

## A Collective!

Seven dancers from different genres (of dance), backgrounds and identities coalesced together for months to train and present Padme... They share their experiences of being part of this project!



*The concept of Padme, in many ways, has been parallel to my own thinking and exploration of dance. In the light of my new-found joy with movement and allied training, I have been able to break my very rigid mould of body (and mind), and develop a better understanding of movement. In the beginning of the project, we were introduced to the lotus as being happy, overcoming its own struggle through the slush, and denoting spirituality. Through the course of Padme, I have been able to understand and feel these emotions around me. Padme is a cohesive and personal relationship with movement, synergy and energy shared.*

**Sukriti T**



*The lotus symbolises the union of the four elements — water, earth, air and fire. The roots are in the earth; it grows in and with the help of water; its leaves are nourished by air, and it blooms through the power of the sun's fire. I find this image most befitting, where all of us coming from different backgrounds, are bringing in our unique energies to build something special together. Kalpana (Akka) has a deep-rooted sense of spirituality, through which she not only keeps us grounded but also helps us grow as individuals with our own imagination.*

**Ashwini Raghupathy**



*Padme has challenged my conditioning in aspects of form, approach and even costumes. As classical practitioners, we often bind ourselves down to the dogmatic approach to movement and our limited perception of what dance is ought to be! Padme has helped ease this conviction and, in a way, coerced me to be open to newness and embrace change, rather than be alarmed about it. The manner in which Kalpana (Akka) gradually pushed us to realise our body and capacity was organic and enjoyable. Anita (Akka's) energy, enthusiasm and attention to detail played an important role in the shaping of Padme.*

**Keerthana Ravi**



*The concept of Padme to me is as beautiful as the lotus itself: the energy, freshness and sense of sensuality that it radiates. It has been a very special experience to me as it has made me understand the various ways to connect with the body and the energy around it. Padme has been about learning, exploring a new form and trying to connect with the body in a way that I never did before.*

**Meenakshi**



*Padme is constituted in four parts; each of them very different from the other in style. The music for Padme is a combination of instruments, both slow and soft which provides that mild energy and beauty required for a flower. Though the dance movements are intense and have a lot of power, it seems to flow in a very delicate and subtle manner. Padme is an exploration of an entirely new look on dance, a blooming discovery of a bud; it is the unearthing of creativity and an opportunity to exhibit what I have previously learnt in dance.*

**Meghna Venkat**



*Padme has been very special because it was an opportunity to improvise my contemporary dance with Anita Ratnam, whom I have a high regard for. I have been able to connect with the concept of Padme very well, so much that my 56-km journey to practise everyday seems insignificant. Each of the dancers brought in a different energy and, as a group, we combined it into something very beautiful. I am fortunate to have a solo piece which I enjoyed choreographing. I was also given the opportunity to choreograph a duet between Vandana and Ashwini; I put good use of my experience in contemporary dance and Kathakali to create interesting movements and sequences.*

**Sabyasachi Mukherjee**



*Padme denotes beauty, fertility, prosperity, spirituality and eternity to me. The experience of Padme is unique and special because it has given me the opportunity to be a better dancer and acquire new techniques in dance. The concept is so beautiful that all the dancers have been able to connect with it, thus bringing us closer to each other. Padme has made me push myself to new levels and move in ways that were unknown to my body. Kalpana (Akka) has taught me not only to be unique in my dance but also in sync with the others in a team. The team work has been very rewarding as I have learnt from each dancer, something about dance; to be free and let my body move with the beat. The training has not only been enjoyable but also an experimental ground for me to explore dance beyond my limits; it is the most joyful feeling of experiencing something new everyday.*

**Vandana Supriya**

# PADME

## & FLOAT

Edition #1, December 2014



### COLLABORATORS

