

## About Aparna Rao

I am Aparna Rao, Masters in Kuchipudi from University of Silicon Andhra, Milpitas, California, USA, a certified Kuchipudi dance professional from Telugu University, Hyderabad, AP and a master's in computers from Osmania University. I am involved with this rich art form from past 20 years as a student, dancer, performer, and trainer. I was trained under Guru Smt. Prasanna Rani and in Pasumarthi's dance style for initial years and later in Vempati Chinna Satyam Dance style from gurus of Kuchipudi Art Academy. During my master's program, I had an opportunity to get involved and work with the best in the field. I had performed in various ballets like Mohini Basmadura, Parvathi Kalyanam, Deva Devam Baje enacting main lead as Mohini, Parvathi and Parushurama. I have experience as a solo performer and choreographer specialized in Tarangams, Shabdams, Javali's, Keerthana's, Padam's etc. There are many self-choreographed dance pieces that were performed by my team in multiple places in USA.

I moved to US in 2006 as part of my Software Job and was simultaneously involved in cultural activities, which looked very encouraging for me to train and perform in US.

I am presently running "Aparna Rao Kuchipudi Dance School" in Phoenixville, PA (since August 2014) i.e., after a break of 5 years, which involved my move from Illinois to PA, pregnancy and raising a kid. In Bloomington, Illinois I had a team of dancers whom I had groomed for various performances like Festival of India, Ugadhi, Children's Day, Corporate Cultural festivals. I was also part of these performances along with my group. Same here in Phoenixville, PA too, my team has a credit of performing in major festivals.

My motive is to promote this rich heritage of Kuchipudi to enthusiastic and interested students.