

## SURAIYA ISLAM RIA

**Hometown:** Tangail  
**Styles:** Contemporary, Kathak  
**Inspirations:** Munmun Ahmed, Mitul Sengupta

My hometown is Tangail so my initiation in dancing was in Tangail too, with my first mentor Rony Chowdhury. Later I moved to Rangpur and learned in the supervision of Abul Kalam Azad and Shapon Kumar Saha. When I moved to Dhaka my teacher was M.R. Wasek and Likhon Roy and my specialization was in Bharatnatyam. When I was a kid I always wanted to grow up to be a Gynecologist and so I studied in Pure Science all along, but when the competition 'Channel I Mangolee Shera Nachiye' began my mentors Abul Kalam Azad and M.R. Wasek motivated me to participate. I had no plans regarding my future in dancing but as I started qualifying at each round my love for dancing got stronger. I was one of the participants in Top 7 of the competition and according to the rule of the competition one participant had the chance to win a scholarship in India in the institution Rhythmosaic Dance Academy, which is conducted by Ronnie Shambik Ghose and Mitul Sengupta, and assisted by Prasanna Saikia. It was sponsored by Lubna khala (Lubna Marium), and in 2015, Season 3, I was chosen to be the lucky one. Now that my life in dancing has changed



completely, my wish of becoming a gynecologist has been happily thrown away out of the window and I want to flourish my future in dancing. I love the work of Munmun Ahmed from Bangladesh and Mitul Sengupta from here in my institution in Kathak and for contemporary I would follow the footsteps of Akram Khan. I am still learning and still have a lot to learn but when I am done I will get back to Bangladesh. I dream to go really big.

## ARNOB SHARMA

**Hometown:** Srimongol  
**Style:** Manipuri  
**Inspiration:** Sweety Das Chowdhury

I started dancing when I was 12 back in my hometown in Moulovi Bazar, Sylhet. It escalated when Lubna khala (Lubna Marium) started a joint venture project for three years. The initial steps of Manipuri, called the 'Mridanga Chalan', were my first expertise when I was 12 with my Guru Babu Chan Singha. After the initiative with Lubna Marium I started to learn more of it from my mentor Sweety Das Chowdhury. My specialization is in Manipuri and I barely work outside my genre.

In Dhaka I only work with Shadhona Shangskritik Mondal, supervised by Lubna Marium and other than that I work with my

Manipuri Group that was formed in Moulovi Bazar.

My future plan for now is to do my Masters in Manipuri dance form Manipuri Cultural University in India. I have already applied for the scholarship and now I do classes at Shadhona. When I feel I am educated enough, I wish to start my own group and continue in Manipuri dance form.



## RUHI AFSANA DIPTI

**Hometown:** Jamalpur  
**Style:** Kathak, Others  
**Inspiration:** Pandit Birju Maharaj

My life in dance started with the will of my mother from when I was 3. I would hold my mother's hand and hold a feeder in the other. It all started in my hometown Jamalpur in the guidance of Advocate Shamim Ara, teacher at Shilpakala Academy Jamalpur, followed by Khandokar Hafizur Rahman Ripon. After we moved to Dhaka, I decided to expertise in Kathak so I joined classes taken by my guru Shaju Ahmed, gradually I worked with M.R. Wasek and also Ivan Shahriar Sohag.

My initial specialization was in Kathak, but after joining Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy I perform different forms as well, mostly General Dance. We take workshops conducted by our masters from different parts of Asia. Chandraman Munikar and Rajendra Shrestha Guruji last visited and conducted a workshop in 'Charya Pada', after that Urmee Mala Devi visited and taught us Contemporary.

Joining Shilpakala Academy gave a whole new story to my career in dancing. In 2015 my father came across a circular offering for Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Without any preparation I sat for the written exam and got selected followed by the viva exam which I also passed with flying colors and now I am working as a Junior Dance Artist at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

My favorite dancer and idol of all time is Birju Maharaj Ji, and putting him as an inspiration I want to continue my future in dancing. I somehow could not manage to study dancing in my Undergrad and ended up studying BBA, but my plan is to pursue dance in my Graduate.

