

**Abstract:** Odissi and Bharatnatyam are two forms of Indian Classical Dance Style. Among both of the dances, in terms of usage of costume, make-up, hairstyle and jewellery, there are both similarities as well as dissimilarities.

**Keywords:** Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Comparison, Dance

### Introduction

India has rich cultural heritage that lies in its music and dance. The Indian dance forms vary from state to state. There are hundreds of different types of dances in India. But only 8 dances are recognised as classical dances. These are Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Kathakali,

it serves as a fabulous way to express the innate feeling of heart. It is also the best means to get corrected with God. It can be traced back during the period of Natya Shastra of Bharat Muni. It was performed to appease the deities and was considered a vital element of spirituality. All the prevailing dance forms use basically the same

## Costume, Make up, Hair Style and Jewellery of Odissi Dance Versus Bharatanatyam Dance

*Subhashree Pattnaik*

Mohiniattam, Manipuri, and Satriya. Among all these dances, Odissi and Bharatnatyam are most ancient and bear the original styles of performance, which make them stand out differently superb.

Dance is any one prescribed sequence of such movements in the music to which it is performed or an event at which it takes place. Dance in India comprises the varied styles of dances in the country. As with other aspects of Indian cultures different forms of dances originated in different parts of India. But particularly in our country classical dance has a lot of significance. It is not merely meant for entertaining oneself but

“Mudras” or signs of hand as a common language of expression and were originally performed in the temples to entertain various Gods and Goddesses. They were also effective in carrying forward the various mythological stories from generation to generation while entertaining the audiences.

### Origin and History

Odissi the term itself represents its origin from the state of Odisha. It is one of the famous classical traditional dance forms of the eastern part of India. It is an ecstatic and sensuous form of dance performed in the temples of Odisha as a religious-rite and offering by the “Devadasis”

popularly known as “Mahari”. The dance is found in the Manchapuri cave in Udayagiri which was carved during the religious emperor Kharavela. Hence it can be traced centuries back to its origin as a secular dance. Later it got attached with the temple culture of Odisha.

Odissi is a highly inspired, passionate, ecstatic and sensuous form of dance. In Odissi dance the whole body of the dancer is their instrument, means of artistic expression and elevates body fitness. It also makes a dancer both physical and psychological strong as it requires high stamina and patience and tied with spirited mindedness. It creates devotion in one's mind and heart. Thus it is considered the most spiritual and religious based dance form like other Indian dance patterns.

**Bharatnatyam** : Bharatnatyam is also one of the traditional classical dance forms in the South India which originated from state of Tamilnadu. It is basically practiced in the temples of Shiva for many centuries. It was performed only by certain families in the district of Tanjore like "Devadasis" or Mahari of Odissi dance, the performers of Bharatnatyam are known as ‘Nattuvans’. It is combined artistic expression with a sense of spirituality. The dancers generally dance to a traditional south Indian Carnatic orchestra consisting of voice, strings, percussion and flute. Though this dance form is purely originated from the state of Tamil Nadu, now it has become one of the classical dance forms all over the country.

#### Comparison in terms of costumes:

In Odissi the women dancers wear the *patta* sari, a brightly coloured silk sari which is nine yards long and a black or red blouse called the *kanchula*. An apron-like silk cloth, known as the ‘nibibhanda’, is tied from the waist like a

frill worn around the legs. The waistband, called the *jhobha*, is a length of cord with tasseled ends. The *Patta* sari used by dancer in Odissi are particularly coloured with bright shades of orange, purple, red or green. Sambalpuri Saree and Bomkai Saree are also preferred in Odissi dance formats. The beautiful *Pallu* in this dance is called the *Thallaippu*. This pleat is made in the front that makes the costume very rich and colourful. The decorative headpiece of the dancer is made from Styrofoam, which is shaped like flowers.

The costumes of Bharatnatyam dancer are very bright and gorgeous. The costumes consist of a *doti* for both the genders. It is basically embroidered brocade. It fits snugly above the ankles and is pleated along the legs, which it encases. Over the *dhoti*, in the middle, is a pleated or frilled cloth hanging from the waist to the knees. The upper part of the male dancers body that is above the waist remains bare save for a necklace and the women dancer put on a tight fitting choli of the same colour and material as the *dhoti*.

#### Comparison in terms Make-up and Hair Style

**Odissi** - There are three kinds of hairstyles in Odissi dance. They are the *ardh-bathaka* or semicircular bun; the *pushpa-chuda* with the hair of the dancer coiled into the shape of a flower and the *kati-beni*, which is a single plait down the back. But the Hairstyle in Bharatanatyam mainly of *Kunjalam* which is three cotton pom's to tie at the end of a braid, two rubber bands, hair extension real or fake *Gajra* in white colour forehead with a pattern made from white kumkum around it, *Kajal* (black eyeliner), applied around the eyes with a broad outline. In Odissi the dancer decorate their eyes with *kohi* and there is a small mark on the chin. They also use a crown namely

*Mookut* in their head. The *Mukoot* consists of two parts one is Ghoba and other Tahiya. The flower decorated back piece of the crown is known as the Ghoba. The longer piece that emerges from the centre of the back piece is called the Tahiya. These two pieces of the crown on the so called *mukoot* of the Odissi dancer represents the temple spire of Lord Jagannath or the flute of Lord Krishna.

### Jewellery :

In Odissi, filigree silver jewellery are used by the dancer of both genders. But these are important parts of a female dancer's costume. The hair is drawn into an elaborate bun on which the Tahiya is placed. The Seenthi is a jewellery piece placed on the hair and forehead. The dancer's face is decorated with Tikka made by hand with sandalwood paste. Mathami or Matha Patti (forehead ornament), Allaka (head piece which the tikka hangs), unique ear covers called Kapa in intricate shapes usually depicting the peacock's feathers, an ear chain Jhumkas (bell shaped earrings), a short necklace, and a longer necklace with a hanging pendant are also worn.

For hand ornaments the dancer wears a pair of armlets also called Bahichudi or Bajuband, which is put on upper arm. A pair of Kankana (bangles) is used at the wrist part ankle bells around the ankles. The dancer's palms and soles are painted with red coloured dye called the Alta.

But in Bharatanatyam, jewellery is popularly known as Temple Jewellery. These are Jhumka (Ear ornament), Oddiyanam (waist band), Nathni (nose ring), Long Mala (long necklace), Short Mala (choker), Vaanki (arm bands), Chudiya Matching coloured bangles with dress), Ghungroo (musical anklet with metallic bells), Mattal (forehead ornament), Surya (sun

shaped hair ornament), Chandra (moon shaped hair ornament) etc.

### Conclusion :

Finally Odissi and Bharatanatyam Dance Style, in terms of usage of costume, there are both similarities-Blouse, Pyjama, Dissimilarities-Bomkai Saree-Pattu Saree, 3 pieces-6 pieces, Uttari-Pallu Kanchula –Small Fan, Side pleated-Middle pleated and hair style Dissimilarities-Pushpa-chuda- Long Plait with Gajara, Tahiya-Kunjalam and Jewellery. Similarities- Long Mala (long necklace), Dissimilarities-Silver jewellery (Tarakasi ornaments)-Temple Jewellery (Kempu ornaments), Surya (sun shaped hair ornament) Chandra (moon shaped hair ornament) Mathami or Matha Patti (forehead ornament) -Mattal (forehead ornament) Kapa -Jhumka, Naka Phula-Nathni (nose ring), Nattu and Bullaku, Short Mala (chika)- Short Mala (choker), Bajuband (Taita)- Vaanki (arm bands) Bengapatia- Oddiyanam (waist band), Kankana (bangles) -Chudiya (coloured bangles to match the dress), Ghungroo (musical anklet with metallic bells).

### References :

1. D.N. Pattnaik, 'Odissi Dance', Orissa Sangeet Natak Academy, Bhubaneswar, 2006.
2. Odissi Encyclopedia Britannica (2013)
3. [http://ccrtindia.gov.in/classical\\_dances.php](http://ccrtindia.gov.in/classical_dances.php) Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT); "Archived copy". Archived from the original on 14 October, 2013. Retrieved 6 November, 2013. Guidelines for Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna and Akademi Puraskar.
4. Dhirendranath Patnaik (1990). Odissi dance. Orissa Sangeet Natak Adademi.

---

Subhashree Pattnaik, Ph. D. Scholar, Department of Culture, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Block-4, Flat No.301, Siddheswar Nagar, Jagamara, Khandagiri-30.