



Archana Sardar
"Dance of the soul..."

Archana began her dedication to Bharatnatyam at the age of 11 under the guidance of eminent Guru Saroja Vaidyanathan. After her 'Arangetram' in 1994, Archana began performing along side her guru all around India. She also became a faculty member at her guru's School, Ganesa Natyalaya in New Delhi. During that time Archana won several awards as a solo artist at various dance competitions. She was also awarded the title of 'Natya Shree' on the occasion of the Ganesa Natyalaya's silver jubilee.

After moving to the United States in 1998, Archana continued to foster her passion for Bharatnatyam through performances at various cultural events at Michigan State University and the temple in Lansing. She also volunteered as a guest teacher at the temple with Dr. Carla Guggenheim. Archana continued her volunteer teaching even after moving to Grand Rapids with her husband, where she also started

her own classes in the community and made a niche for herself as a performer. She also accompanied her guru during her tour of the United States. She decided to take a break from teaching and performing to concentrate on her career and motherhood. But her love for the art of Bharatanatyam continues to pull her back into the field as a teacher and performer. Her desire is to ignite the same dedication and passion for dance in others.

Although deeply rooted in the Tanjavur style of Bharatnatyam, Archana constantly seeks inspiration from other styles of Bharatanatyam and various dance forms from around the world to strengthen her understanding of the mystique of dance. Because for her dance is not merely a means of self-expression, but a connection of the mind, body, soul and the cosmos.