



*Sankha Ridma Dance Ensemble*  
*Sydney Australia*



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# Sankha Ridma Dance Ensemble (SRDE)



Sankha Ridma Dance Ensemble is one of the leading Sri Lankan dance groups in Sydney that works for preserving traditional art forms. This is done by passing the knowledge and skills to the talented young living and growing up in Australia.

## History

**In** view of promoting Sri Lanka and its rich culture which proudly boasts a history of 2500 years, Sankha Ridma Dance Ensemble was established in 2002 by Dinesh Perera, well known professional Sri Lankan Dancer.

The group is dedicated to enhancing creativity, teamwork and preserving the authentic Sri-Lankan traditional dance styles. The group specializes in the three main styles of traditional Sri-Lankan classical dancing;

- Kandyan
- Sabaragamuwa dancing styles
- Low Country

Since being established, SRDE has taken part in almost every community based major events held in Sydney and other cities in Australia.







# Sankha Ridma Drummers



Sankha Ridma has the pride of training most of the Sri Lankan traditional drummers in Sydney.

Our drummers are well versed with all types of drums including the Geta Beraya. They were trained by Dinesh Perera with his incomparable skills in drumming.



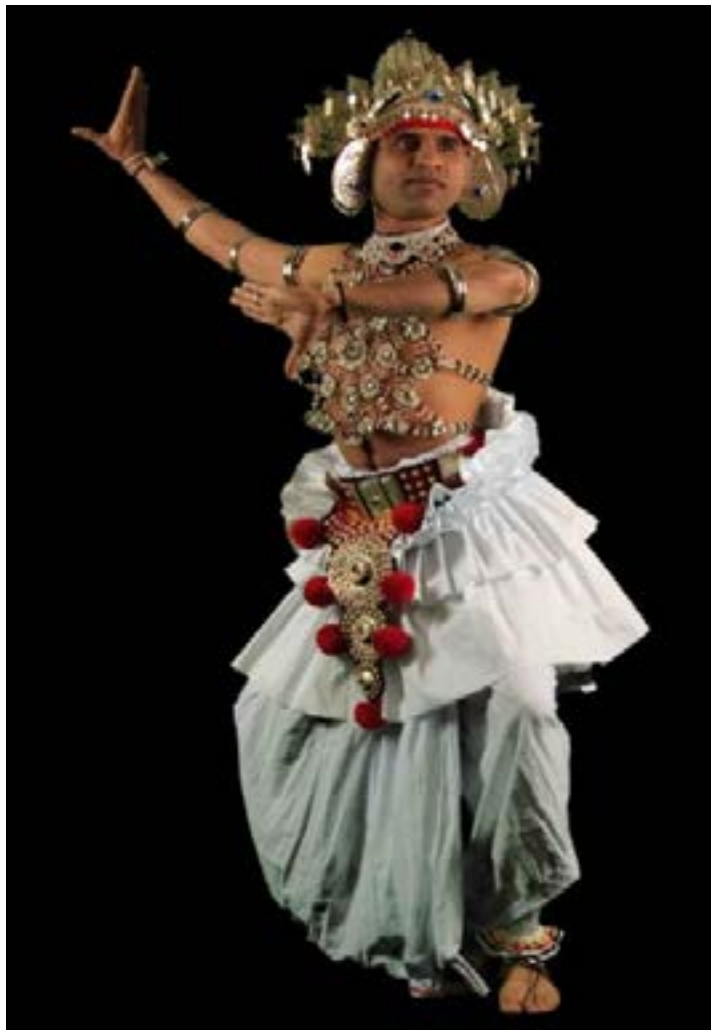
# Impact of Nobel Laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore on Sri Lankan Kandyan Dancing



**In** 1934, Rabindranath Tagore delivered a lecture on Kandyan Dancing in Colombo emphasizing the fact that it was sad to note Kandyan Dancing traditions were neglected on the part of the Sri Lankan aesthete. His statement helped to uplift the stagnant dancing style confined to processions and to perform in the presence of distinguished guests.

Tagore wrote a poem on Kandyan dancing and his dance-dramas incorporated Kandyan dance styles and costumes, such as in “Chandalika” and “Mayar Khela” (Tagore's first musical play). Tagore's appreciation of Kandyan dancing helped encourage the revival of this style from formal perahera processions to the mainstream in Sri Lanka.

- Prof. Sunil Ariyaratna, Department of Sinhala , University of Sri Jayawardenapura 1989.



# Director of Sankha Ridma - Dinesh Perera



Sankha Ridma Dance Ensemble and Dinesh have been closely working together for over a decade for the betterment of traditional Sri Lankan dancing and art. There is no doubt that this combination has contributed immensely towards preserving the Sri Lankan cultural heritage in Australia.

The quality of training provided by Sankha Ridma is proven by the production of a number of traditional Sri Lankan dancers and dancing teachers in Sydney.

Having started his career as a junior dancer under the guidance of Mrs. Mallika Jayathunga and Edward Perera, Dinesh has come a long way to fame.

July 1993 was an important milestone of his career when he staged his own dance concert named "Swarna Rekha" at the prestigious John De Silva Memorial Theatre in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Dinesh has worked with three prominent dance institutions in Sri Lanka, namely "Budhawatta Ranghayathanaya", "Channa Upuli Narthana Ayathanaya" and "Ravi Bandhu Vidyapathi Narthana Ayathanaya" where he performed as an eminent dancer.

Dinesh has performed overseas in many occasions with the Sri Lanka National Dance Troupe. In the tour to India, he had the opportunity to learn traditional Indian Dance forms such as "Kathak" and "Kathakali".

Apart from Dancing, Dinesh has served as a costume designer for a number of Television programmes run by the Sri Lankan state television "Rupavahini".





# Notable Performances and Reviews on Sankharidma



## **Parramasala – Sydney’s international contemporary Arts Festival 2011 - 2014**

“ This group dances with fire, literally. Sankha Ridma Dance Ensemble was established by Dinesh Perera in 2002. They have performed in Parramasala over the past 3 years. Sri-Lankan dance traditions are handed down from generation to generation and combine a rich cultural heritage of colourful costumes with dancing, drumming and fireworks.” - Parramasala

## **Channel 7 Sunrise Programme 2014**

Traditional Kandyan Dancing performance in Sunrise programme hosted by James Tobin.



## **Music oh so Noble**

“It should be mentioned the contributions made by Dinesh Perera and his incomparable local drumming (geta bera) skills to bring euphoria to the presentation of Harsha Makalanda’s “Music oh so noble” at Sydney Opera House in 2005

- Sisira Govinnage, East West Forum. – Sunday Observer, Sri Lanka - 10 April 2005.

## **Swarna Rekha Charity Concert 2003**

Performing arts has no barriers and creates a deeper and more tangible appreciation and understanding of cultural difference. Through its teaching of traditional Sri Lankan dance and music to the Sinhalese, Tamil and non Sri Lankan people, including children, the Sankharidma Dance Ensemble is engaging in the spirit of multiculturalism and community harmony.

– **The Hon Philip Ruddock, Minister of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.**

“ The concert was a wonderful success, not only for the monies raised for the Melanoma foundation, but also with the show-casing of traditional Sri Lankan culture amongst the wider community”

– **Councillor Julia Finn, Deputy Lord Mayor, Parramatta.**

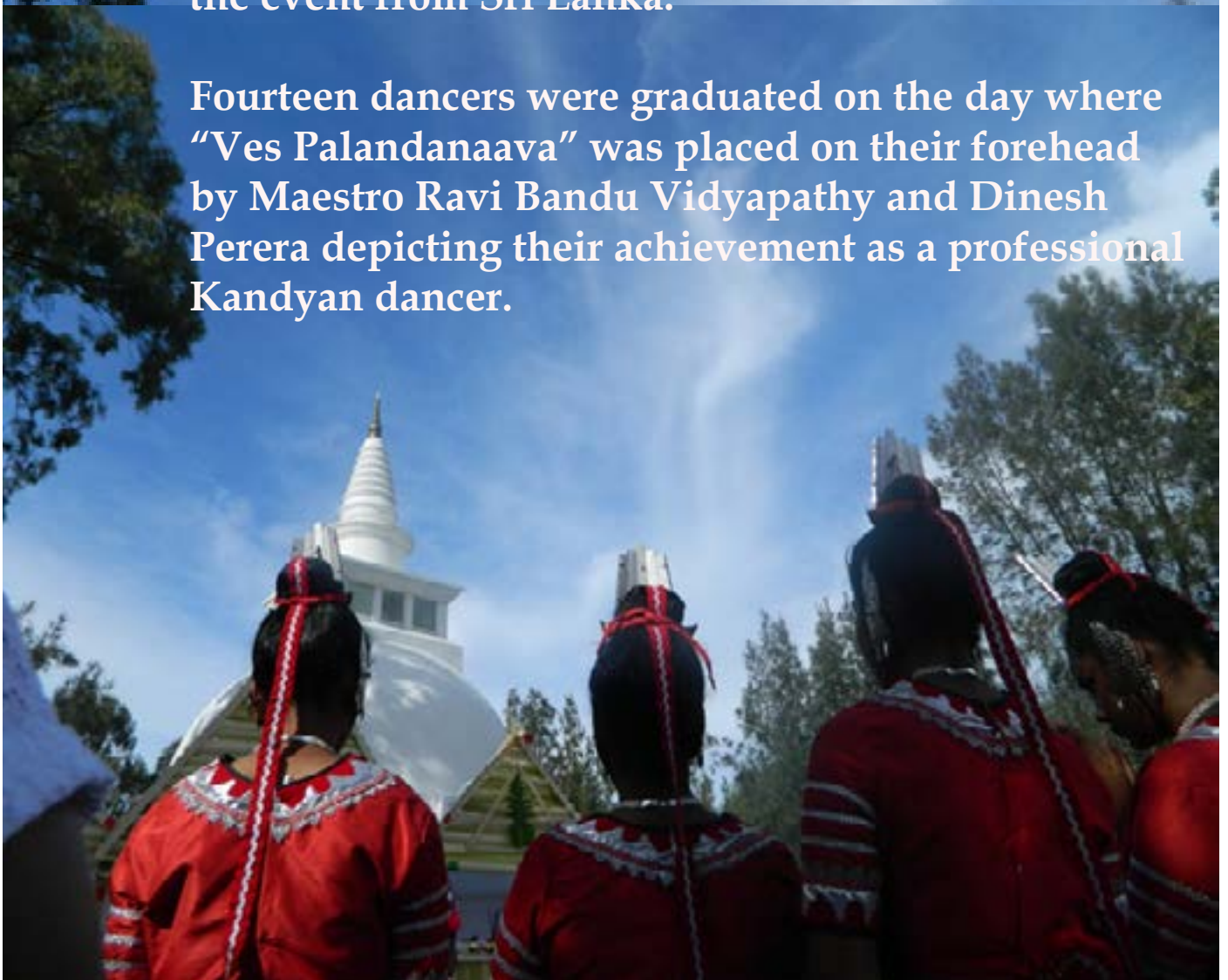
Dinesh, a multitalented artist has been promoting both traditional and contemporary Sri Lankan art and artists from time to time, while performing his much loved devoted duty of establishing our traditional dance in Australia thus educating and evoking a love for our culture in the young children living in Sydney.

- **Ravibandhu Vidyapathy.**

# Ves Mangalya 2015 First Step of the Traditional Kandyan Dancer

Sankha Ridma had its second graduation ceremony in early 2015. This well received traditional event was concluded at the Sri Lankan Buddhist temple in Schofield with the participation of maestro Ravi Bandu Vidyapathy who was specially invited for the event from Sri Lanka.

Fourteen dancers were graduated on the day where “Ves Palandanaava” was placed on their forehead by Maestro Ravi Bandu Vidyapathy and Dinesh Perera depicting their achievement as a professional Kandyan dancer.





# Nruthyabhisheka 2015

## Harmony of Universal Beats



Dinesh Perera along with Sankha Ridma joined hands with Maestro Ravi Bandu Vidyapathy and brought this dancing, drumming and percussion jewel on to the stage in April 2015.



*Sampath Banerjee*  
MULTIMEDIA



## Major Events

- 1 Nruthyabhisheka 2015 - Presented by Sankha Ridma
- 2 Sankha Ridma Kala Eli Mangalya 2015
- 3 Parramasala 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015
- 4 Rasaanjali 2015
- 5 Spicy Penrith – Multicultural Variety Show 2012 and 2015
- 6 Sinuvara Pratibha - 2014 and 2012
- 7 Bakmaha Rangana – Annual Sri Lankan Cultural Show
- 8 Rhythms Night 2013 - Presented by Sankha Ridma
- 9 Opening ceremony of the new Sri Lankan consulate in Canberra 2013 – Official participation
- 10 Cowra Festival 2013
- 11 Dilmah 25th Anniversary show 2013
- 12 Mai Mal – Sri Lankan Variety show 2012
- 13 Derana Superstar – Sri Lankan Variety Show 2012
- 14 Sri Lankan cultural road show in Sydney Darling Harbour organized by the Sri Lanka Consulate to promote tourism in Sri Lanka – 2015 and 2012– Participated in almost all the items.
- 15 NAADRO 2012– The Roar of Fire – Presented by Sankha Ridma
- 16 Nruthyabhisheka 2010 - Presented by Sankha Ridma

