

SNATA SHAHRIN

Hometown: Dhaka

Styles: Kathak

Inspiration: Shibli Mohammad

Dancing was actually my mother's dream but she could not achieve it. So, like any other kid, I had it upon me. In 1994 my father took me to Shibli Mohammad and from then, there has not been a time when I was not in love with dancing. I have always been in Dhaka and Shibli Mohammad has always been and will be my Guru, but I also started learning as a student from Shamim Ara Nipa from around 1996. This year is my 24th year with sir (Shibli Mohammad) as a student and a few less as a Kathak instructor at Nrittanchal Performing Art Academy. I have been their student way before they founded this academy.

I do work personally as well. My first work as a choreographer was with Prachyanat Theatre. Goethe Institute of Bangladesh has a platform for young dancers and I am one of the seven. Other than that I get offered different events and shows, which too I would say with the help from these platforms. But I have never stopped working for Nrittanchal Performing Art Academy and Shibli Mohammad.

I had a long break from dance, almost 4 years, after my son was born. It had made me realize how hard it is for me to keep myself away from dancing or not dance at all. So I would say my future plan is to continue to do what I do for as long as my body supports it, because when I dance I somehow get the energy, dedication and passion of a 16-year old.



SAIFUL ISLAM EVAN

Hometown: Patuakhali

Styles: Folk, Bharatanatyam

Inspiration: Akram Khan

I started dancing from my hometown Patuakhali back in 1997. Initially I specialized in Folk and General dancing under the watch of my first teacher Moniruzzaman Moni. Later I moved to Barisal and to continue dancing I joined Shilpakala Academy and Shishu Academy of Barisal where I got Shohag Bhai (Ivan Shahriar Sohag) and Murad Bhai (Muradujjaman Khan) as my mentors. After I moved to Dhaka I started specializing in Bharatanatyam under the discipline of Jago Art Centre where my guru was Belayet Hossain Khan, one of the most promising Bharatanatyam dancers in the country. Apart from Bharatanatyam I usually dance to fusion and folk. However much I have specialized in Bharatanatyam, and still learning it, I work the most with fusion and contemporary dancing when it comes to shows.

I have my own school in Patuakhali which I started in around 2008 or 2009. Whenever I visit there I take classes and there were a few times my students come to Dhaka to learn from me and perform in televisions, but I do not have any plan on growing or focusing in having my own group because I believe I still have a lot to learn. In Dhaka I mostly work with Sharmila Banerjee from Chayanaut Sangeet Vidyatan along with this I have been working as a choreographer with my team from 2014 at Channel I. Since after I won the 1st runners-up position in Mangolee Shera Nachiye back in 2013. From there I have made a lot of friends from different seasons of the competition and we do plan on making our own group naming it Rhythm.

I would say my all-time favorite dancer and idol is Akram Khan and following his ideology, I would like to work in an international level while keeping our dance form or our cultural twist to dance unchanged.