

What critics have to say about Navia's performances

"Dancing her dreams"

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/523425/dancing-her-dreams.html>

Watch Navia's Interview on Webindia123.com

<http://video.webindia123.com/new/interviews/dancers/bharatnatyam/navianatarajan/index.htm>

'Navia is certainly on her way to become a consummate performer: not just in her dancing and sensitive understanding of the subject matter, but also instinctive stage presence she exudes along with the arrangement of music.'

Narthaki, By Priya Das, June 26th, 2015~ ,

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev15/rev1774.html>

'Navia Natarajan: Bharatanatyam Takes the Stage'

Lively Blog by Leslie Friedman of The Lively Foundation, 2015~ ,

<http://www.livelyfoundation.org/wordpress/?p=807>

'Dance is her calling.'

The Hindu, March 6, 2015~ ,

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/dance/dance-is-her-calling/article6966305.ece>

'I am who I am because of dance.'

The Deccan Herald, February 23, 2015~ ,

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/461426/i-am-am-dance.html>

'The artist's sensitive emoting face, matched by a body line wove a rich tapestry of emotions.'

Narthaki , January 27, 2015~ ,

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev15/rev1723.html>

'Traditional Dance Forms Never Stagnate'

The New Indian Express, January 22, 2015~ ,
<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/bengaluru/Traditional-Dance-Forms-Never-Stagnate/2015/01/22/article2630221.ece>

'Finding Meaning in Mythology to Create Dance'

The New Indian Express, November 6th , 2014~ ,
<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/Finding-Meaning-in-Mythology-to-Create-Dance/2014/11/06/article2510480.ece>

Excelling in the present with an eye on the past

The Hindu, November 4th , 2014~ ,
<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-kerala/excelling-in-the-present-with-an-eye-on-the-past/article6562768.ece>

"Perfect lines from the first jathi to the final theermanam, fingers trembling with Bhavam during the last charanam in Bhupalam and choreography without overcrowding of ideas or gestures, her piece was solo, the way it is meant to be.. . . "

~ KUMUDHA BHARATHRAM ,
The Hindu, February 7, 2014
<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/redefining-boundaries/article5661713.ece>

"Her riveting abhinaya, precise nritta and geometric lines left a captive audience speechless. . . . "

~ Masoom Parmar ,
Narthaki, February 5, 2014
<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev14/rev1551.html>

"Navia has matured in so many levels when it comes to her dance. Her abhinayam has gotten better from the previous years' performances in the season and one can see she has put in a lot of hard work and attempted genuinely in reaching new depths of substance in her art. . . . "

~ Veejay Sai ,
Narthaki, January 29, 2014
<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev14/rev1548.html>

"The Bharatanatyam performance presented by Ananya at Seva Sadan on Dec 28, 2013 was superlative to say the least. The performance was rather blemishless and the compositions well selected.. "

~Usha RK ,
Narthaki, January 6, 2014
<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev14/rev1532.html>

"Navia Natarajan's performance was vibrant and precise.. "

~MADHAVI RAMKUMAR ,
The Hindu, January 2, 2014
<http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/dance/exuberant-exposition/article5530293.ece>

"With able training under gurus like Padmini Ramachandran and, later, A. Lakshmanan and Bragha Bassell in Chennai, she has matured to become one of the finest dancers on the scene today.. "

~Veejay Sai ,
The Hindu, December 28, 2012
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/chen-arts/chen-dance/more-fans-for-the-promising-young-heroine/article4246051.ece>

"One of the rising young Bharatanatyam dancers, the Bangalore-based Navia Natarajan, performing at Azad Bhawan under the Horizon Series, started her recital with the Subbaraya Sastry Reetigowla kirtanam "Janani Ninuvina". "

~Leela Venkataraman ,
The Hindu, December 21, 2012
<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/treading-new-paths/article4223733.ece>

"The Maharaja Swati Tirunal keerthanam "Pannagendra sayana" set to Ragamalika in adi tala by Navia Natarajan set the evening apart. "

~Probal Gupta ,
Narthaki January 31, 2012
<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev12/rev1177.html>

"Navia Natarajan, the talented Bangalore-based Bharatanatyam dancer, now under the tutelage of A. Lakshman, after the Pushpanjali in Pantuvarali and verses from Devi Stuti 'Udyadbhanu Sahasrakoti Sadrsham....' (musical composition by Hariprasad), presented a neat and finished performance of the Papanasam Sivan varnam in Nattakurinji 'Swami Naan Undan Adimai,' her own choreography in both nritta and interpretative passages projecting the dancer's feel for rhythm and sahitya. "

~Leela Venkataraman ,
The Hindu, January 18, 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/dance/article2834479.ece>

"....Navia Natarajan is one such passionate dancer that rasikas can bank their confidence on. With enough grooming from her older guru Padmini Ramachandran and A Lakshman, Navia's standing precedes her. Opening the fifth day of the academy's festival, Navia's performance proved her reputation right..."

~Veejay Sai ,
Narthaki, January 14, 2012

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev11/rev1164.html>

A glimpse of Indian culture abroad, Interview for Chronicle

Deccan Chronicle, January 10, 2012

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/tabloid/glam-sham/glimpse-indian-culture-abroad-267>

" ... Dhruva's struggles during his meditation and the final granting of his wish were depicted with intense feeling. What raised the bar in the performance were the different hues of the mood endowed to the characters and the skill in pure dance in both sequences. "

Vidya Saranyan, Chennai
The Hindu, August 26, 2011

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/article2397867.ece>

It's story time: Natyarangam's Bharatham Kathai Kathaiyaam (Part 2)

Lalitha Venkat, Chennai
Narthaki, August 24, 2011

<http://narthaki.com/info/rev11/rev1082.html>

Come, see them dance a story :

"The longing of a young child lies at the heart of my presentation. 'Asalum Nagalum' offered me the challenging prospect of narrating Indira Parthasarathy's imagery ..."

Vidya Saranyan, Chennai
The Hindu, August 11, 2011

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/dance/article2346573.ece>

IDA's Natya Samyoga festival

- Lalitha Venkat, Chennai
Narthaki, August 11, 2011

<http://narthaki.com/info/rev11/rev1082.html>

"So when Navia Natarajan, an ace bharatanatyam artiste, took the stage recently at The Khincha Auditorium in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, she had a lot of dance enthusiasts captivated with her enchanting performance As she culminated her performance with this fiery thematic presentation, she left the audiences asking for more ..."

DHNS, Deccan Herald, Bangalore

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/180604/poetry-motion.html>

"...Intricately choreographed with jathi passages, the item testified to effortless artistry, stamina, and emotive skill ..."

Madhavi Ramkumar, Bangalore
The Hindu, July 28, 2011

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/dance/article2302282.ece>

"...On the second and final day of the Raindrops Dance Festival, the evening commenced with an immaculate Bharatanatyam performance by Navia Natarajan in the Vazhuvor tradition that symbolised purity and precision of movements creating a fine visual impact on the audience ..."

Vijay Shanker, Mumbai
Narthaki, July 23, 2011

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev11/rev1061.html>

Navia Natarajan, though currently based in USA, is not a stranger to Bangaloreans. The classic Varna [Saami nine kori-Asta ragamalika] was well rendered with good command and grace. Her restrained but pleasing abhinaya was noticed in the Astapadu [Yahi Madhava]

~ Mysore V. Subramanya, Bangalore,
Deccan Herald, January 9, 2011

The second day of the fest began with a graceful Bharatanatyam performance of Navia Natarajan from the USA. She skillfully embodied all the three ingredients of the classical dance – Bhava, Raga and Thala in her performance.

~ DHNS,
The Deccan Herald, November, 2010
<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/113308/sampling-cultural-flavour.html>

Day two had a winsome, slim version of Prathibha Prahlad, yes, so much does Navia Natarajan look like this Bangalorean now settled in Delhi, on stage. But there the similarity ends; Navia is detailed with no sloppy unfinished movements and each adavu and hasta is well enunciated. Her face is calm and stable and not over busy. Her abhinaya is understated.

~ Ashish Mohan Khokar, Bangalore ,
Narthaki, November 10, 2010
<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev10/rev960.html>

The Kala Nadam Festival of dance featured Navia Natarajan, among the most promising artistes. The Kamas varnam set to adi tala with an overwhelming voice rendition by D. Srivatsa spoke of the dancer's mastery on the crowning piece of the genre. Neat footwork, clear and perfect adavus, expressive internalisation of emotions, aesthetically drawn dola hastas, were the hallmark of Navia's performance.

~ Prabhal Gupta,
The Hindhu, November 26, 2010
<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/article913666.ece>

"Experienced dancer Navia Natarajan trained under Padmini Ramachandran, A. Lakshman and Bragha Bessell, accompanied by a competent musical team comprising vocal support and nattuvangam by Sri Vatsa, Sri Ganesh (violin) and Chakrapani (violin), regaled the audience at the IIC auditorium, with her Bharatanatyam proficiency..."

~ Leela Venkataraman,
The Hindu, New Delhi, February 26, 2010

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/article789231.ece>

Gifted with fluid grace, an innate sense of rhythm and a vibrant sense of expression, Navia Natarajan has been dancing to the beat of Bharatnatyam since age of three... With so much talent, this young dancer looks like she will go places!

~ DC Correspondent ,,
Deccan Chronicle, Bangalore, February 17, 2010

The very name Navia denotes new. In every performance of hers, we can find something new in her presentation without diluting the essence of grammar of classical dance.

~ Dr. A V Sathyanarayana,,
Narthaki, January 21st, 2010

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev10/rev830.html>

Navia Natarajan, who gave the inaugural programme is not a new artiste to Bangaloreans.

~ Mysore V Subramanya,,
Deccan Herald, Bangalore, January 11, 2010

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/46160/music-amp-dance-reviews.html>

The last piece was the highlight of Navia's performance, revealing her exceptional talent in presenting technical sophistication coupled with an artistic depth that can fully engage an audience. Navia Natarajan is definitely one to watch in 2010.

~ ,
Narthaki, January 10th, 2010

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev10/rev827.html>

Navia is a graceful dancer with mature abhinaya and controlled footwork

~ Usha Ramadas

The Hindu, Chennai, December 18th, 2009

<http://www.thehindu.com/ms/2009/12/18/stories/2009121850170700.htm>

With her grace, precision and clarity of movements and expressions, she immediately captivated the audience....She is an amazing dancer, who easily engages the audience with her precise nritta and her communicative and emotionally expressive abhinaya.

~ Sheila Sudhakar,

Narthaki, December 8th, 2009

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev09/rev818.html>

In this day and age, when a lot of students of dance are lost to the IT industry or some other demanding careers, there are a handful of them who realize what they're truly meant to pursue, and take the brave step toward it. NaviaNatarajan1 Navia Natarajan is one such student,

~ Soumya Tilak's interview with Navia Natarajan Menon ,
Bharathanatyam and the worldwide web, August 15th, 2009

<https://sangeethas.wordpress.com/2009/08/15/tete-a-tete-with-navia-natarajan/>

Savitha Sastry, guru of Sadhana Dance Academy in San Jose, CA and Navia Natarajan, an independent luminary to watch out for, sparked the beginnings of the underground movement in Bharatanatyam on Saturday June 13, 2009 at the Leigh High School in San Jose, California.

~ Lehkikaa

Narthaki, June 19th, 2009

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev09/rev757.html>

"A performance highlighted with resounding perfection. Navia was able to maintain a very high degree in presentation throughout the evening. Each of the traditional items were carved into beauty, and her performance was a visual of a masterpiece being painted ... Navia's initiation on the stage was alike a stream of water dancing through, both beautiful and capturing the attention, creating moving images of dance with symmetrical flow of hand was a highlight of her dance. Magnificent flow, use of stage space, complementing the jatis with beautiful nritta. Navia performed the opening piece with superb degree of meticulousness."

~ P.Sivakumar

www.artindia.net, Jan 4th, 2009

<http://www.artindia.net/navia.html>

"Bharatanatyam technique given its complete symmetry can impress by itself when immaculate. And it is on the strength of the perfect geometry of lines that Navia Natarajan's dance made its strong impact at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi as she danced under the HCL Concert Series ... Has flawless nritta, the linear perfection of her movements making her an ideal model for youngsters to watch."

~ Leela Venkataraman,

The Hindu, New Delhi, November 21st, 2008

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/article1436401.ece>

She is a thorough professional and impressed me with her total command of the medium. She knows how to make full use of the stage ... Navia continues the trend of science graduates taking to music and dance out of sheer love for the art forms. She has a Master's degree in Microbiology and had worked at a scientific research establishment in Bangalore. She has traveled widely in India and abroad taking part in several dance festivals. She runs her own dance academy in USA. She is now based in San Jose, California. A charming stage presence, youthful energy without any flagging of effort, intelligent choice of songs and, above all, thorough professionalism in approach without bothering about the size of the audience are features that should help her in reaching a position among the top-notchers in the field.

~ A Seshan

Narthaki, March 4, 2008

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/rev08/rev556.html>

Almost in the same line and spirit, Navia Natarajan's Bharatanatyam followed. A seasoned dancer that she is, her Ganesha stuti and Padmanabha namana accounted for a taut start ... The tagged nritta, nrithya and abhinaya were excellently dealt with ...

~ M. Surya Prasad

Bangalore, February 8th, 2008

With neat adavus, Navia has an easy manner that is appealing.... The jatis were cleanly presented and the tempo of the varnam sustained. In the final jati, in particular that introduced the charanam portion, Navia was impressive for her speed and agility.

~ Anjana Rajan

The Hindu, Chennai, January 10th, 2008

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/article1432709.ece>

Marking the 107th centenary celebrations of Sri Parthasarathy Swamy Sabha, Navya Natarajan's Bharatanatyam recital came like a whiff of fresh breath in an eventful dance season.... Navya Natarajan deserves to flower and make inroads in this long and artistic journey of dance.

~ Saraswathi Vasudhevan

The Hindu, Chennai, January 26th, 2007

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/article2271338.ece>

"Navia's performance was a harmonious blend of bhava, nritya and nritya. Her strong point is her expressive face, an arena of myriad emotions. And her performance has a marked feature; variety and versatility. Her recital upholds tradition in theme, form, and style, the dance and the dancer forming one joyful entity."

~ Padma Jayaraj

Narthaki website, February 10th, 2006

<http://www.narthaki.com/info/reviews/rev329.html>

Shunning all gimmicks Navia's recital upheld the tradition in theme, form and style. Her margam contained variety but there was an underlying bedrock of tradition. The moods too varied from devotion to amorousness to motherly love. Navia lived her portrayal of the devotee, the lovelorn Nayika and the doting mother. The dance and the dancer formed one composite, joyful unity. A scientist by profession, Navia with her talent and ability to interpret and improvise is sure to go places.

~ Jaya Narayanan

The Hindu, Thiruvanthapuram, Jan 27, 2006

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-fridayreview/article3216913.ece>

"Navia combines the poise and flowing grace of the Vazhuvoor bani with a youthful exuberance of her own. A solid grounding in the basics helps her to maintain clarity of footwork at high speeds, not to mention unflagging stamina ... In the abhinaya aspect, Navia shows a freedom of expression not hampered by the 'pretty pretty' syndrome. The portrayal of the nayika's total immersion in love for her Lord had moments of abandon that are necessary if the presentation is to rise to the level of an individual statement."

~ Anjana Rajan

The Hindu, Chennai, December 23rd, 2005

<http://www.thehindu.com/ms/2005/12/23/stories/2005122300200600.htm>

Profile on Navia : Fearless, By Richard Turner, London,

~ Narthaki website, April 28, 2005

<http://www.thehindu.com/ms/2005/12/23/stories/2005122300200600.htm>