

ARTS EXPRESS

Quarterly Newsletter



From the Founder's Desk



At the outset, I take the pleasure in wishing you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2022.

I am very glad to welcome you to the third edition of UCPA's Quarterly Newsletter - 'Arts Express'.

UCPA has always been focusing on continuous learning, knowledge share and dissemination, and of course entertainment. A beautiful blend of all the three is what made this journey in the last quarter of 2021, very exciting for the UCPAians.

The quarter took off on a high note with our Guest Speaker, Prof Manish Singhal from XLRI Jamshedpur, addressing the UCPAians with a powerful topic on Emotional Intelligence. A new series - 'Nrithyamala' - a garland of dances, was introduced in this quarter to give a platform and encourage the budding artists of UCPA. Kathak exponent Dr. Tina Tambe gave a lecture - demonstration on the Indian Classical dance form Kathak as part of the 'Kalanubhav' series. Apart from these, UCPA was seen bouncing back on stage with two live performances at prestigious venues in the city, after a long gap owing to the pandemic.

Personally, for me, this quarter has been very inspiring in every way. Also, performing with the students on three different occasions almost after five years - was a very satisfying and fulfilling experience.

We at UCPA, are constantly striving towards giving the best of experiential learning to each of our students and the extended families. A lot of events have been lined up for the year 2022 as well.

This edition of the newsletter will detail the all the buzz pertaining to the quarter - Oct to Dec 2021.

Happy reading.

Geetha Ganesan
Founder Director

1. FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

2. THIS NEW TEAM - THAT EXTRA MILE

3. INDUSTRY CONNECT PROGRAM - PROF. MANISH SINGHAL

4. NRITHYAMALA - A VIRTUAL TREAT

5. STAGE PERFORMANCE - TELANGANA SANGEETA NATAKA AKADEMI

6. KALANUBHAV - DR. TINA TAMBE

7. STAGE PERFORMANCE - UDVIGNA NATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

8. CREATING A LEGACY - GURUPRASAD DESHPANDE

This New Team - That Extra Mile



Mr. G Ganesan, President, UCPA, handing over the appreciation certificates to the Honchos - Rishika Venkatesh and Navya Sravani

Change is the only constant within UCPA, as we constantly strive hard to build a strong and resilient second-in-command to carry on the lineage, both from the operations and performing arts perspective.

We take pride in making this announcement that Rishika Venkatesh and Navya Sravani have qualified to become the 'new hustling pair' of Honchos, thereby assuming complete additional responsibilities and accountability towards the operations of UCPA, in specific – along with performing arts.

Aligning with the tenet of respecting and recognizing contributing individuals with the right 'attitude', UCPA takes pride in awarding a Certificate of Appreciation and cash prize to both Rishika and Navya, for their relentless contributions during the fiscal, 2021.

A huge shout-out to them to have beautifully blended the best practices of UCPA operations with performing arts, in addition to their daily chores. They have sweated beyond their call of duty to ensure a seamless operational experience for the Institution.

UCPA congratulates Rishika and Navya for this commendable feat.

Industry Connect Program

Prof. Manish Singhal



Many of us tend to multi-task to stay ahead in time and assume that it is the only way to be in the race. But little did we realise that it does more harm than good - Prof. Manish Singhal, Organizational Behavior, XLRI, Jamshedpur said, whilst addressing a curated group of UCPAians on the 30th of Oct 2021.

Prof. Manish Singhal started the session by addressing the audience on how and why, to clear the space while shifting from one task to another.

He walked the audience through the consequences and efficiencies associated when one multi-tasks and urged us to get rid of our misconceptions that multi-tasking is always the key to a higher productivity.

The Professor then went on to display an 'emotional matrix' and explained us on the unpredictable emotions that we come across in our daily lives. He believes that we individuals are trying to juggle between two different worlds: "Outer and Inner". He asserted that it is important to maintain a clear and calm center from within to manage the outer part of the world.

Indeed, we frequently tend to ignore the emotions we encounter in our society, relationships, organizations, etc. Prof. Manish Singhal reminded us that we humans are not emotion-free and ignored emotions are disruptive in nature. It is the emotional intelligence that makes one unique and the intelligence lies in managing and sailing through such emotions.

He had taken a few references to explain the individual behavior in a very interactive and jovial manner.

He talked about the typical and mindful ways to deal with emotions and ended the session with a powerful thought to ponder upon - 'It is not the water outside of the boat that sinks it but the one in it' added Prof. Manish - thus coaching us on managing uncertainties from a place of unshakable calm.

On a whole, it was a very thought-provoking session where the audience got to revisit some of the basic nuances of daily lives.



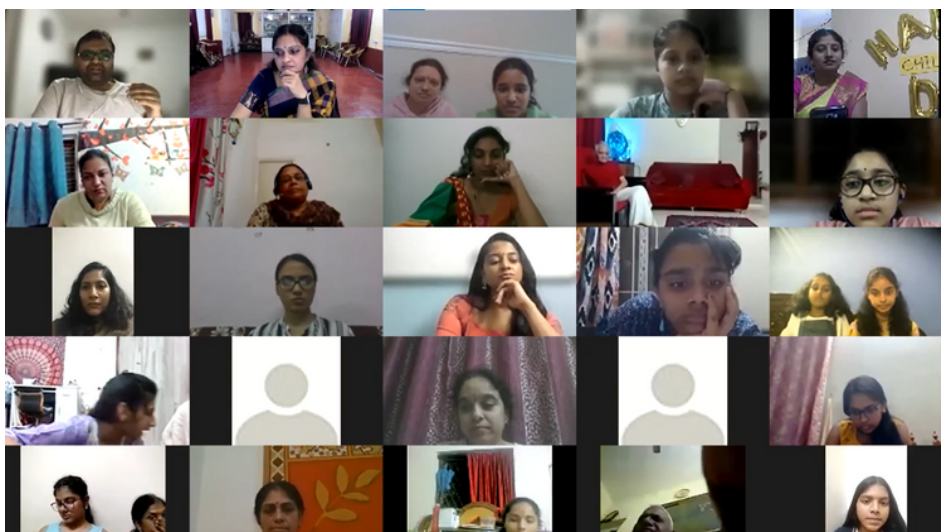
Nrityamala

A Virtual Treat

Following the enthusiastic responses from participants during the previously held online performances, UCPA decided to host more such shows to encourage our aspiring students. 'Nrityamala' – a garland of dances, that has been introduced, will continue to provide the much-needed on-stage experience to the UCPAians.

The students of UCPA came up with a few items from the Bharatanatyam repertoire for this event. It is a moment of pride for UCPA to mention here that the overseas students of UCPA also actively performed for Nrityamala. The items performed included -

- **Ganesha Kauthvam** - set to Nattai Ragam and Adi talam - presented by Hasitha Reddy (from Canada), Sreya Das, Tanvi Peraboina, and Yoshitha Biswas
- **Alarippu** in Thisra Jaathi - presented by the newcomers Vaishnavi Nerella, Lakshmi Kumari, Ashritha Kalidindi and Hasini Nerella.
- **Jathiswaram** - set to Mohana Ragam and Roopaka Talam - presented by Sri Raaga Chilakapati (from the USA), Smt. Ambica Nerella and Shanmukhapriya
- **Ya Kundendu** – a shloka set to Ragamalika - in praise of Goddess Saraswati presented by Smt. Manjula Kannan and Smt. Harini Saranyan. This was followed by a composition of Mysore Vasudevachar – **Maamavathu Sri Saraswathi** - set to Hindola Ragam and Adi Talam – presented by Dhruthika Bandi, Harshitha Kulkarni, Sharvani Gundlapalli, Bhavika Reddy, Manaswini Darbha, Prerana Vaishnavi and Nithya Prashansa



Continued...

Nrityamala

A Virtual Treat

- **Devar Munivar Thozhum Paadan**, a Pada Varnam composed by Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman set to Shanmukapriya Ragam and Adi Talam was presented as the grand finale. This item came as a pleasant surprise to the viewers as the senior students of UCPA – Rishika Venkatesh, Navya Sravani and Subhanvitha came together to perform along with Geetha Ganesan, primarily for the joy of dancing together and also to inspire the budding artists of UCPA.

Senior UCPAians - Navya Sravani, Shubhanvitha and Amrutha Avasarala had contributed towards conducting practice sessions for the young artists. The audio-visual was put together professionally by Navya Sravani who also seamlessly facilitated the event.

'Nrityamala' is a huge inspiration to all the fellow UCPAians.



Stage Performances

Telangana Sangeeta Nataka Akademi

The majesty of an open-air auditorium, flashing lights, music in the background, sound of bells around the feet and an audience edging on their seats to watch UCPA roar: were all, multiple icings on a cake.



Being a performing arts institution and despite getting many offers, live stage performances were put on hold completely by UCPA for over 20 months owing to the pandemic. Health and safety is utmost paramount to the institution and we cant afford any negligence in this regard. The patient wait finally came to an end in November 2021 when UCPA accepted the invitation from the Telangana Sangeeta Nataka Akademi to perform in the 'Festival of Classical Music and Dance', a three-day festival organized in collaboration with the Department of Language and Culture, Telangana, South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur and Shilparamam Arts, Crafts and Cultural Society, Uppal, Telangana.

Team UCPA performed on the 27th of Nov 2021 at Mini - Shilparamam, Uppal, Hyderabad. Eleven UCPAians including Geetha Ganesan, Rishika, Navya, Subhanvitha, Lasyanjali, Sanjana, Dhruthika, Bhavika, Joshnavi, Yoshitha and Hasini performed in this festival.

The program was well received by the audience. The Chief Guest for the evening, Sri Mukteshwara Rao, IAS (Retd.) was highly appreciative of the performances and congratulated Team UCPA on this occasion. The Guest of Honor, a senior artiste and a Kuchipudi exponent Dr. Bhagavathula Sethuram, Professor (Retd.) Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University showered his blessings on the artists and said that the future of this art form is safe in the hands of both UCPA and Geetha Ganesan.

Once the pandemic subsides and the Government of India declares safety, UCPA shall be delighted to embrace live stage shows. Until then, UCPA shall hand pick the live shows owing to the safety of all UCPAians and abide by the safety regulations.



Kalanubhav Series

Ms. Tina Tambe - Kathak Exponent

As part of the knowledge enhancement programs for the UCPAians, the Kalanubhav series was introduced by UCPA in the previous quarter, to explore and provide knowledge on the diverse art forms and the culture associated with them. As part of this, the first session was on Manipuri and the second session, presented in this quarter, was on yet another Indian Classical Dance form, Kathak.

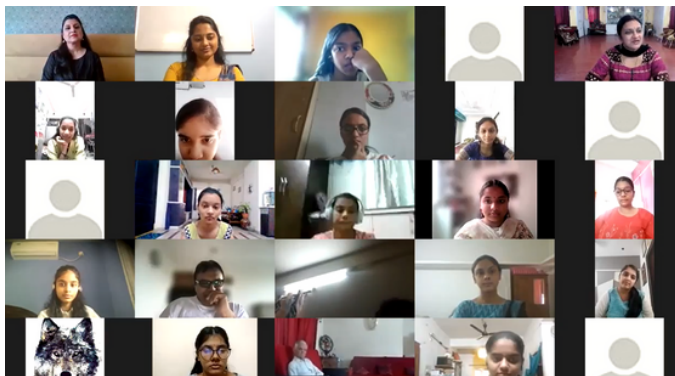
Dr. Tina Tambe, a well-known Kathak exponent, Director- Ninad Centre for Performing Arts, was invited to give a lecture demonstration and introduce this beautiful dance form to the UCPAians. She is a Doordarshan 'A' grade artist and holds a PhD from Vikram University (Ujjain) for her research work on 'Dance elements in Meera's poetry' - in the context of Kathak.



Dr. Tina walked the audience through the evolution of Kathak - from the erstwhile 'Kathakars' (the storytellers) to the present day Kathak dancers. The changes and transformations that Kathak underwent during various reigns, the influence of Mughal period, Bhakti Movement, evolution of the different Gharanas (styles), their characteristics, features, costumes, format of presentation, music, etc. were well illustrated in detail by Dr. Tina, in her two-hour long presentation.

The session concluded with a live demonstration by Dr. Tina. There was also an interactive session that followed as the students were seen cheerfully engaged in learning a few steps of Kathak from the exponent, herself.

Received very well by all the participants - no doubt, this kind of an experiential learning will truly help the UCPAians to understand and appreciate the art forms much better, in the times to come.



Stage Performances

UDVIGNA - National Dance Festival

UCPA's year 2021 concluded with a spectacular performance in the National Dance Festival – UDVIGNA 2021, organized and presented by Guru Shri Shivananda Nrutyamala and Dept. of Language and Culture, Govt. of Telangana in association with South Zone Cultural Centre (Thanjavur), Ministry of Culture (Govt. of India) and Telangana Tourism.

UDVIGNA, as a platform, brought together eminent artists from all over the country on one stage. Amidst colorful performances by artists presenting the different Indian Classical Dance forms, UCPA represented Telangana and gave a brilliant Bharatanatyam performance on the 20th of December 2021 at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad.

Team UCPA's eleven artists – Geetha Ganesan, Rishika, Navya, Subhanvitha, Amrutha, Lasyanjali, Sanjana, Dhruthika, Sharvani, Junelia and Bhavika presented Natesha Kauthvam, Eka shloki Bhagavatham and Thillana.



The performances were equally enjoyed both by the UCPAians on the stage as well as the audience. The Guests of Honor on this occasion - eminent artist and Prof. Pasumarthy RamalingaShastry (Former Dean, SN School of Performing Arts, Univ. of Hyderabad) and Sri Mamidi Harikrishna (Director, Dept. of Language and Culture) lauded the performances and congratulated the artists.

This event gave a memorable finish to the year 2021. UCPA looks forward to many more such performances in 2022, keeping in purview of the safety and compliance.

UCPA Buzz

Sharvani Gundlapalli



Sreya Das



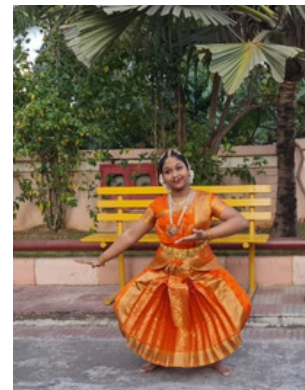
Dassehra Celebrations at Giridhari Executive Park
Community, Hyderabad

Dhrutika Bandi



Cultural Day, Kendriya Vidyalaya
Tirumalagiri, Secunderabad

P. Nithya Prashansa



2nd prize in an inter-school
competition on the occasion of
Expression 2021
The Hyderabad Public School (R),
Hyderabad

**UCPA congratulates each one of you
for active participation in the competitions and events.**

Creating a Legacy



Early in the pandemic, individuals and organizations rallied to support each other and help artists stay afloat. Several performers and organizations launched fund raising initiatives for struggling artists.

Digital communities of arts practitioners were formed, such as the one catalyzed by the British Council, the Australian Consulate-General, Goethe Institut etc., began to attend workshops, webinars and closed door curated meetings that helped them navigate a changed landscape. Through it all, there was a sense of urgency. A sense that if you didn't swim, the arts would sink.

The internet of things availed unique opportunities for artists and institutions to interface and interact with each other in diverse forms, forging collaborations and germinating innovation by embracing technology, without giving a choice.

It is a matter of pride for UCPA to have rode along the digital wave for the last 20 months, without a reason to bleat. UCPA constantly urges all our students to stay tuned with their respective learnings so that once the curtain raises, we are all set to vroom again.

With the onsetting of various viral variants, life continues to be uncertain and perilous. The best solution to such an obstreperous situation is to stay rejuvenated through performing arts.

Owing to the pandemic, geographies have become history. But UCPA is not here to create another history. We are here to create a legacy: be it digital, on stage or the hybrid way.

Guruprasad Deshpande

Mentor of Change & Co Founder (UCPA)

UCPA

2-2-23/30, SBH Colony, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad – 500013.

For any suggestions, write to us : artsexpress@ucpa.in

Visit our website - www.ucpa.in