Classical Dances of India - Talks about the origins and traditions of the various classical dances of India, including Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, Manipuri, Kathak and Mohini Attam. It also talks about how the various Hindu Gods and Goddesses are associated with the classical dances, and also about other influences on these dances. Describes various Mudras, Bhangas and dance postures. Lord Ganesha Reading Veda - Book. The art of dance was created by Lord Brahma (the Creator), according to the Natya Shastra and Abhinaya Darpana, the treatises on dance. The Natya Shastra is the earliest Indian text in the history of performing arts. Each Indian classical dance form also draws inspiration from stories depicting the life, ethics and beliefs of the Indian people. India has a very rich tradition of classical and non-classical dance. The Natya Shastra, which is the oldest surviving text on stagecraft in the world, spends a considerable time discussing it. In the old days of the theatre, the dancers would mime the story while the singers would sing the dialogue. It is particularly problematic to talk of classical Indian dance. The problem stems partly from the definition of the word "classical", and partly from the nature of the Indian dance forms. We will use three simple benchmarks to determine whether something is "classical". The first benchmark is age. Performing arts like classical dances are integral parts of Indian culture. This is a mega-post which cover the details of all classical dances in India. Most of the classical dance forms originated in temples. Worshipping was the main aim. Although every dance form evolved from different regions, their roots are the same. The roots can be traced from the Sanskrit text "Natya Shastra". The first compilation of Natya Shastra is dated between 200BCE and 200CE. As time passed, artists improvised many classical dances which resulted in the present day forms. Today, Indian classical dances are very popular dance all over the world. Rasanubhuti: The 8 Rasas. The Rasanubhuti is the ultimate aim of these dance forms. Classical Dances of India. Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu). The Abhinaya Darpana by Nandikesvara is one of the main sources of textual material, for the study of the technique and grammar of body movement in Bharatnatyam Dance. Bharatnatyam dance is known to be ekaharya, where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance. The dance involves transitional movements of leg, hip and arm. Expressive eye movements and hand gestures are used to convey emotions. Kathak is the only form of classical dance wedded to Hindustani or the North Indian music. Lady Leela Sokhey (Menaka) revived the classical style. Some prominent dancers include Birju Maharaj, Sitara Devi. Kathakali (Kerala).