

Jinnie is privileged to have had the opportunity to perform along side Bally Sagoo and Apache Indian. "It was quite a challenge to have choreographed to their songs and perform it live." Besides this, she has taken part in MTV song clips, a song clip in a South Indian movie and choreographed the commercial for the promo of Aussie goes Bolly with Tania Zaetta. She acclaims her best dance performance and close to heart as a dancer was the 2000 Opening Ceremony of Sydney Olympics, performing with Jay Sean and Juggy D and the Kerri Anne Show.

Balancing a career in finance and dancing, Jinnie is a perfect mix of beauty and brains. Though she idolises actresses Urmila Matondkar, Madhuri Dixit, Ashwarya Rai, and Koena Mitra's for their dancing abilities, for her Oprah is the perfect influential icon in today's world. When we ask her what her dream performance would be, she tells us, "My dream performance would be for Nupur Dance Group to co-ordinate and choreograph the whole entertainment segment for Film Fare or IIFA awards."

Though she has also been offered some lead roles in Bollywood films, she has decided not to leave her life behind in Sydney. "I want to take my group to the next level by working towards a possible world tour and keep educating and entertaining australians about the rich Indian Culture" says Jinnie.

As an advice to upcoming dancers, she says "Pursue formal dance training to improve your ability as a dancer. Don't give up just because you find something too difficult, be persistent and consistent and practise your routine over and over again. Take criticism as an opportunity to better yourself, try not to stay in your comfort zone and keep challenging yourself otherwise you will never evolve. Most importantly enjoy yourself and dance from the heart."

**Khursheed Irani**

Khursheed Irani was introduced to Bollywood dancing by her cousin Kaizad Panthaki who has been trained by Shiamak Daver. Though she was always performing various styles as well as indulging in Jazz, Afro-contemporary, funk and salsa dance classes, she always craved to learn Indian classical dance and contemporary.

After performing for Bollywood shows with Kaizad, both of them formed their own group 'Bollywood Sensations' in 2007 which is now a group of six people. She has performed in the movie 'Heyy Babyy', ads for Sony India, Uncle Ben's sauces, MTV Awards and have organised events and danced for charities such as Vision Australia, Charles Teo's event and the Asylum Seekers home at North Sydney Leagues Club.

At present, Khursheed is training, performing and choreographing with Kaizad for their Bollywood shows. She also trains in other styles such as classical Indian dance, namely Kuchupudi with Ragavan Nair for the last two years. She is also a trainee instructor with Natalie Reis from Auslatin. Being in touch with various schools of dance, we ask

Khursheed what

Bollywood dancing means to her and to Australia, and she says, "Bollywood is a mix of many styles of dance which I think still needs to be understood here in Australia. We tend to dance the more traditional or folk oriented numbers for the Australian crowd and the more funky oriented numbers for the Indian community as the concept of Bollywood is different for both. In the last few years there has been a transition - not only in the number of Bollywood themed events but also the extent to which the non-Indian community now dress and accessorise as well as get into the music and dance. It is lovely to see how the West has taken on this as popular culture and seem to be thoroughly enjoying it."

Khursheed is also a Natural Therapist specialising in Acupuncture, Bowen and Ayurveda Aromatherapy.

How do you balance between being a dancer and a therapist? "Working as a dancer allows me to be able to switch to another world and express in a way which still works in harmony with the work I do. Recently, I infused both of my professions at one place - at the 2nd International Ayurveda and Yoga Conference, Kaizad and myself did a classical fusion item to the powerful Hanuman Chalisa - this was a unique experience as it had a very in depth meaning and structure, as it involved dance and spirituality."

Anyone whom you idolise in Bollywood dance? "If I had to have an idol in Bollywood it would be Madhuri Dixit - I think she embodies all aspects and strengths of a woman as well as being a fabulous dancer, actress and a stunning looking personality. Other than my cousin Kaizad, choreographers Vaibhavi Merchant and her production Merchants of Bollywood, Shiamak Daver and Ganesh Hegde."

"My little piece of advice to anyone who is interested in dance or Bollywood dance is that you stop learning if you stick with only performing. Performing definitely has taught me a lot and given me great confidence but the learning never stops. All I can say is that I have barely touched the tip of the iceberg" acclaims Khursheed.

TIDU congratulates all for introducing and bringing a new meaning to Bollywood and how the Australians are dancing to the its tunes.

**Varun Tiwari**

Varun Tewari has come a long way since his arrival in 2005 from India. Hailing from Jalandhar, Punjab, Varun came to Australia to learn the art of film making and entertain people with his dancing. As a student, he managed to find a job with a Harris Park based radio station and lived in the premises for 14 months to save costs. Today, besides performing at various functions, he makes short films, is a dance teacher and choreographer with Ghungru Dance Academy.

Besides dancing, Varun has acted in Punjabi movies in India and Australia such as SNEEZE, The Egyptian, Table 8 and in ATITHI (in production). He has also worked in Hell in Paradise that is on the editing table.

Till today, Varun has performed 372 shows in Sydney and is a familiar face at Bollywood concerts and functions. Hardworking and always smiling, Varun has always been applauded by his audience for his Bollywood style of dancing. "Dance means a lot to me and I pride myself as a dancer. It is my life and my passion. My parents started sending me for dance competitions since I was four years old - they have been a great support."

Considering Prabhu Deva and Javed Jaffery as his idols, Varun has danced with most of the celebrity singers that have performed in Sydney. He wants to continue making films in Sydney and teaching dance to his students.

