

Why do we dance?



ACCLAIMED danseuse Mandakini Trivedi once noted that dance is the only art form to exist both in time and space. Music does not occupy space, but it occupies time. Perhaps that is why dance is special: It cannot be captured. Every moment marks the creation of one pose, one gesture, one expression and the destruction of another.

Dance has different manifestations as described in the Puranas. The apsara dances for someone else's pleasure, Shiva dances for no one's pleasure and Krishna dances for everyone's pleasure just as everyone dances for his. Three different forms of dance, three different expressions of human thought, manifesting simultaneously in space and time.

Noted mythologist and culture consultant Dr Devdutt Pattanaik (left) explores the philosophies and motivation behind dance in his insightful talk, Why Do We Dance, at Samarpana – the Asian Festival of Classical Dance 2015.

Mumbai-born Dr Pattanaik was trained in medicine, and worked in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industry before his hobby of exploring sacred stories, symbols and rituals

caught the world's attention. A renowned speaker and leadership coach, he has written over 30 books and 500 articles on mythology and its relevance to modern times. Dr Pattanaik's bestsellers like *Jaya*, *Sita* and *Myth=Mithya* have reinvigorated interest in Indian culture and the relevance of the Indian way of looking at things, especially in management theories. His TV show *Business Sutra* and TED talk introduced the world to the idea of "my truth and your truth" to bring greater sense to the world of business.

For more information, log on to www.samarpanafestival.net

Win tickets

To win a pair of tickets to Dr Devdutt Pattanaik's talk on Aug 22 at 10am at the Esplanade Recital Studio, send your answer to the following question to info@samarpanafestival.net with your full name, IC and mobile number. Only winners will be notified by e-mail.

Closing date: July 30

Dr Pattanaik's book *Sita* deals with:

1. The Ramayana
2. The Mahabharata
3. The Iliad