

"Classical Bharatanatyam is akin to poetry. It has been described as *Drishya Kavyam* - Visual Poetry. The emphasis here is not on drama, but on poetry that is communicated through suggestion and subtlety."

"Identifying the *Sthayi Bhava* (Permanent/Dominant Mood) does not mean expressing that mood from the beginning to the end without interruption. Rather, one must understand deep in the mind the mood and show this in different ways. "



"When we portray a character, we don't necessarily have to empathize with the character in the sense that the character does not have to behave the way you would. It is also not necessary that you agree with the sentiments portrayed by the poet. This is because when we learn *abhinaya*, we are actually learning to explore our imaginative skills to play different characters."

"Through *abhinaya* (expressive dance) the dancer unfolds for the audience the beauty and the breadth of the poem"

- Priyadarshini Govind  
Sakalam Abhinayam Combo DVD Set