

Isabelle Anna

Kathak Dancer, Choreographer
Compagnie Kaleidans'Scop



"French by birth, Indian by culture"

Abdul Qadir - The Times of India,
(Gaya, Dec. 2005)

Biography:

Born in the Indian performing arts environment, Isabelle Anna started her training in dance with Bharata Natyam at the tender age of five. She also practiced Piano, Solfeggio, music writing, Drama and Western Ballet for several years till she went to university where she mainly developed interest for foreign literature and languages.

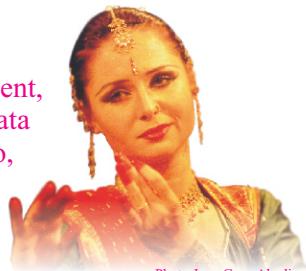


Photo Jean Gros-Abadie

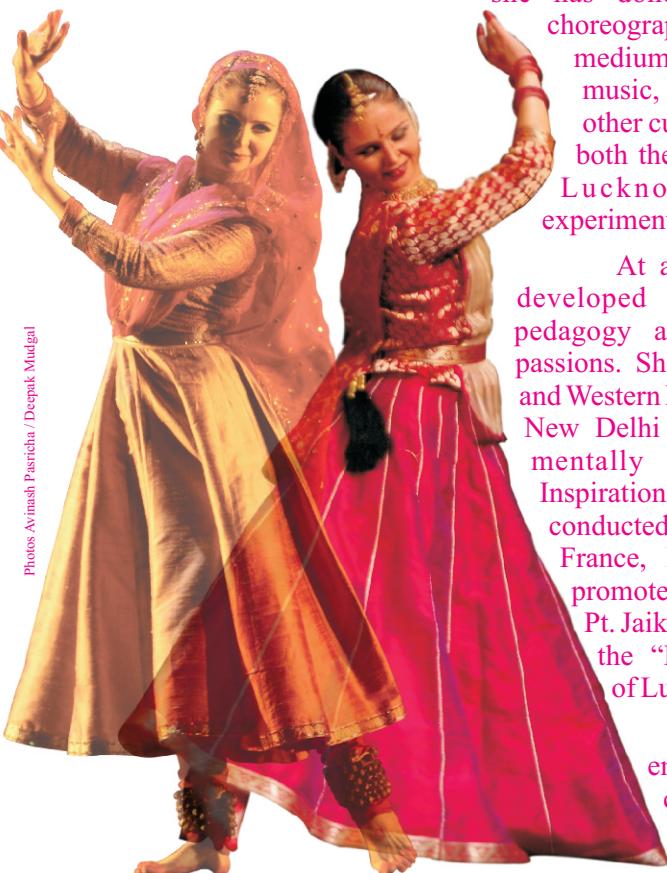
In 1998, she discovered Kathak with Sharmila Sharma, disciple of Pt. Birju Maharaj, in Paris, at Centre Mandapa (directed by her parents).

Indo-French government scholar (2001 to 2003) and ICCR scholar (2003 to 2005), she joined Kathak Kendra, New Delhi, under the guidance of Pt. Jai Kishan Maharaj, son of Pt. Birju Maharaj, and passed Honours (2004) and Post Diplomas (2006). Tabla, yoga and vocal were also part of her training.

Scholar of the French Ministry of Culture for Choreographic Studies (2003),

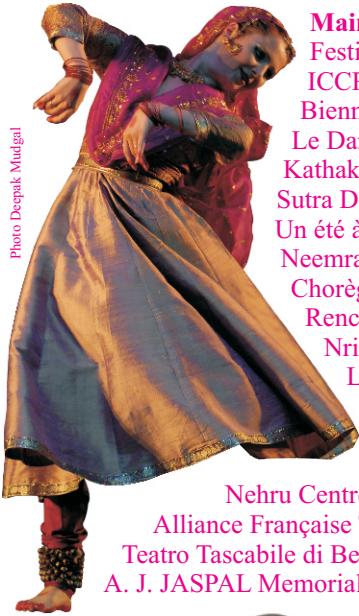
she has done lots of research and choreographies using Kathak as a medium of expression on Western music, showing the links with other cultures. Her recitals include both the traditional aspects of the Lucknow Gharana and her experimental work based on Kathak.

At a young age, Isabelle has developed an inclination towards pedagogy and sharing her various passions. She started teaching Kathak and Western Ballet at Ecole Française de New Delhi in 2003, and as well to mentally challenged children at Inspiration Centre, New Delhi. She conducted numerous workshops in France, Italy, UK... in order to promote the tradition of her Guruji Pt. Jaikishan Maharaj representing the "Kalka-Bindadin Gharana" of Lucknow.



Photos Avinash Pasricha / Deepak Mudgal

In 2007, she was empanelled with ICCR and created her dance company "Kaleidans'Scop".



Main performances:

Festival Oriente Occidente, Rovereto, Italy (2008)
ICCR Festival, Kamani Auditorium, Delhi (2006/2008)
Biennale du Val de Marne Festival, France (2005/2006/2008)
Le Dansoir, Paris (2008)
Kathak Mahotsav, Jaipur (2008)
Sutra Dance Theatre, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia (2007)
Un été à Bourges Festival, France (2007)
Neemrana Fort Palace, India (2004/2006/2007)
Chorèges Festival, Bourges, France (2006)
Rencontres Chorégraphiques de Carthage, Tunisie (2006)
Nrityanjali Festival, Ukraine (2006)
Lille 3000 Festival, France (2006)
Rangotsava, Bharat Bhawan Bhopal, India (2005-2008)
Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris (2005)
N. Schöffer Cybernetic Jubilee, Paris (2005)
Nehru Centre, London, UK (2005/ India Now Festival 2007)
Alliance Française Tour in India (2004)
Teatro Tascabile di Bergamo, Italy (2004)
A. J. JASPAL Memorial Dance Recital, Ashok Hotel, Delhi (2004)

Choreographies :

- Toros, Trilogy – Coproduction Festival Oriente Occidente – September 2008
- I Speak Kathak – Coproduction Biennale du Val de Marne – March 2008
- So was the Queen of Jhansi – Coproduction Rangotsava 2007
- Un, Two, Terc – Alliance Française de Delhi – April 2006
- Orient Masala – Lille 3000 – October 2006
- Orients Dansés – Institut du Monde Arabe – November 2005
- My Bolero, Habanera (Carmen) and on Gregorian, Turkish, Persian and Hispanic music... (since 2004)
- A Doll's House, by Isaac Ibsen – National School of Drama, Delhi – August 2002





International Press Reviews



"...transcending structured technique." *Leela Venkataraman – The Hindu – June 2008*

"...grace and charm, a commanding stage presence and... the innate spontaneity of a veteran." *Lada Guruden Singh – New Delhi – The Statesman – September 2006*

"An ambassador of art" ...Isabelle is all that is needed to sum up a stupendous performance." *Sagar Atre - New Delhi - Oct. 2006*

"Isabelle Anna nous transporte dans une Inde mythique où la danse est une expression du corps minutieuse, raffinée, mais surtout d'une grande sensualité."

Neila Gharbi - Tunis, Printemps de la Danse - May 2006

"Danser Kathak sur du Maurice Ravel" – "... un spectacle impressionnant, et envoûtant, de technicité et d'énergie, entre tradition et contemporain."

Bourges - Le Berry Républicain - Nov. 2006

"Le Kathak et ses réminiscences arabo-andalouses aux élégantes effluves courtisanes lui collent délicieusement à la peau."

Bourges - La Nouvelle République -Nov. 2006

"Isabelle Anna had a statuesque stage presence and showed enough prowess in technical Kathak."

The Pioneer - Lucknow - Sept. 2006

"Dynamique et gracieuse, sa virtuosité épaise de vertige lui donne un statut particulier. Isabelle Anna se fait la messagère séduisante de cet art ancien exigeant de méticulosité et de délicatesse."

Rosita Boisseau - Paris - Télérama - Oct. 2006

"Isabelle Anna, danseuse qui s'inscrit dans la longue tradition du Kathak... magie, beauté, un moment envoûtant qui s'inscrit dans le cadre de Lille 3000."

La Voix du nord - Oct. 2006

"Isabelle convinced us that the roots of the Spanish dance "Bolero" are connected to India. The facial expression was great. The rhythms in the movements as well as statuesque movements were impressive."

S.S. Singh - New Delhi - The Hindustan Times - April 2006

"Dotata di una tecnica impeccabile, ha riempito con la sua danza lo spazio della sala del Tascabile, reagendo con il proprio corpo alla musica e accompagnandola con il ritmo delle cavigliere e il sinuoso gioco delle braccia et delle mani."

Bergamo - l'Eco di Bergamo – July 2004

"Anna's repertoire was nothing less than superb by virtue of its imposing dignity and serenity. She thrilled the audience with revelations of exquisite rhythm and beauty in her Thumri and Tarana."

Sharmila Basu Thakur - Calcutta - The Telegraph - Oct. 2004

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