



UMESH SHETTY

UMESH SHETTY was trained in the dance arts of Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Kathakali and folk dance at the Temple of Fine Arts (TFA), guided and inspired by his teacher, Swami Shantanand Saraswathi and his father, Gopal Shetty, a dance pioneer Indian classics in Malaysia. In 1991, he studied the art of Kathak dance with the Reverend Rohini Bhate of Pune, India, and later, had the opportunity received guidance from Pandit Birju Maharaj and Saswati Sen. She completed a Bachelor of Arts (Dance) at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia in 1997. He had the opportunity to train and performing contemporary Western and classical ballets with choreographers famous such as Neil Adams, Chrissy Parrot, Nannette Hassall, Reyes de Lara, Alan Alder, Lucette Aldous and David Prudam. These performances include Terminal Velocity, in Places Recalling Faces, Water Dances, At the Third Stroke and Raymonda Act 3. With exposure and strong influence from TFA as well as training in Australia, Umesh began experimenting intra-and inter-culturally upon his return he went to Malaysia. It is now evident in most of his works various styles and genres freely. In 2012, he earned a Master of Arts (choreography) at Middlesex University, London. Umesh has produced choreographed and performed in TFA's major dance productions including Ramayana – An Asian Cultural Confluence, Sundera Keralam, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Shakuntala, Lady White Snake, The Legend of Mahsuri, Swan Lake, Butterfly Lovers and Inside Out. With capabilities in classic and

contemporary styles, Umesh has distinguished himself as a leading dancer. She has been awarded several Cameronian Awards, namely Best Solo Dancer for La La Li Tang Pong (2002), Best Group Performance, Best Costume Design and Best Music & Sound Design for Tandava I (2004), Best Group Performance & Best Dance Production for Inside Out (2005), Best Choreography in a Mixed Bill for Sum (2009), and in 2017, the production of Inner Space Dance Conversation has awarded Best of 2017, Best Group Performance, Best Costume Design/Styling / Makeup, Best Music & Sound Design and Best Lighting Design. On 2006, he was awarded the National Art Award 2006 under the category 'Dancer'. Umesh is currently a full-time lecturer at the National Academy of Arts Malaysia (ASWARA). He is also one of the directors at TFA Malaysia and Artistic Director of TFA Inner Space Dance.