

SASWAT JOSHI

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ODISSI DANCER

PERFORMED
IN MORE THAN
50 NATIONS



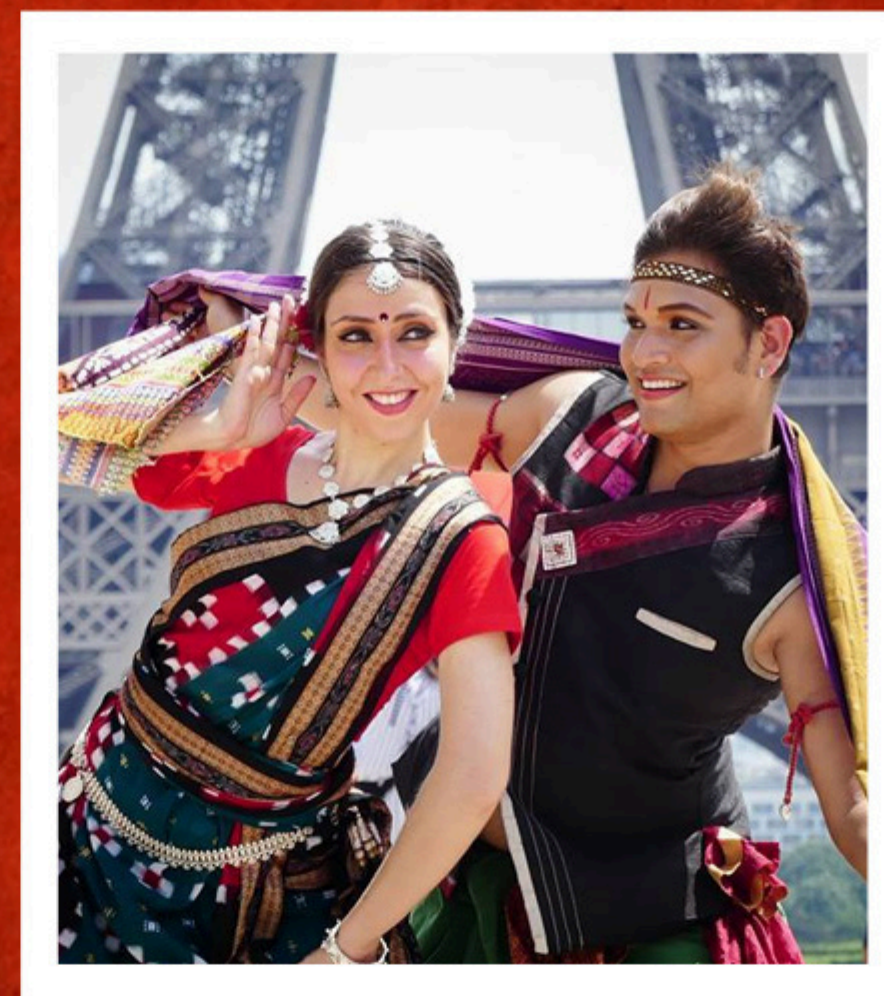
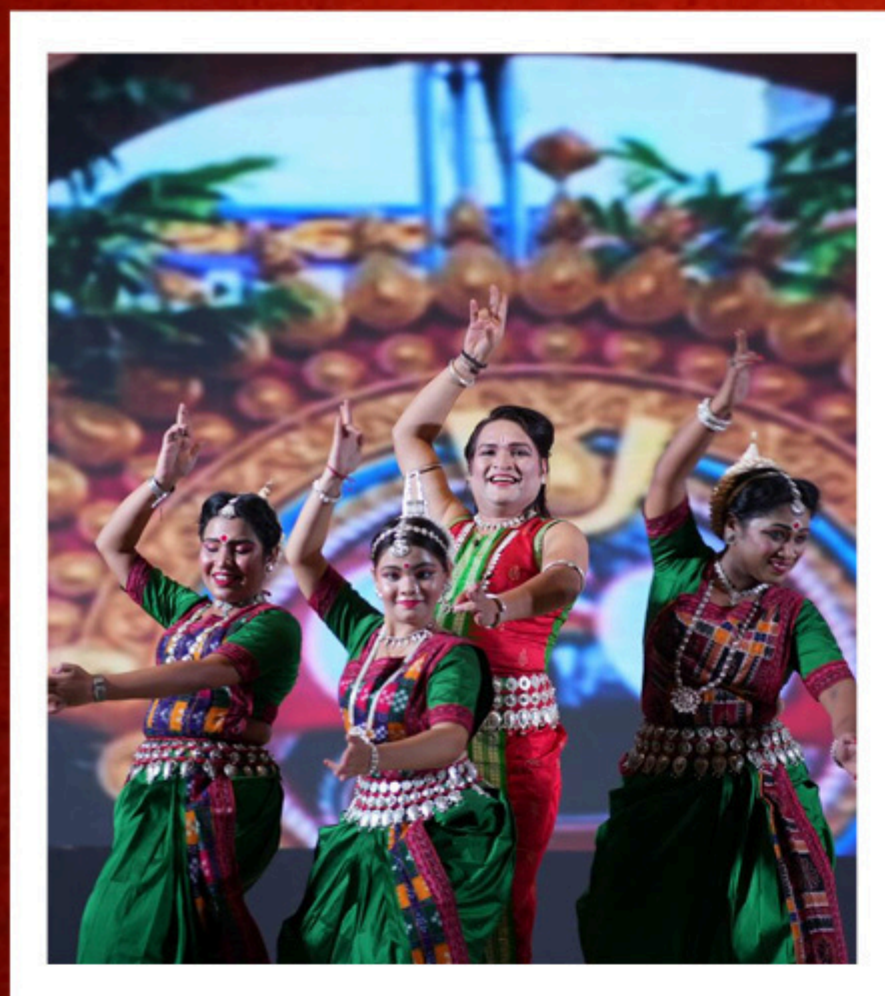
PROFILE

Saswat Joshi, a renowned Odissi dancer and choreographer, was born on 12th July 1984 in Titlagarh, Bolangir district of Odisha. His tryst with dance began at the tender age of five under the initial guidance of Guru Prasanta Patnaik and Guru Shantanu Behera in his hometown.

In 2000, Saswat began his formal Odissi training under the legendary Guru Padma Shri Kumkum Mohanty. His artistic journey blossomed further under the mentorship of Guru Padma Shri Ileana Citaristi, shaping him into one of the most refined male Odissi performers of his generation.

An accomplished scholar, Saswat Joshi is a recipient of the prestigious National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He holds a graduate degree in dance from Sambalpur University and is a gold medalist in VISHARAD from Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh. He completed his Master's degree from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, with a gold medal and was honored with the title Sangeet Ratna.

Saswat has showcased the beauty of Odissi on some of the most iconic stages across the globe. In 2012, he performed at the Musée Guimet (Museum of Asian Art) in Paris — the world's largest museum of Asian painting. He has delivered numerous lecture-demonstrations on Odissi in reputed universities around the world.



Notably, he is the only male Odissi dancer to have performed in front of world renowned landmarks like the Eiffel Tower in Paris, The Colosseum in Rome, Petronas Towers in Malaysia, Merlion Park in Singapore, Kuwait Towers, Burj Khalifa in Dubai, and Red Square in Russia. His mesmerizing performance in front of the Eiffel Tower went viral, amassing millions of views on YouTube.

In his relentless efforts to globalize Odissi as an Indian classical dance form, Saswat Joshi has travelled extensively, performing and teaching in countries like China, Italy, France, Hungary, Finland, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Bahrain and many more.

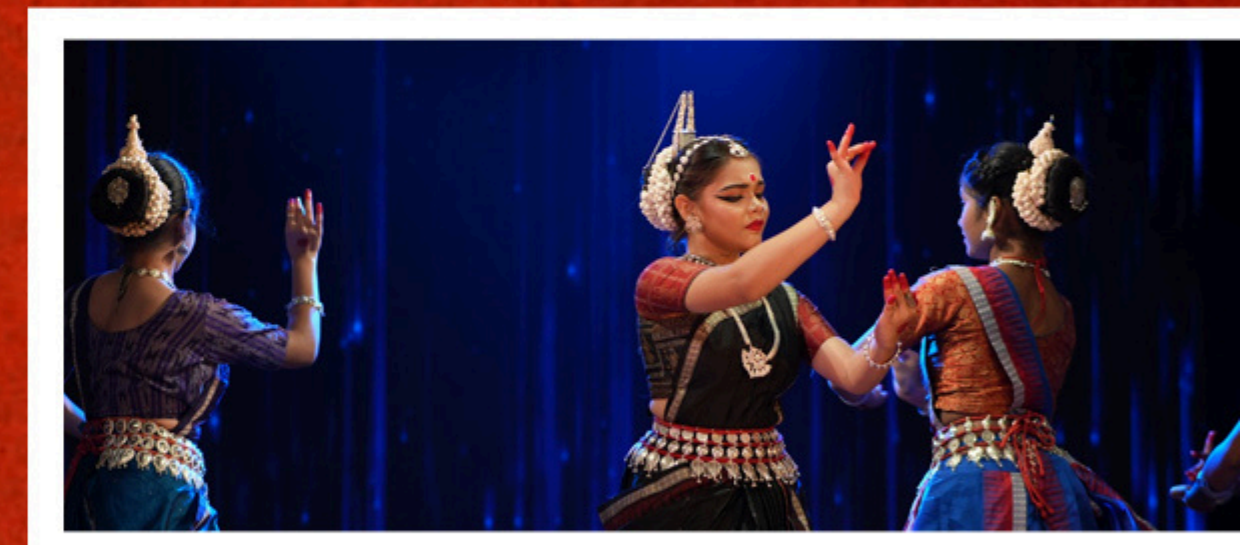
PROFILE

Saswat Joshi is the only Odissi dancer who actively promotes Sambalpuri Ikkat on the global stage. Known for his cultural pride, he often dons Sambalpuri kurtas with ethnic designs at prestigious platforms and award ceremonies, showcasing the rich handloom heritage of Odisha.

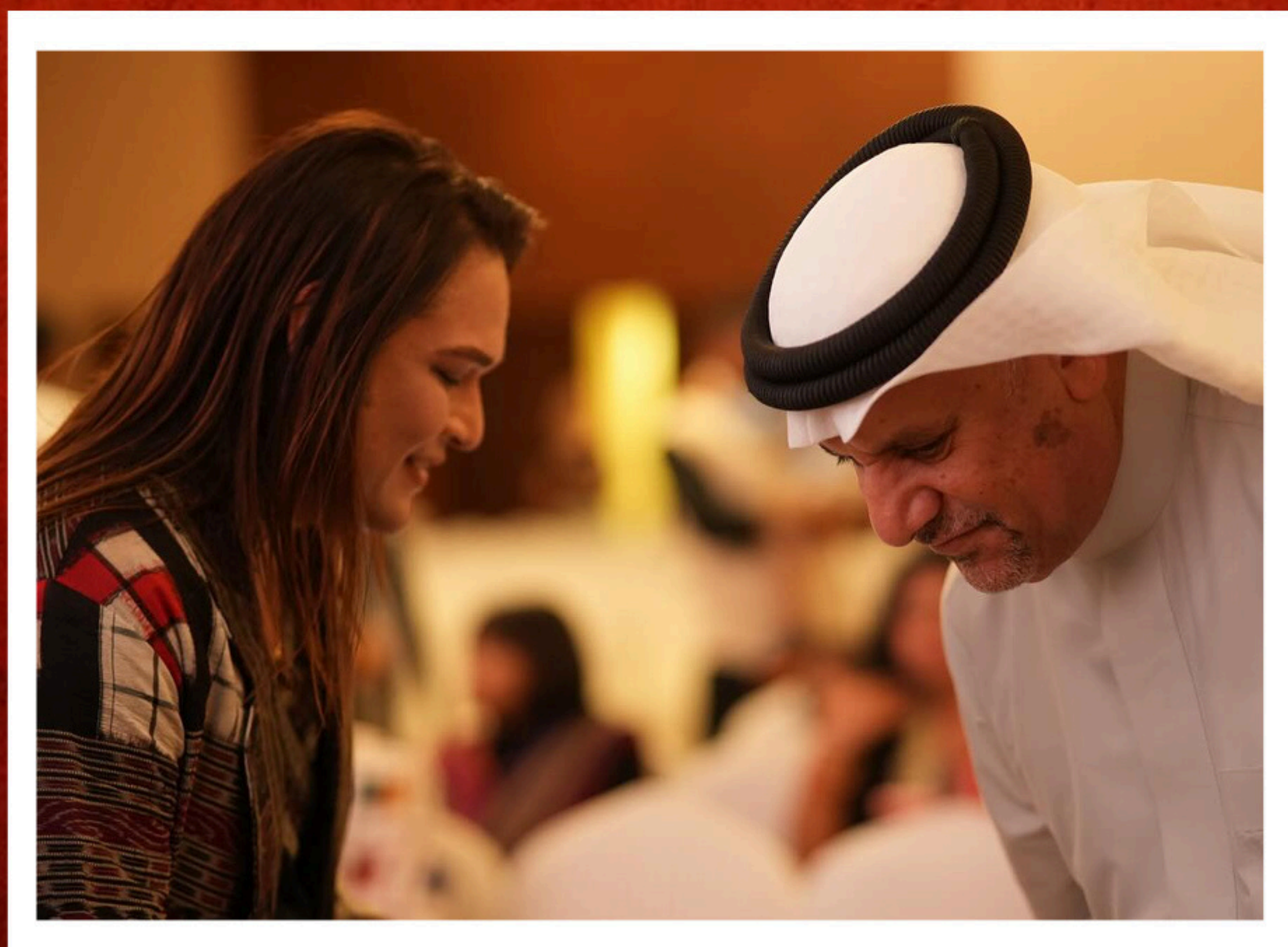
Apart from his contributions to dance, Saswat has also made a mark in the fashion and branding world. He has modeled for leading national and international brands including Manyavar and Boyanika.

He is currently the brand promoter of Odisha Tourism, and serves as the face of Soulful Odisha, Manyavar, Boyanika, and Utkalika, promoting Odisha's culture, fashion, and tradition across the globe.

Saswat Joshi is the founder of Lasyakala Institute of Performing Arts, a premier institution dedicated to training and nurturing the next generation of Odissi dancers. The institute has expanded its presence across various districts of Odisha and other parts of India, becoming a hub for budding talent in classical dance.



Driven by a deep sense of social responsibility, Saswat uses Lasyakala as a platform to empower underprivileged and orphaned children. The institute is also inclusive of children with special needs, ensuring they are trained alongside others and prepared to perform confidently on stage. His guiding philosophy for the institute is rooted in a simple but powerful motto: "Say Yes to All."



GALLERY



PROFILE

Under the Lasyakala banner, the Aekalavya Dance Festival is organized annually. This prestigious event honors Odissi practitioners, experts, and critics, celebrating the guru-shishya parampara (teacher-disciple tradition). The festival has created significant awareness about classical dance and has become a respected platform where four generations of dancers share the same stage. The Aekalavya Dance Festival has also been successfully hosted internationally in Malaysia, the UAE, Dubai, and Singapore, providing global exposure to Indian classical art.

In collaboration with the Swabhiman organization, Saswat also organizes a national camp named Anjali, dedicated to children with special needs. These children are trained and given the opportunity to showcase their talents on stage. Using Russian biomechanical techniques, they are taught rhythmic and energetic dance forms as a means of therapeutic intervention, helping reduce anxiety and improve their emotional well-being.

Every summer, Saswat conducts a special workshop titled Kallol – The Sound of Excitement. It draws participants from across India who are passionate about making a career in dance. This workshop goes beyond dance training to cover personality development, money management, communication skills, behavioral science, literature, and the relevance of dance in education. Many alumni from this workshop have gone on to work in leading industries, making it a transformational experience for aspiring dancers.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Saswat Joshi took a proactive step through his institute, Lasyakala, to revive and preserve Odisha's dying folk dance traditions. Recognizing the threat posed to traditional art forms during this period of isolation, he launched an initiative to support and rejuvenate endangered dances such as Ranapa from Ganjam district, Chhau from Mayurbhanj, and Dhemsa from Koraput.



PROFILE

Using video conferencing platforms, Saswat conducted multiple virtual sessions to educate, encourage, and empower local artists. He guided them on how to adapt to modern platforms and gain visibility, even amidst restrictions. Going beyond mentorship, he also offered financial assistance and created performance spaces near their homes, helping artists to continue practicing and keeping these traditions alive.

This initiative not only brought hope to folk artists during a difficult time but also laid the foundation for a long-term movement to safeguard Odisha's rich folk heritage.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Saswat Joshi is a celebrated Odissi dancer and a well-known personality in the world of Indian classical dance and entertainment. His remarkable contributions have earned him recognition not just in Odisha and India, but across the globe.

- **Television & Film:** Saswat is a popular judge on several Odia reality shows and has extended his talent into Bollywood as a choreographer. He gained national acclaim for his performance in the film *Koun Kitney Pani Mein*, particularly for the "Rangabati" song, which became a blockbuster hit. The performance earned him the nickname "Rangabati King of Bollywood."

- **Bollywood Contributions:** Saswat has choreographed for multiple Hindi films and has trained several well-known Bollywood actors, including Radhika Apte and Kunal Kapoor, in classical dance.

- **International Cinema:** He appeared in the film *The Journey* directed by Hollywood filmmaker Sandrine da Costa in 2012, further expanding his artistic footprint.

Iconic Ballet Performances: His portrayal of Gautam Buddha in the ballet *Nirvana*, performed during the 2600th birth anniversary of Buddha, received wide acclaim across many Asian countries.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Global Presence: Saswat has performed in 62 countries and all across India, representing the elegance of Odissi dance on numerous international platforms. Notably, he performed at the 49th and 50th OSA (Oriya Society of the Americas) Conventions held in Michigan and Atlantic City, New Jersey, showcasing Odisha's cultural richness to the Odia diaspora in the USA.

Eiffel Tower Performance: He is the only male Odissi dancer to perform in front of the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, accompanied by French girls trained in classical Odissi. The performance went viral, garnering millions of views on YouTube, further establishing his international fame.

AWARD RECOGNITION

STATE

He has got Sangeet Ratna with gold medal in Odissi Dance from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

Mu Hero Samman by Government of Odisha

Odisha youth award 2019 by Odia media private limited

Shree award for field of art and culture

Jaya Mallanrutya Shree Samman 2019,
Jaya mallasa mazik and Sanskrit organisation

Odisha youth award 2016 by Ever green forum

Chalachitra Jagat 44 Annual Event and Talent Award 2019

Juhar Gourav Nuakhai Bhet ghat 2018

Felicitated at Papanga Pahad Mahotsav 2017

Nalco Kharvela Award 2016



AWARD RECOGNITION

STATE

Mathakhai Mohotsav 2011

He had received The Sunday Indian Yuva Utkarsh Samman 2010 by Ruchi

NATIONAL

Felicitated by Oriya Cultural Association, Faridabad

Recognition by Odisha Cultural Association, Bengaluru

Felicitated in Shishirachhanda 2017 by AdyashaFoudation, Bangalore

Felication at NuakhaiParav, 2017 by JuharParivar, Delhi at Ras Rang Dance Festival 2017

Felicitated at 38 th National Baisakhi Festival 2017 with Chinta o Chetana Baisakhi Samman

Appreciated for performing at Indian Dance Festival 2015 at Tamilnadu by Incredible India

INTERNATIONAL

He awarded as Youth Icon by Odia society of United Kingdom and The Artist by Musee Guimet, France

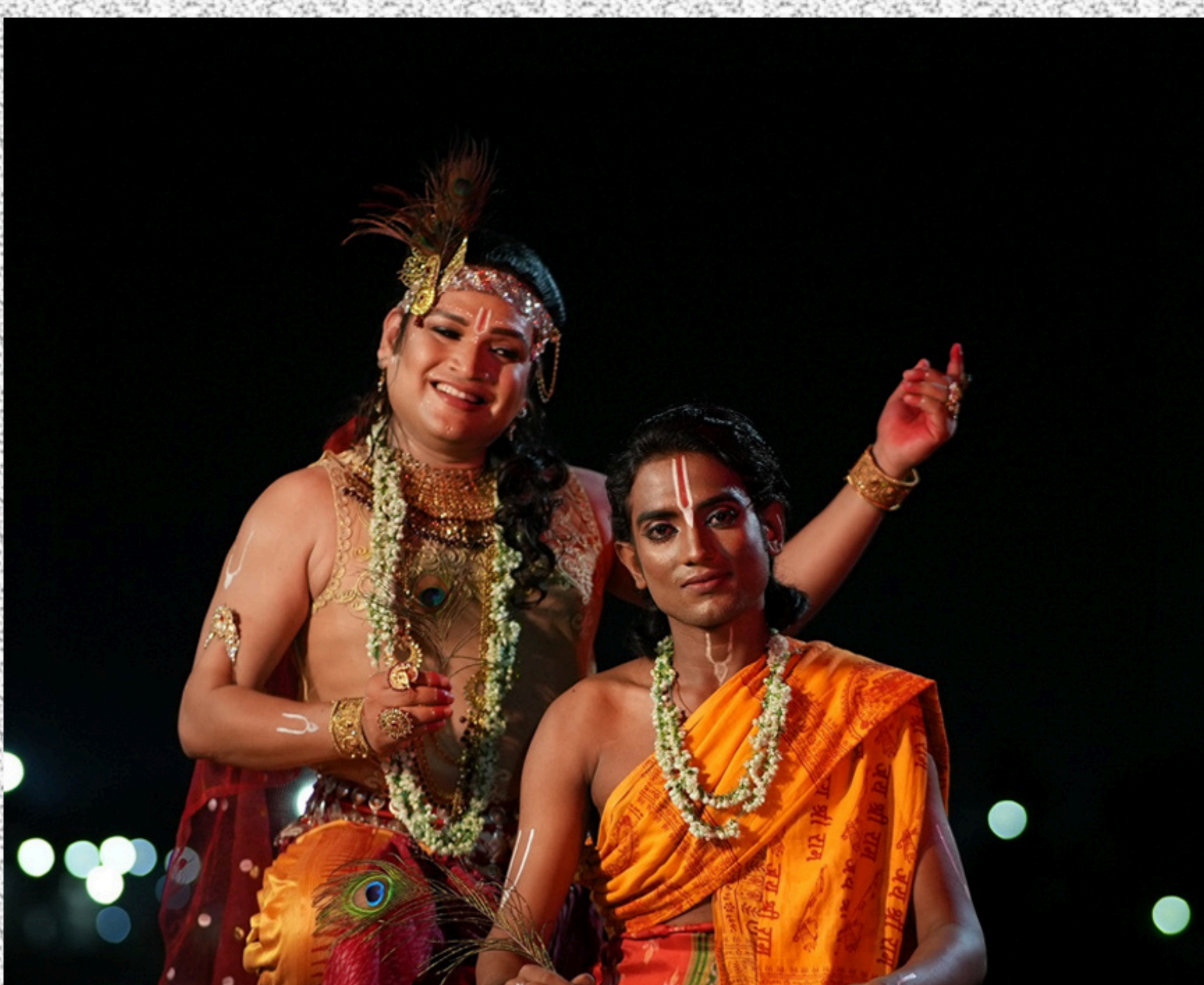
Felicitated by Odisha society of America OSA, on their 49th and 50th Golden jubilee convention, New Jersey USA

He has announced as brand ambassador of OSUAE, Odisha SAMAJ UAE in the year 2019, in the presence of High Commission of India, at Dubai

Feliciation from Abdul Aziz, Naseer theatre, and Indian Embassy Doha , Qatar 2019

Honoured by Consulate General of India, Dubai,UAE, for his outstanding contribution in the art field in the year 2018

GALLERY



AWARD RECOGNITION

INTERNATIONAL

Satsang Golf, Dubai felicitated him in the year 2018

Felicitated by Hindustani Samaj, Russia in 2018 at Moscow

Awarded by Temple of fine arts and Indian High commission of Malaysia in 2017

Felicitated by Kuwait Odisha Association for his relentless dedication to promote Odissi Dance as well as Odia Culture and Attire

Singapore Bengali and Odia association felicitated him in the year 2016

Odia society of UK OSUK awarded him as youth icon in the year 2013, at London

The artist award by Museeguimet, Paris France, 2012

Felicitations by centre Mandapa, Milena selvini, Paris, France in the year 2011

Felicitations from founduzione Chini, Italy, 2009

Felicitations by Akemi Sakurai in the Japan Tour in the year 2008

Felicitations by Seoul institute of the arts, in the year 2007 at South Korea

Felicitations by Indian High commission Budapest, Hungary

Cultural ambassador award from University of Udine, Venice, Italy



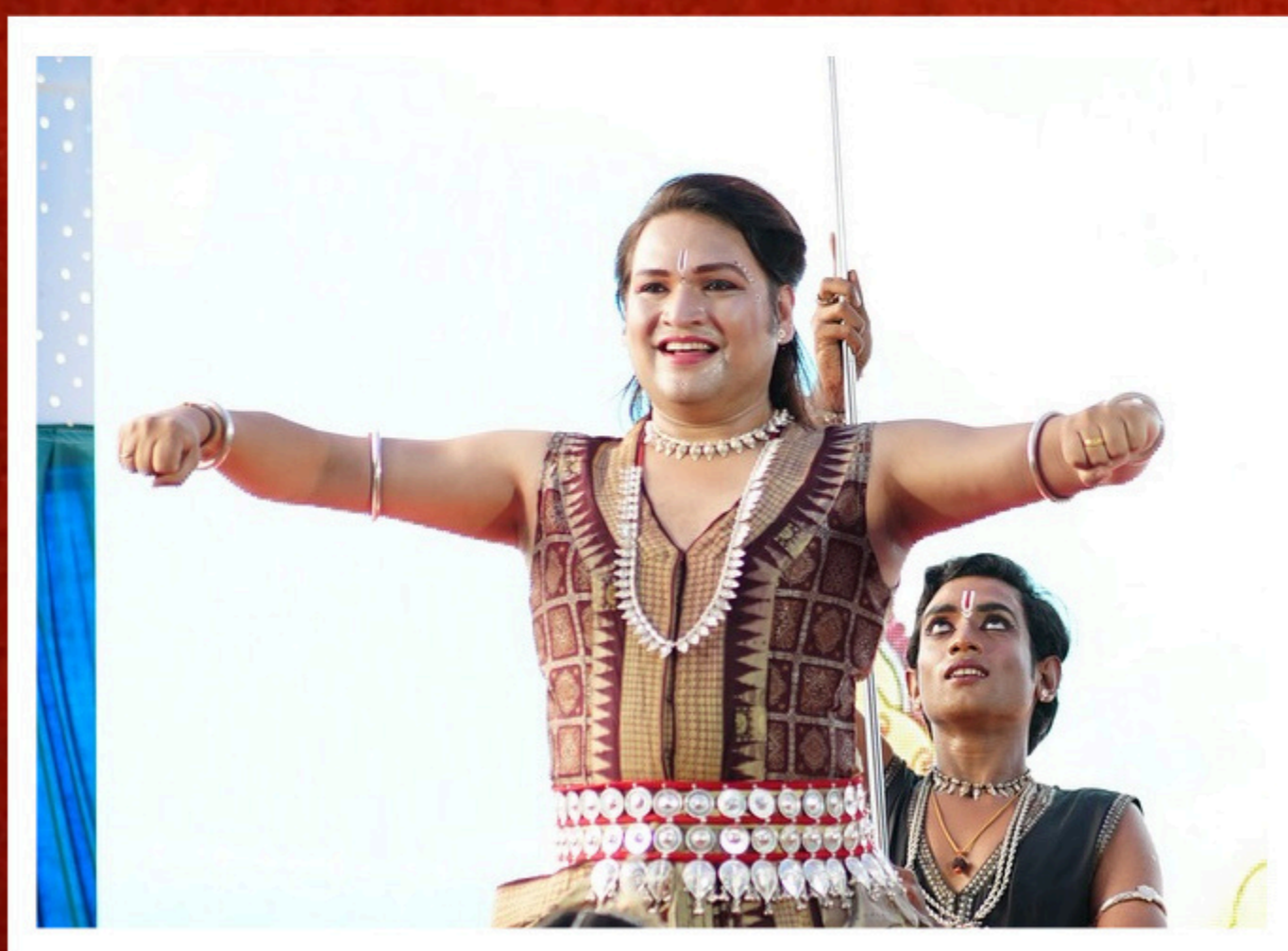
IMPACT ON THE FIELD

Saswat Joshi is not just a self-made Odissi dancer but also a global ambassador for Indian classical dance. Through his powerful performances and tireless dedication, he has elevated the stature of Odissi on the world stage. Beyond his own success, he is known as a “kingmaker”, having mentored and empowered countless students by nurturing the dancer within them.

Driven by a passion to provide quality training, Saswat founded the Lasyakala Institute of Performing Arts with a clear vision: to promote and develop Indian classical dance in the rural and tribal regions of Odisha. Through Lasyakala, he has created opportunities for many young, talented individuals to pursue dance as a career—students who may have never otherwise accessed such artistic exposure.

Lasyakala now has multiple branches across major cities of Odisha and India. Expanding its global reach, it has also established international branches in Budapest (Hungary), Montpellier (France), and New Port, London (UK). The trained dancers from Lasyakala are now representing Indian culture across the globe, performing and teaching in various countries.

A notable initiative under this institution is Kallol – The Sound of Excitement, an annual workshop that empowers underprivileged and below-poverty-line children. The program offers training not only in dance but also in personality development, money management, communication skills, literature, behavioral science, and the role of dance in education. Many of Kallol’s alumni have gone on to build successful careers across various industries. Furthering his commitment to spreading awareness and reducing stress through dance, Saswat regularly conducts special camps at universities such as Central University of Rajasthan and Central University of Hyderabad. These camps are aimed at students who aspire to become dancers and need motivation, mentorship, and mental well-being support through the healing power of classical dance.



IMPACT ON SOCIETY

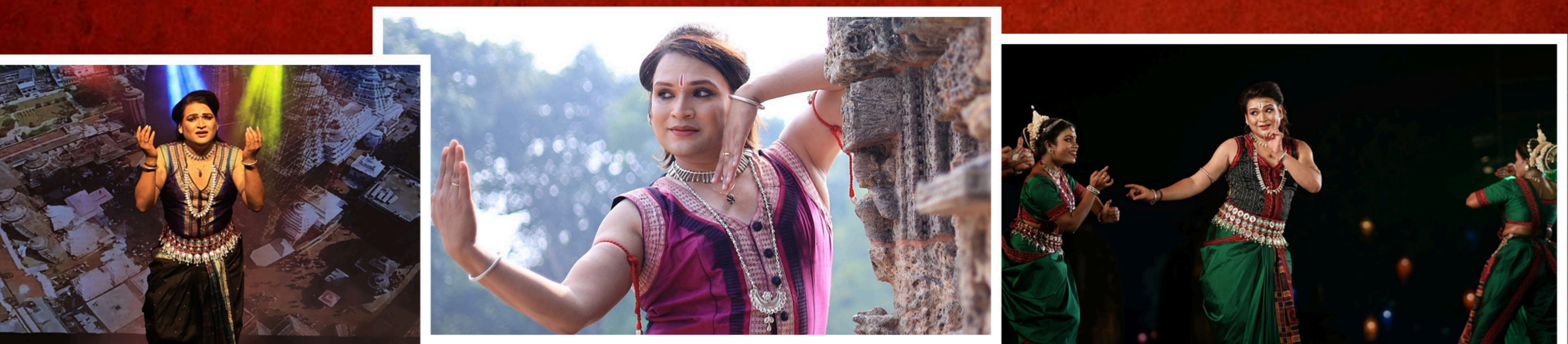
Saswat Joshi has dedicated his life to the enrichment and global promotion of Odissi dance, using his art as a powerful tool for social change. He strongly believes that individual growth is deeply connected to the upliftment of society, and has consistently worked towards empowering underprivileged, tribal, and specially-abled individuals through dance.

Through his institute Lasyakala, Saswat has provided training and livelihood opportunities to countless students, helping them find not only artistic expression but also a source of income. He offers platforms for underprivileged children to showcase their talent, guiding them towards discovering their life goals and building confidence through performance and mentorship.

One of Saswat's most notable contributions is his commitment to children with special needs. He uses dance as a therapeutic medium to help reduce their stress, enhance their self-belief, and foster inclusion in mainstream cultural spaces.

In addition to his work in dance, Saswat Joshi is a proud ambassador of Odisha's traditional handloom industry. He is always seen wearing Sambalpuri handwoven attire, and actively promotes these traditional weaves through his performances, media appearances, and modeling campaigns. His efforts have played a significant role in boosting demand and recognition for local weavers, contributing to their economic sustainability.

Saswat also leads cultural initiatives abroad. His team annually organizes "Odisha Week" in countries such as France, Italy, across Europe, and the United States. These events introduce international audiences to Odisha's rich cultural heritage, including its dance, music, handlooms, and cuisine. As a result, many foreigners have been inspired to learn Odissi dance, further expanding its global reach. These cultural exchanges have seen Odissi performed at iconic landmarks worldwide, amplifying Odisha's cultural identity on a global stage.



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