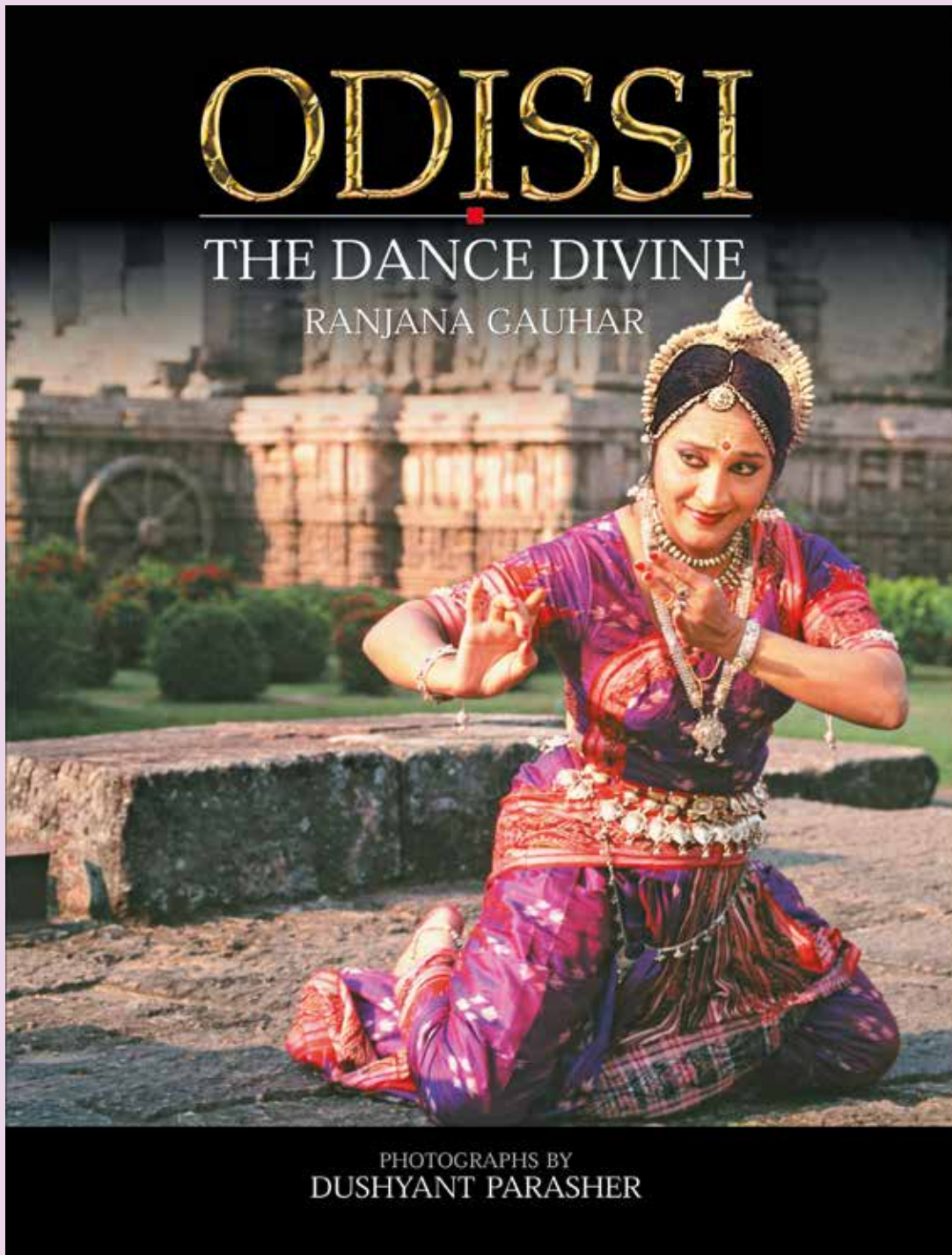


RELEASE DATE AUGUST 2011

ISBN: 978-81-89738-17-4

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Title:

ODISSI

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Author: Ranjana Gauhar
Photographs: Dushyant Parasher

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ISBN: 978-81-89738-17-4

Size: 298mm x 222mm; 144pp

Art paper (matt)

All colour; 203 photographs

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Sculptures in the temples of Orissa come alive in the movements as the rhythm of dance is captured in thousands of images adorning these temples

Odissi: The Dance Divine is a chronological survey of the form and style of Odissi. It explores the aesthetics of the dance, which is a living tradition till today. The book also gives a brief outline of the architects and contemporary gurus of the dance form, and the eminent dancers who are in the forefront of the scenario. It was adjudged Best Book, 2007, in the Art Book Category by the Federation of Indian Publishers.

The dance of the *mahari* or temple dancer, which became a tradition was born in the inner sanctum of the Jagannath Temple in Puri. Revered as one of the holiest places, the temple was the centre of culture, religion and artistic traditions. Odissi dance form also find expression in the *Geeta Govinda* that presents it as a *niti* or lifestyle.

About the Author:

Ranjana Gauhar is a leading exponent of the Odissi dance form, and a recipient of the Padma Shri and the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for her research on the temple tradition of Odissi dance.

About the Photographer:

Travel photographer, writer and book designer **Dushyant Parasher** contributes his photographic work regularly to various tourism ventures, books and magazine across the world.

Indian philosophy suggests that the realm of 'living and that of divine are one in essence' and one way to affirm the underlying unity of the two is through dance

