

Ranee A. Ramaswamy
Founder and Artistic Director, Ragamala Dance
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EDUCATION/TRAINING

1984 - Present Advanced training with Master Dancer Alarmel Valli, Chennai, India
1960 - 1985 Advanced training with Master Dancer Chamundeswari in Chennai, India
1969 - 1972 Bachelor of Arts, Madras University, India

CHOREOGRAPHIC AWARDS AND HONORS

2011 McKnight Foundation Distinguished Artist
1998-2011 14 grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in support of Ranee's work
2010, 2007 National Dance Project Production Grants
2010, 2008, 2006 Japan Foundation (New York) Performing Arts Japan Grants
2008 Meet the Composer Commissioning Music/USA grant to commission Dr. L. Subramaniam
2008 Joyce Award from the Joyce Foundation (Chicago)
2007 India Association of Minnesota Achievement Award
2006 Regional Dance Development Initiative/Dance Lab Mentor, San Francisco, CA
2004 Artist of the Year, Minneapolis *Star Tribune*
2004 Artist Exploration Fund Grant, Arts International, New York, NY
2004 Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant
2002, 1997 McKnight Foundation/Intermedia Arts Artist Fellowships for Interdisciplinary Artists
1986-2001 12 McKnight Foundation Artist Fellowships for Choreographers
2000 Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship for Choreography
1999 Intermedia Arts "Exchanges" Program Mentor
1998 Leadership Initiative in the Neighborhood (LIN) Grant from St. Paul Companies
1996 Bush Foundation Choreography Fellowship
1993-1995 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Choreography Fellowship
1994-1997 Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Collaboration Grant
1994 Artist of the Year, *City Pages*
1994, 1991, 1989 Jerome Foundation Travel/Study Grants
1992 Intermedia Arts Diverse Visions Grant
1992 Asia-Pacific Council Award for Leadership in the Arts
1991-92 Minnesota Center for Arts and Education Professional Development Grant
1991, 1988 Minnesota State Arts Board Career Opportunity Grants
1985 National Endowment for the Arts Folk Arts Apprenticeship Grant
 CalArts Alpert Award Nominee (Twice)

CHOREOGRAPHIC COMMISSIONS

2010 **Children's Theatre Company** (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
2004, 2009 **Walker Art Center** (Minneapolis, Minnesota), *Sethu (Bridge)* and *Dhvee (Duality)*
2008 **Saint Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists** (St. Paul, Minnesota)
2008 **American Composers Forum** (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
2005 **Steppingstone Theater** (St. Paul, Minnesota)
2003 **University of Minnesota** "Interplay" Series, *Aavya (Meeting)*
2001 **Zenon Dance Company** (Minneapolis, Minnesota), *Ze-Natyam*
1996 **Duluth Choreographers' Conference** (Duluth, Minnesota)
1994 **Macalester College** (St. Paul, Minnesota)
1993 **Minneapolis Institute of Arts**, *Puppet Master*

FROM THE PRESS

“*[Ragamala]* showed how Indian forms can provide some of the most transcendent experiences that dance has to offer. This is an excellent company.”

—Alastair Macaulay, *The New York Times*

“*The Ramaswamys’* work is firmly grounded in Indian classical tradition, but the result could be called American contemporary dance in the truest sense—dance of the multicultural America, the meeting-ground America.... *Ragamala* shows a way into the twenty-first century for all classical forms.”

—Lightsey Darst, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine*

Magazine

“An entertaining, at times sublime, dance exhibition... *Ragamala* does proud justice to Indian culture.”

—Katharine Rust, *Time Out New York*

“One of the most hauntingly beautiful theatrical works I have ever seen. This may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Catch them while you can. If you don’t, you’ll probably either live to regret it or probably never know what you’ve missed. I don’t know which is worse.”

—Leon Conrad, *The Fringe Review* (Edinburgh, Scotland)

“By the broadness of her ideas, *[Ranee]* Ramaswamy shows how a classic form can be at once elastic, contemporary and thrilling.”

—Rohan Preston, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“*The Ramaswamys* create some of the most poetic, enlightening, culturally relevant dance work in the Twin Cities today.”

—Camille LeFevre, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

CHOREOGRAPHED WORKS/WORLD PREMIERES

2011 *Yathra (Journey)* Collaboration with New Delhi, India-based composers Shubhendra Rao and Saskia Rao, co-choreographed with Aparna Ramaswamy
Premiere: *Maximum INDIA* Festival, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. and O’Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Paul, MN

A visual meditation on the human experience, *Yathra* represents the cycle of one day, metaphorically tracing a human being’s journey from the dawn of birth to the twilight of life. Exploring the spiritual and emotional passage of a soul through the many phases of life—birth, youth, love, loss, redemption, and death, completing the cycle with rebirth—*Yathra* is set to an original score played live by Shubhendra Rao, one of India’s most respected sitarists, and Saskia Rao, considered a pioneer in the Indian music world for introducing an Indian cello she herself designed. This evening-length work is an expansion of the 25-minute piece premiered in 2008.

2010 *Ihrah: Sacred Waters* Co-choreographed with Aparna Ramaswamy, and featuring specially commissioned music by Marc Anderson (Minneapolis, MN) and Prema Ramamurthy (Hyderabad, India)
Commissioned by the American Composers Forum
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

The rivers of India are revered as personifications of divinity. Since time immemorial, river worship has been performed in India to respect the vitality of water as a life-sustaining force. The perennial flow of the river, from its origin to the sea, symbolizes the journey of the soul to merge with the universal. Based on the poetic sanctity of these rituals, *Ihrah: Sacred Waters* praises the rivers Ganga, Kaveri and Yamuna and their spiritual significance.

2010 *The Iron Ring* Produced by the Tony Award-winning Children’s Theater Company and directed by Peter Brosius,
featuring Ragamala Dance alongside the Children’s Theater acting company
Commissioned by the Children’s Theater Company
Premiere: Children’s Theater Company, Minneapolis, MN

The Iron Ring is a stage adaptation of Lloyd Alexander’s fascinating adventure set in ancient India. Joined by the artistry of Ranee Ramaswamy and Ragamala Dance, *The Iron Ring* is an epic tale infused with humor and the fascinating movements of Bharatanatyam. *The Iron Ring* is directed by Children’s Theater Company Artistic Director Peter Brosius, with a specially commissioned script by Welsh playwright Charles Way.

2009 ***Dhvee (Duality)*** Collaboration with Bali-based composer/choreographer I Dewa Putu Berata and his Çudamani ensemble, co-choreographed with Aparna Ramaswamy
Commissioned by the Walker Art Center
Premiere: McGuire Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Profound and joyous, *Dhvee* brings together Balinese and South Indian dance and music traditions to explore the nature of myth and its influence on humanity. The second collaboration between Ragamala Dance and Çudamani—the masterful dance and gamelan ensemble from Pengosekan Village, Bali—*Dhvee* is inspired by three pivotal scenes from the sacred Hindu text *Ramayana* to underscore the internal conflict between the animal and divine aspects of man.

2009 ***Sthree*** Created in collaboration with choreographer Aparna Ramaswamy and playwright/director Zaraawar Mistry, and featuring a specially commissioned score by Dr. L. Subramaniam (Bangalore, India) and Prema Ramamoorthy (Hyderabad, India)
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Inspired by the ancient Tamil epic *Silappathikaram (The Anklet)*, and set to an original score composed and played by Dr. L. Subramaniam—unquestionably one of India’s greatest violinists—*Sthree* is an evening-length work that transports the audience to the splendor of India’s Sangam Period, an era of great cultural renaissance when art, literature, music and drama flourished. Accompanied by English narration and performed by a chorus of seven women dancers, *Sthree* is a haunting contemporary adaptation that explores the underlying tension between the principles of *karma* and *dharma*, the basis of the Hindu belief system.

2008 ***Yathra (Journey)*** Co-choreographed with Aparna Ramaswamy, featuring a specially commissioned score by Shubhendra Rao and Saskia Rao (New Delhi, India)
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Yathra explores the intricacies of the human journey—from the dawn of birth to the twilight of life—using the metaphor of a cycle of one day. A specially commissioned score, played live by New Delhi-based virtuoso musicians Shubhendra Rao and Saskia Rao, intertwines the deep, haunting tones of the Indian cello (an instrument designed and pioneered by Saskia herself) with the virtuosic harmonies and emotional range of the *sitar* in a way that manages to convey the fullness of an orchestra with only two instruments. Live drawing by Terry Rosenberg—created in reaction to the movement on stage and projected as a living backdrop—creates a 21st century version of the ancient Indian concept of synthesis in the arts, in which sculptors and poets created work in reaction to the dancers and musicians who performed in the Hindu temples.

2007 ***Sva (Vital Force)*** Collaboration with Taiko drumming group Wadaiko Ensemble Tokara (Nagano, Japan), co-choreographed with Aparna Ramaswamy
Premiere: New Victory Theater, New York, NY

Sva brings Ragamala’s fluid precision, punctuated footwork, and sustained gestures into conversation with the large, sweeping movements, thundering force, and stunning physicality of Wadaiko Ensemble Tokara of Nagano, Japan. Conceived and choreographed by Raneer Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy, and created in collaboration with composer and Tokara Director Art Lee, *Sva* is rooted in the idea of sound as the first element in an unfolding universe. *Sva* embodies the rhythm and flow of life and the primordial sound that unites all of creation—the sacred and the profane, the animate and inanimate. Inspired by a vision—shared by Hinduism and Shinto—of a world in which nature is sacred and the divine is personified in the natural world, *Sva* explores the kinships between Taiko drumming and Bharatanatyam—the classical dance of South India—the spiritual traditions from which they emerge, and their journey into the 21st century.

2005 ***Devi (Goddess)*** Co-choreographed with Aparna Ramaswamy
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Devi, meaning goddess, is a celebration of Durga, the great goddess with a thousand names and innumerable forms, who is worshipped as an embodiment of female energy. The score, commissioned from Carnatic (South Indian classical) composer/vocalist Nirmala Rajasekar, is based on the *Mahishasuramardhini Stotram*, an ancient Sanskrit hymn in praise of this manifestation of the

goddess. Choreographed by Raneer Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy, *Devi* is performed by an ensemble of women in a stirring allusion to the communal environment in which the hymn is traditionally sung, and in which it continues to appear to this day.

2004 ***Sethu (Bridge)*** Global collaboration with Balinese Keçak Master I Dewa Putu Berata, co-choreographed with Aparna Ramaswamy
Commissioned by Walker Art Center
Premiere: Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

Raneer Ramaswamy's international collaboration with master artist I Dewa Putu Berata and his Çudamani ensemble (of Bali, Indonesia), *Sethu* was originally commissioned and co-produced by the Walker Art Center. The premiere of this global spectacle, out of doors in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden in 2004, brought 50 artists and over 5,500 audience members together across boundaries of culture, ethnicity, nationality, and religion, in an artistic project based on the ancient epic *Ramayana*—a culturally-based narrative at the root of cultural expression in both Bali and India.

2004 ***Kathambam*** A collaboration with choreographers/dancers Danny Buraczeski, Lise Houlton, Wynn Fricke, Susana di Palma, and Joe Chvala
Premiere: "Women of Substance" Series, O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Paul, MN

Joined in choreography and performance by five of the Twin Cities' finest dancemakers—Danny Buraczeski, Joe Chvala, Susana di Palma, Wynn Fricke, and Lise Houlton—Raneer Ramaswamy creates an exciting dance mosaic on stage. Like a vibrant flower garland—a *kathambam*—in which each piece has a unique fragrance, texture, and color, this work is a breathtaking tapestry of rhythm and style. Raneer invites audiences to follow her as she takes Bharatanatyam on a fluid journey that spans cultures, genres, and styles. One by one, she meets each of her collaborators, exploring rhythm, gesture, movement, and expression in a new and unique place created by the confluence of two dance forms.

2003 ***Body & Soul: A Tribute to Billie Holiday***
Music by jazz vocalist Charmin Michelle and the Twin Cities Seven
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Ragamala and jazz vocalist Charmin Michelle transform the stage into a jazz-age speakeasy, with live music, Raneer Ramaswamy's evocative choreography, and the soulful melodies of Billie Holiday.

2003 ***Aavya (Meeting)*** Music by cross-cultural music ensemble Speaking in Tongues (Gao Hong, *pipa*; Sowah Mensah, West African drums; Marc Anderson, multi-percussion; Enrique Toussaint, bass)
Commissioned by "Interplay" Series, University of Minnesota
Premiere: Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis, MN

Raneer Ramaswamy explores the cross-cultural rhythms of virtuoso music ensemble Speaking in Tongues.

2002 ***Kolam*** Premiere: Intermedia Arts, Minneapolis, MN

Based on research conducted in India, with support from a McKnight Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Artists, this evening of work is rooted in the folk art and folk dance traditions of four areas of India—Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Kerala, and Gujarat.

2001 ***The Transposed Heads*** With Deaf actor Nic Zapko, playwright/director Zaraawar Mistry, South Indian vocalist Nirmala Rajasekar, and Chinese *pipa* virtuoso Gao Hong
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Based on an ancient Indian tale that inspired Thomas Mann's novella of the same name, and adapted for the stage and directed by Zaraawar Mistry, *The Transposed Heads* tells the story of a woman torn between her love for two men—one for his physical beauty and one for his intellect. United by the silent language of gesture, Raneer Ramaswamy and Deaf actor Nicole Zapko create an amazing theatrical experience as they become the many characters in this compelling drama. This evening-length piece is narrated in English and accompanied by an evocative score performed live by Carnatic vocalist Nirmala Rajasekar. *The Transposed Heads* was created for Deaf and hearing audiences.

2001 ***Ze-Natyam*** Commissioned work for Zenon Dance Company
Premiere: Janet Wallace Auditorium, St. Paul, MN

Ranee was commissioned to create this work for the nationally renowned, Minneapolis-based modern/jazz company, Zenon.

2000 ***Guggun-ku-thakku*** Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Set to the á capella vocalizations of Belgian musical group Zap Mama, this piece represents Ranee Ramaswamy's commitment to expanding the classical form through diverse musical influences.

1999: ***Wordance*** Collaboration with Milwaukee-based African Dance troupe Ko-Thi Dance Company
Premiere: Pabst Theater, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Wordance brings together two exceptional dance companies in a groundbreaking, cross-cultural performance. This collaborative project draws viewers in, inviting them to recognize, compare, and contrast the underpinnings of form and style in Indian and African dance. *Wordance* culminates in a striking work in which over ten dancers from both companies share the stage with live drummers and vocal percussionists, interweaving the intricate, linear movements of Ragamala's Bharatanatyam style with the bold, circular patterns of Ko-Thi's African dance.

1999 ***From Temple to Theater*** Commissioned score by New Delhi-based sitarist Shubhendra Rao
Premiere: "Dance!" Series, O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Paul, MN

The inspiration for this production came from a program presented in Munich in 1932 by Uday Shankar, the dancer/choreographer credited with bringing Indian classical dance out of the traditional venues of the princely court and Hindu temple sanctuary and into the western dance-theater format. In *From Temple to Theater: Remembering Uday Shankar*, Ranee Ramaswamy brings together complex, evocative choreography (both her own and that of Aparna Ramaswamy) and an exquisite, specially commissioned Hindustani (North Indian classical) musical score by world-renowned composer/sitarist Shubhendra Rao, disciple of sitar legend Ravi Shankar. Both Ms. Ramaswamy and Mr. Rao used the *ragas* (scales) and titles of works used by Mr. Shankar as a springboard for their original, innovative work.

1998 ***Where the Hands Go the Eyes Follow***
Collaboration with photographer Marc Norberg, composer/musician Howard Levy, and six contemporary poets
Premiere: Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Where the Hands Go, the Eyes Follow is a multilevel collaboration in which choreographer/soloist Ranee Ramaswamy uses the 2,000-year-old language of Bharatanatyam to illuminate the work of six contemporary poets. The process began with a collaboration between Ranee and photographer Marc Norberg, in which twelve images were created to capture the essence of Ranee's previous choreographic interpretations of Robert Bly's *Mirabai Versions*. These images were sent to the poets—Coleman Barks, Mary Easter, Jane Hirshfield, Janet Holmes, Jim Moore, and Mr. Bly—who created poems inspired by the photographs. Ranee's choreography, based on these poems, was set to the accompaniment of a specially commissioned score by Jazz musician Howard Levy.

1998 ***Chaturam*** With composers Nirmala Rajasekar (South Indian vocal), Gao Hong (Chinese *pipa*), Armando Gutierrez & Gustavo Lira (pre-Colombian), and Rick Shiomi (Japanese *taiko* drumming)
Premiere: "Dance!" Series, O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Paul, MN

Chaturam, meaning "square," features Ranee Ramaswamy's choreography set to four distinct musical influences: a South Indian classical composition by Nirmala Rajasekar, a composition for the Chinese *pipa* by world renowned virtuoso Gao Hong (and featuring hula dancer Marcus Quinones), pre-Colombian flute and percussion by Armando Gutierrez and Gustavo Lira, and Japanese Taiko by Rick Shiomi.

1998 ***Tree Tales*** Collaboration with African choreographer Morris Johnson
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Ranee Ramaswamy collaborates with Morris Johnson's Dancers and Drummers of Langa to create an evening of dance and music based on New York author Barbara Bash's children's books *In the Heart of the Village: The World of the Indian Banyan Tree* and *Tree of Life: The World of the African Baobab*. These are not only "real" trees, but also a legendary, mythological, and cultural icons. Banyan and baobab are used as an area for gathering, for worship, for community meetings, for children's play, for theatrical performances, and for greatly needed shade from the hot sun. In *Tree Tales*, as a narrator reads Bash's descriptions of the history and daily life of a banyan tree in a small village in India and a baobab in a small village in Africa, dancers bring these scenes to life.

1997 ***Return of the Rainseed*** Dance/theater work
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Designed specifically for families and children, and inspired by a modern folk tale from India, this is the story of Mala, a young girl who yearns to save her village from a demon who has swallowed the rainseed. Determined to succeed, Mala convinces her Godmothers to transform her into a boy, and overcomes her culture's expectations. Through her journey, she ultimately discovers that she can be brave and adventurous using her own skills and ingenuity. This production uniquely combines theater with Ranee Ramaswamy's powerful rhythmic and gestural choreography, exhilarating South Indian music, English narration, and exquisite costumes.

1997 ***Way of Heaven*** With composer Scott Robinson and the University of Minnesota Chamber Singers
Premiere: Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis, MN

1997 ***The Wedding of Valli*** Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

This dance-drama tells the mythological story of Valli, a hunter's daughter whose devotion to the Hindu god Muruga is so profound that she believes she will one day be united with him in marriage. After testing her several times, he ultimately marries her, showing that love need not be bound by caste or class.

1996 Duluth Choreographers' Conference: Choreography to music by Antonín Dvořák
Premiere: Duluth Performing Arts Center, Duluth, MN

1996 ***Goddess Songs*** With Opera Millenium
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

1996 ***Asoka*** A dance opera, score by David Whetstone
Premiere: "Dance!" Series, O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Paul, MN

An exhilarating story set in the majestic Indian court of the emperor Asoka, this work portrays the true story of the reformer king who challenged tradition and embraced Buddhism.

1995 ***Wonderwall*** With sitarist David Whetstone and Flying Words Project
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Ranee Ramaswamy collaborates with Deaf actor Peter Cook and his hearing partner Kenny Lerner.

1994 ***Canticle of Mary*** Score by David Whetstone
Premiere: Southern Theater and O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, MN

Canticle of Mary is a regal dance opera in celebration of the divine feminine. Set to soaring operatic vocals, Raneé Ramaswamy's dynamic choreography explores the stories of Mary, Isis, and the ancient goddesses.

- 1993 ***World of Glass*** Dance-theater work based on Edmund Spencer's *Faerie Queen*
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN
- 1993 ***Ten Incarnations*** Multimedia work
Premiere: Studio 6A, Minneapolis, MN
- 1993 ***Dawn*** Score by David Whetstone
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN
- 1992 ***Ragamala: A Painting in Motion***
Premiere: Southern Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Music, dance, poetry, and original murals bring to life the miniature paintings of fifteenth century India. In this evening-length performance, Raneé Ramaswamy, in collaboration with sitarist David Whetstone and visual artist William Stille, elaborates on the Indian tradition of translating music into poetry and visual images. Raneé and company become the figures in the paintings, interpreting six *ragas* (melodies). This evocative and stunning performance is played against six full-sized, hand-painted backdrops and incorporates North Indian classical music and English-language poetry.

- 1992 ***Puppet Master*** Commissioned by Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Music and story by David Whetstone
Premiere: Minneapolis Institute of Arts Theater, Minneapolis, MN

Choreographer and soloist Raneé Ramaswamy tells the riveting story of a poor puppet master in ancient India who discovers the message of the Buddha.

- 1991 ***Mirabai Versions*** With poet Robert Bly
Premiere: Studio 6A, Minneapolis, MN

Raneé Ramaswamy explores the words of the ancient Indian saint-poet Mira, as translated by Robert Bly.

1978 to 1991 Various choreographic works

Highlights include,

- a collaboration with Flamenco dancer/choreographer Susana di Palma and Middle Eastern dancer/choreographer Cassandra Shore, produced by Minnesota MICA (precursor to the Minnesota Dance Alliance) at the Ordway Center for Performing Arts
- a collaboration with modern dancer/choreographer Gerry Girouard, set to the music of Bobby McFerrin
- several solo works for herself and duets for herself and Aparna Ramaswamy

INTERNATIONAL TOURING

- 2010 Soorya Dance and Music Festival, **eight cities in Kerala, India**
2010 Booking Dance Festival, **Edinburgh, U.K.**
2010 Festival of Spirituality and Peace, Fringe Festival, **Edinburgh, U.K.**
2009 Festival of Spirituality and Peace, Fringe Festival, **Edinburgh, U.K.**
2008 Matsumoto Bunka Kaikan, **Matsumoto, Japan**
2008 Nagoya Kita Bunka Sho Gekijyo, **Nagoya, Japan**
2008 Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival, **Iida City, Japan**
2008 Festival of Spirituality and Peace, Fringe Festival, **Edinburgh, U.K.**
2007 Nagoya Kita Bunka Shogekijyo, **Iida City, Japan**
2006 Pengosekan Temple, Ubud, **Bali, Indonesia**
2006 Bali Arts Festival, **Bali, Indonesia**
2002 Open Look Contemporary Dance Festival, **St. Petersburg, Russia**

- 2001 Miao-Li International Mask Festival, **Miao-Li, Taiwan**
- 1999 Fudan University, **Shanghai, China**
- 1993 Min-On Concert Association, **nine cities in Japan**

U.S. TOURING

2010-2011 Season

- University of Missouri Science and Technology, **Rolla, Missouri**
- Reif Center, **Grand Rapids, Minnesota**
- Burnsville Performing Arts Center, **Burnsville, Minnesota**
- Carver Center, **San Antonio, Texas**
- Rochester Community and Technical College, **Rochester, Minnesota**
- Albert and Janet Schultz Theater, **Palo Alto, California**
- Lawrence University, **Appleton, Wisconsin**
- Princeton Community Education, **Princeton, Minnesota**
- Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, **Washington D.C.**
- Carleton College, **Northfield, Minnesota**

2009-2010 Season

- Alaska Junior Theater, **Anchorage, Alaska**
- Sun Valley Center for the Arts, **Sun Valley, Idaho**
- University of Oregon, **Eugene, Oregon**
- Music Hall, **Detroit, Michigan**
- A Center for the Arts, **Fergus Falls, Minnesota**
- Minnesota State University, **Moorhead, Minnesota**
- Buckman Performing Arts Center, **Memphis, Tennessee**

2008-2009 Season

- Montgomery Community College, **Blue Bell, Pennsylvania**
- St. Anselm College, **Manchester, New Hampshire**
- Westchester Community College, **Valhalla, New York**
- Shepherd University, **Shepherdstown, West Virginia**
- Monmouth University, **West Long Branch, New Jersey**
- Kutztown University, **Kutztown, Pennsylvania**
- Kupferberg Center for the Performing Arts, **Flushing, New York**
- University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, **La Crosse, Wisconsin**
- Oklahoma State University, **Stillwater, Oklahoma**
- California Institute of Technology, **Pasadena, California**
- Poway Center for the Performing Arts, **Poway, California**
- Performances to Grow On, **Ojai, California**

2007-2008 Season

- Juan de Fuca Festival of the Arts, **Port Angeles, Washington**
- Pantages Theater, **Tacoma, Washington**
- Towson University, **Towson, Maryland**
- Pro-Art Association, **Wise, Virginia**
- Delaware Valley Arts Council, **Pottstown, Pennsylvania**
- Washington State Community College, **Marietta, Ohio**
- Bloomington Cultural District, **Bloomington, Illinois**
- Rochester Community College, **Rochester, Minnesota**
- Queens Theater in the Park, **Queens, New York**
- "Spring to Dance" Festival, **St. Louis, Missouri**
- India Cultural Center, **Tampa, Florida**

2006-2007 Season

- Tamil Nadu Foundation International Conference, **Chicago, Illinois**
- Chautauqua Institution, **Buffalo, New York**

- New Victory Theater, **New York, New York**
- Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, **Sarasota, Florida**
- Rose Lehman Arts Center, **Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**
- Festival Dance and Performing Arts, **Pullman, Washington**
- Community Arts Council, **Grundy, Virginia**
- Kupferberg Center for Performing Arts, **Queens, New York**
- Bay Chamber Concerts, **Rockport, Maine**
- Gould Academy, **Bethel, Maine**
- Chandler Music Hall, **Randolph, Vermont**
- Ohio Arts Council/Ohio Arts Presenters Network, **Six-City Tour, Ohio**
- Michigan Technological University, **Houghton, Michigan**
- Schwartz Center for the Arts, **Dover, Delaware**
- Wharton Center for Performing Arts, **East Lansing, Michigan**
- Carleton College, **Northfield, Minnesota**

2005-2006 Season

- India Club of Greater **Dayton, Ohio**
- South Broadway Cultural Center, **Albuquerque, New Mexico**
- San Juan College, **Farmington, New Mexico**
- The College of St. Scholastica, **Duluth, Minnesota**
- Harmony for Mayo Series, Mayo Clinic, **Rochester, Minnesota**

2004-2005 Season

- Main Street Fort Worth Arts Festival, **Fort Worth, Texas**
- University of Massachusetts, **Amherst, Massachusetts**
- Ogdensburg Command Performances, **Ogdensburg, New York**
- Carver Community Cultural Center, **San Antonio, Texas**
- Oklahoma State University, **Stillwater, Oklahoma**

2003-2004 Season

- ArtWallah Festival, Barnsdall Art Park, **Los Angeles, California**
- Tamil Nadu Foundation Fundraiser, **Detroit, Michigan**
- Northwestern University, **Evanston, Illinois**
- University of Wisconsin, **Eau Claire, Wisconsin**
- Ames City Auditorium, **Ames, Iowa**
- Tamil Nadu Foundation Fundraiser, **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**
- Castleton Fine Arts Center, **Castleton, Vermont**
- Academic Arts Theater, **Westchester, New York**
- Community Civic Center Theater, **Muncie, Indiana**
- The Duke Theater, **New York, New York**
- Vogel Hall (Marcus Center for the Performing Arts) and Alverno College, **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

2002-2003 Season

- Tamil Nadu Foundation International Conference, **Orlando, Florida**
- State Theater, **New Brunswick, New Jersey**
- Colden Center for the Performing Arts, Queens College, **Flushing, New York**
- Performing Arts Center, Princeton High School, **Princeton, Minnesota**
- Prairie Center for the Arts, **Schaumburg, Illinois**
- Toland Theater, University of Wisconsin, **La Crosse, Wisconsin**
- Paramount Theater, **Denver, Colorado**
- Duncan Theater, Palm Beach Community College, **Lake Worth, Florida**
- The Duke Theater and the City Center Studios, **New York, New York**
- Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center, **Tarpon Springs, Florida**
- Lake-Sumter Community College, **Leesburg, Florida**
- Leid Center, **Lawrence, Kansas**
- Newman University, **Wichita, Kansas**
- The College of St. Scholastica, **Duluth, Minnesota**

2001-2002 Season

- Open Look Contemporary Summer Dance Festival, **St. Petersburg, Russia**
- Lyric Theater, **Stuart, Florida**
- North Dakota Museum of Art, **Grand Forks, North Dakota**
- Cherokee Heritage Center, **Talequah, Oklahoma**

2000-2001 Season

- Old Dominion University, **Norfolk, Virginia**
- Grand Marais Citizens for the Arts, **Grand Marais, Minnesota**
- Miao-Li International Mask Festival, **Miao-Li, Taiwan**
- Kimball Hall, University of Nebraska, **Lincoln, Nebraska**
- Ft. Hays State University, **Hays, Kansas**
- Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, **Clinton Township, Michigan**
- St. Mary's College, **Winona, Minnesota**
- Carleton College, **Northfield, Minnesota**
- New Jersey Performing Arts Center, **Newark, New Jersey**
- Bluffton College, **Bluffton, Ohio**
- Ferris State University, **Big Rapids, Michigan**

1999-2000 Season

- Northwest Folklife Festival, **Seattle, Washington**
- "Memphis in May" Festival, **Memphis, Tennessee**
- "Friends of the Arts" Regional Arts Council, **Plymouth, New Hampshire**
- Portsmouth Music Hall, **Portsmouth, New Hampshire**
- Crossroads Arts Council, **Rutland, Vermont**
- Babson College, **Wellesley, Massachusetts**
- Moorhead State University, **Moorhead, Minnesota**
- Ohio Arts Council, **Eight-City Tour, Ohio**
- Pabst Theater, **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**
- Byron High School, **Byron, Minnesota**
- Door County Festival of Dance, **Fish Creek, Wisconsin**
- A Center for the Arts, **Fergus Falls, Minnesota**

1998-1999 Season

- FAME (Foundation for Arts and Music in Elementary Education), **Fort Wayne, Indiana**
- Alverno College, **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**
- Shattuck St. Mary's School, **Faribault, Minnesota**
- Ritz Theater, **Clearbrook, Minnesota**
- Beloit College, **Beloit, Wisconsin**

Pre-1998 (partial list)

- Danspace/St. Mark's Church, **New York, New York**
- University of Minnesota – **Crookston, Minnesota**

PANELS

National Dance Project Production Grant
 Arts Midwest
 National Endowment for the Arts
 National Dance Project, Regional Dance Development Initiative, San Francisco
 Nebraska Arts Council
 Minnesota State Arts Board
 COMPAS
 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
 Minnesota Dance Alliance
 Irvine Dance Panel (California)
 California Arts Council (desk reviewer)
 National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts

TEACHING ROSTERS (PAST AND PRESENT)

CONNECT Program/St. Paul Chamber Orchestra
Young Audiences of Minnesota
Minnesota State Arts Board
COMPAS
South Dakota Arts Council
Duluth Depot
Missouri Arts Council

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES (Representative List)

1983-present	Ongoing Bharatanatyam classes in the Twin Cities for all ages and levels
1991-present	Augsburg College (Minneapolis, Minnesota): Visiting lecturer in college theater classes
1993-present (various years)	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Minneapolis, MN): Adjunct faculty member ; taught semester-long "Introduction to Bharatanatyam" class
2008	Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival (Iida City, Japan): Open workshop for festival artists and audiences
2007	Towson University (Towson, Maryland): University-level master class and lecture demonstration
2006	Schwartz Center for the Arts (Dover, Delaware): Community workshop, open to the public
2006	New England Foundation for the Arts/Regional Dance Development Initiative (San Francisco, California): served as a mentor for emerging choreographers working in non-Western forms
2005	Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Minneapolis, Minnesota): Presentation for volunteer docents about Hindu iconography and the synergy between visual art and dance in India
2003	State Theatre (New Brunswick, New Jersey): 10-day residency; visited more than 25 sites, including K-12 schools, senior citizens' homes, and workplaces
2002	Kannon Dance Company (St. Petersburg, Russia): Master class for company members and festival participants
2002	"Arts Are Basic" (Lincoln, Nebraska): Workshops for elementary school teachers
2001	Miao-Li International Mask Festival (Miao-Li, Taiwan): Community workshop, open to the public
1999	Pequot Lakes Elementary School (Pequot Lakes, Minnesota): Week-long residency with elementary school students culminating in a public performance by students with the Ragamala company
1997	Crookston, Minnesota: Inaugural residency of the Minnesota State Arts Board's Arts Across Minnesota program; week-long residency included dance classes at a local dance school, community workshops, university classes, K-12 classroom visits, cooking classes, and public performance
1994	Macalester College (St. Paul, MN): Semester-long workshop, set a piece on students for college dance concert
1994	Fudan University (Shanghai, China): Master Class
1993	Winona State University (Winona, MN): Set a piece on university dance students
1993	Lake Forest College (Lake Forest, Illinois): Visiting lecturer in college theater classes
1984-1986	School of Indian Languages and Cultures (St. Paul, Minnesota): Weekly dance classes

FROM TEACHERS AND RESIDENCY HOSTS

"Your Informances struck just the right balance of information, artistry, entertainment, and audience participation. As our cultural ambassadors, you eloquently demonstrated the power of the arts to unite a community."

—Lian Farrer, Vice President of Education, **State Theatre** (New Brunswick, New Jersey)

"I find [Ranee Ramaswamy] to be a very gifted teacher who ignites creativity in children in dance and art. ... Of all of the many excellent visiting artists that FAME has had in the past, Ranee Ramaswamy and Ragamala Music and Dance Theater rank as one of the most impressive in professional performance, appropriate material for children, and educational impact."

—Dorothy Kittaka, President and Co-Founder, **Foundation for Art and Music in Elementary Education** (Fort Wayne, Indiana)

"Even had I not seen for myself how talented you were in working with the students in my beginning acting class, I would not be in doubt about the success of your residency. I have heard nothing but the highest praise from professors in the Religion, History and Music Departments as well. The performance aspect of your residency was also a resounding success. ... I have taught at Lake Forest College for fifteen years and I've never seen a standing ovation the likes of which you received."

— Dr. Louise Mason, **Lake Forest College Theater Program** (Lake Forest, Illinois)

"Ranee Ramaswamy gave excellent explanations about what we were about to see. This educational component was instrumental in teaching our volunteer guides about the cultural and religious context for Indian art as well as showing them the complexity and beauty of this art form."

—Debra L. Hegstrom, Coordinator, Docent Program, **Minneapolis Institute of Arts** (Minneapolis, Minnesota)