



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

STAMFORD
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Santha Bhaskar



A pioneer of Indian dance in Singapore, Santha Bhaskar is the Artistic Director of Bhaskar's Arts Academy, Advisor to Nrityalaya Aesthetics Society (its teaching wing) and Resident Choreographer for Indian dance at the National University of Singapore's Centre for the Arts.

Born in Kerala in 1939, she learnt Kerala Nadanam first before being trained in the dance traditions of Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam and Kathakali. She moved to Singapore in 1955, following her marriage to the late Mr K P Bhaskar, Founder of Bhaskar's Academy of Dance.

Since the early days, intercultural exchanges have informed her practice. She learnt Malay dance from Nongchik Ghani of Sriwana while dance pioneers like Lee Shu Fen and Som Said learnt Indian dance from her. More recently, her fascination with the Indian connection in Southeast Asia led her to Bangkok to study Thai dance and music at Chulalongkorn University.

Mrs Bhaskar was conferred the Cultural Medallion in 1990, and she was inducted into Singapore Women's Hall of Fame in 2021.