apart from being the flagbearer of individual dance form of teaching and learning, UCPA aims in enclapsing multifariousness, thereby extending a meritorious platform to both students and parents across domain. Our perpetual efforts in bringing in diversity through various genres of dance forms, family inclusion initiatives, performances and Industry Connect programs are expected to shape the individuals and the institution while bracing both the unforeseen and predictable circumstances.

Such a heterogeneity in our operations has made us distinguished in the academic fraternity, and we are now the new champions in town.

While diversity is a journey, we continue to sustain the 'championship' impetus with all your support.

Stay safe and tuned.

Guruprasad Deshpande

Mentor of Change & Co Founder (UCPA)

UCPA

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