

## **Prajwal Ratna Vajracharya**

Prajwal is a priest of one of the Vajrayana Buddhist lineages of Nepal and a ritual master both of the Charya Nritya dance tradition and other ritual forms performed by the Newar Vajracharya lineage. Prajwal began his training in Charya Nritya, Newar buddhism from at eight years old, receiving formal instruction mainly from his father, the Buddhist scholar and ritual master Ratna Kaji Vajracharya. Prajwal Vajracharya is now the premier teacher, practitioner, and performer of the tradition and is a veteran of several world tours with beginning and advanced students around the globe. He founded Dance Mandal 1996 Foundation for Sacred Buddhist Arts of Nepal to preserve and expand this rare art form and its related traditions. With the survival of this sacred ritual dance threatened by modernization, Prajwal, at his father's wishes, has dedicated his life to bringing this unique Buddhist heritage from the temples of Nepal to the world, while adhering to its original purpose as a profound spiritual practice.

Prajwal Vajracharya and Helen Appell founded *Nritya Mandala Mahavihara 2009 in Portland Oregon*. This center for study and practice of Newar Buddhism. The center call *Nritya Mandala Mahavihara. Vihara*, a Sanskrit term (*Baha* or *Bahi* in Newar), connotes a Buddhist monastic center, a complex for meditation, ritual, and study, as well as practicing the sacred arts. Prajwal have been performing for the community life cycle ritual, birth, young age, Marriage, sickness ,old age, and death, also ritual for empowerment ,Consecration ,Transmission, purification.

Prajwal persevering and expanding this rage Newar Buddhist related tradition and rituals. He live in Portland Oregon , and regularly offers all kinds of rituals, workshops, meditation Retreats.

Academic level of Teaching and performance around the world.

Asian art festival Hongkong	1986
Taicho University, tour in Japan	1991,1997
Teaching and performing tour in India.	1997,1998
Padma Kanya Campus, Kathmandu,Nepal	Sept 1992
Germany Teaching tours.	1993,1998,2000
Kathmandu University, Nepal	1997-2000

Richmond University, VA	April 1994,2011
Virginia University, VA	May 1994
Naropa University, CO	June 1994
of South Asia, San Francisco, CA	July 1994
School for Independent Study	
Performing and Teaching,Finland,Sweden,Denmark.	1995
Leading ,Teaching and performing	1996,1997,2000
(Germany, Fance, italy, Switzerland, India)	
International Healing Conference, N.Carolina	May 1998
(Sufi healing conference)	
Buddhism in America Conference, San Diego CA	1998
World Buddhist conference on the Buddhist	
Heritage of Nepal Mandala.	Nov 1998
University of Leipzig, Germany	May-2000
University of Creation Spirituality, CA	Oct 2000
Mills College, Berkeley, CA	Oct 2000
Institute for Integral Studies, CA	Oct 2000
Buddhism in America conference Naropa Un. CO.	2000
University of Washington, Seattle, WA	Nov 2000
University Height Center, WA	Nov 2000
Princeton University, New Jersey, NY	Nov 2000
Marylhurst University, Portland, OR	May 2001
Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA	July 2001,2005
University of California Pasadena CA	Jan 2002
Boise University BO	Aug 2002
Pacific Museum CA	2002,2003
Claremont college CA	Feb 2002
Holy Names college Oakland CA	March 2002
Musica Sacra International Germany,Fance,Italy	2004
Columbia College Chicago	2003,2005
The Art Institute Of Chicago	2003,2015
Asian Art Museum CA	2005
Queen Museum NY	2005
Grant received Regional Arts and Culture council	2005,2007
Teaching and performing tour in Canada.	2006,2007
. (Caltech University )	
Retreat and performance in Mexico	2007,2008

CIIS ( California Institute Of integral Studies)	2002,2014,2017
Diamond Mountain College. AZ	2005,2007
Robin Museum NY	2005,2006
Portland Community College OR	2006
Taking groups to Nepal.	2007
A Day if Rare Buddhist Dance ,V&A London	2009
Building Newar Buddhist Temple OR	2009
(Nritya Mandala Mahavihara Coordination with Helen)	
Hawaii Teaching Tours	2012,2014,2016
Leading Movement Retreat in Nepal	2012
Musica Sacra International, Argentine	2012
Leading The Mediation Retreat, Bali.	2015
Joho University in Japan	2014,2015,2016,2017,2018
Wako University in Japan	2014,2015,2016,2017,2018
Teaching Tour in Hongkong.	2015,2016,2017,2018
Berkeley University, Buddhist ritual Music CA	Nov 2015
International Dance Mandal performed Nepal	March 2015
Sirjana College of Fine Arts Nepal	July 2017
Lotus Academic College Nepal.	April 2018
World Buddhist heritage festival, Vijayawada. India	Feb 2018
Teaching Course in Mingyur Rinpoche school in Nepal	Jan 2019
Pure land, Newar Buddhist Exhibition and Retreat CA.	2019

**(More than 1000 individual performances and workshops around the world. 100 's of Live cycle ritual in vihara and out side. 100's of interview in News Paper,TV, and Radio are no include in this Bio. Commendation winner of Royal Dance Award bestowed by the King of Nepal,The honor of Anniversary of his coronation (1997)**

... a deeply inspiring event of beauty and grace.

-Michael Wenger, Vice President  
San Francisco Zen Center

Prajwal is a generous and mild-mannered human being who extends compassion and wisdom in everyday life as well as throughout his formalized teaching. He lives up to the religious ethics and ideals of his Buddhist lineage founders, who strive to remove the suffering of others as a primary goal in life.

-Ter Ellington, Professor, comparative religion  
Ethnomusicology, Washington University

A Fascinating Display of Buddhist Dancing

-Los Angeles Times

The way in which Prajwal has devised his performance , by interspersing it with learned yet very accessible and clear information, made the performance both a very educating and inspiring event.

-Cecilia Roger  
Marylhurst University

Mr. Vajracharya is an exceptionally talented performer, who displays a remarkable ability to fuse both the academic and heart qualities of his ancient traditions in a unique embodied dance form.

-Jo Burrows  
California Institute of Integrative Studies

Prajwal...is a unique representative of a classical dance that has a wide appeal and communicative power. ... a consummate performing artist and gifted teacher.

-Miranda Shaw, Professor  
University of Richmond  
Author, *Passionate Enlightenment and Buddhist goddesses of India*

[Prajwal's] willingness to share the wealth of knowledge of [his] lineage, an [his] thoughtful and genuine responses to students questions are a significant gift to us all.

- Dr. Joan Erdman

Anthropology and humanities dept  
Columbus College, Chicago

[Prajwal's] rare and precious gift of dancing with [his] explanation is a treasure that brings the art alive and helps immensely in opening doors to further study.

-Mary Sue Glosser  
Art institute of Chicago

[Prajwal is] a great ambassador for [his] country and [his] dance.[His] commitment and mastery are fine examples for all people at anytime .

-Joseph Houseal, Educative Director  
Core of Culture, Chicago

People like Prajwal with a combined commitment to teaching , scholarship, preservation and exhibition of Nepalese culture, are few and far between.

-Rebecca Edwards, Himalayan Art Council  
Pacific Asian Museum , CA

...a remarkable performer...

-Asian Reporter

Incredibly enough, Master Vajracharya could have done away with the costumes, jewelry and make-up for each of these five deities and used his eyes alone to convey their presence.

-Terry Hollis  
The Dance Insider, New York