

2 MINUTES WITH Mohan Sudusinghe

Mohan is an artiste with many professions. He is a professional dancer, drummer, choreographer, teacher, artist, sculpturer and a fitness instructor. In 2011 he joined the Sri Lankan Dance Academy in Wellington and has made New Zealand his second home.

He lives in Tawa and contributes to the cultural diversity in New Zealand. Mohan appreciates the opportunities this country has created for him in exploring different avenues to fulfill his ever growing passion for learning and teaching many forms of art.



Where were you born? Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Where did you grow up? Sri Lanka.

Where were you educated?

In Sri Lanka. After moving to New Zealand in 2011, I completed an honours diploma in Arts and Creativity and an Advanced diploma in Arts and Creativity at The Learning Connexion.

How long have you lived in Tawa? Six years.

What about family?

My wife Chamila works as an Office Administrator and supports me with my artistic career. We are blessed with two boys who are artistically talented. Senuka, 15, is at Newlands College and Yenuka, 9, is at Redwood School.

Work experience over the years

I have worked as a professional dancer, drummer and a choreographer for over 25 years. My passion for learning all forms of traditional, oriental and western dance and art created wider horizons for me and it brought me opportunities to perform in Sri Lanka and in other countries in the world.

As an artist I enjoy working with mixed media to produce 2D and 3D sculptural collages. I have displayed my work in exhibitions in Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

I have over 20 years' experience in teaching Sri Lankan dancing and drumming to children from Sri Lanka and around the world.

I had my own dance and exercise studio in Sri Lanka. At present I work at City Fitness as a group fitness instructor.

What are your interests and hobbies?

Apart from spending time with my family, my life is centred on different forms of arts. I am blessed with a very supportive family who enjoy getting involved and we work as a great team. I enjoy dancing, drumming, listening to music and working in my studio creating art pieces.

Favourite sports team and/or sports person?

I am a fan of many sports. Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakkara is my favourite sports person.

Favourite musical group and/or individual singer?

I enjoy listening to eastern and western music. A few of my favourites are Yanni, A R Rahaman and Don Williams.

What is your favourite holiday destination in New Zealand?

I have not travelled a lot in New Zealand. I love the nature and the picturesque scenery I find wherever I go, which make me very relaxed.

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What accomplishments/achievements in your life give you the most satisfaction/pride?

Although not inherited, I believe the ability to dance has been a talent imbedded in me. For this I am eternally grateful. I am also blessed with a supportive family and talented sons who have begun to prove their potential.

Traditions can be kept alive by gifting it to future generations. I am humbly proud of the fact that today; I play the role of a teacher and dispenser of knowledge.

I feel an undeniable bond with the land where I was born. And yet when I had to leave it for another, I developed a similar bond, often of a more complex nature. The first, involuntary, by birth – the second, by choice. I am pleased with my choice of making New Zealand my second home.

What are three things you would like to do before you die?

To continue my journey in exploring similarities and differences between the two cultures of Sri Lanka and New Zealand through artistic experimentation and creating a new journey in discovery.

To get involved in creating a movie set for a sci-fi or fantasy movie.

To have my own studio and gallery where the younger generation can learn and experience the beauty of art.

(Compiled November 2017)