Like every nation nowadays, the sri lankan society is a multicultural system with a lot of interweaving cultures. This show is dedicated to the traditional dance-styles of the singhalese culture, without referring to subcultures like Baila, Techno, Reggae or minority cultures of the Veddhas, Gypsies, Moslems, Tamils, etc., who cultivate their own dance-styles.

North (Elephant-Pass) and East-Coast of the Country are in the moment area of civil war and according to this situation cultural forms of expression are very limited

The dance-tradition is divided into three local areas:

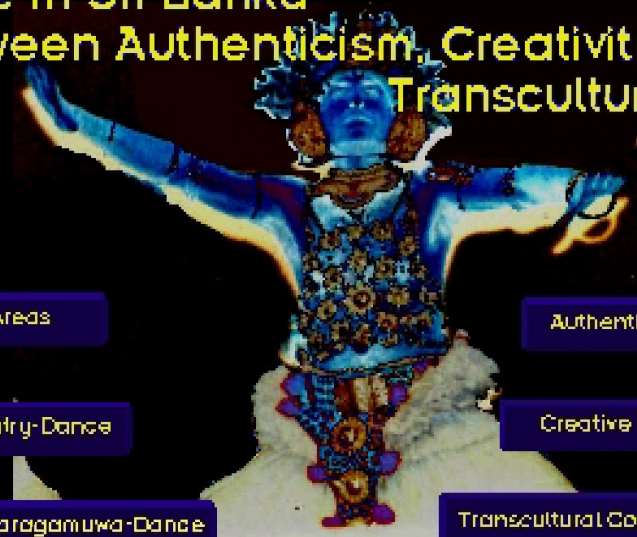- Up-Country-Dance (Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala)
- Sabaragamuwa-Dance (Ratnapura)
- Low-Country-Dance (Ambalangoda, Matara)

Martina Claus-Bachmann (Hg.)

An interactive multimedia-based approach to the traditional dance culture of Sri Lanka

Dance in Sri Lanka between Authenticism, Creativity and Transculturalism

- Local Areas
- Up-Country-Dance
- Sabaragamuwa-Dance
- Low-Country-Dance
- Authentic Rituals
- Creative Ideas
- Transcultural Contacts
- Final Test

Technical information: before starting the show you must choose 100% for the font-size in the system-menu and install the fonts to the windows font-folder. You can leave the show by pressing the esc-button on your keyboard. The quality of the performance depends on the power and compatibility of the hard- and software and the actuality of the drivers.

System Requirements: Microsoft Windows 95 or 98, Windows NT version 4.0, Windows 2000, Windows ME 40MB hard disk space, 24MB RAM minimum, 32 MB RAM (or more) recommended CD-ROM drive, Windows-compatible sound card required for sound, Direct X 6.0 (for 3D transitions), 3D Accelerated Video Card (for 3D transitions). Please update your System before using the show. Especially the Windows Media Player and the Multimedia drivers should be updated to get a satisfying performance (free download from the Internet). Notice, that some soundcards and some video requirements are not compatible with the high multimedial requirements of the presentation. For further informations please look at the homepage of the Astound company: http://www.astound.com.

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The intention of these production is to give a short introduction about sri lankan traditional dance in addition to the existing book-informations and to show the basic elements and forms of expression in a multimedial, interactive way. Dance lives from its movements and printmedia can show step by step-pictures, but are not able to give a clear impression of fluent transitions. It is clear, that the overview must be selective, according to the digital space, which is limited because of RAM and harddisc-capacity.
Concerning the targets and requirements of a modern classroom and learning environment, based on the recent brain-research and a constructivistic way of pedagogical thinking this productions refers to a special method, a so called cycle of experience, a sequence of 10 CD-ROMs, each showing a different aspect of sri lankan music cultures. This method refers to the self-responsibility of the learning person and offers flexible access to points of access, which are different in every memory. The technical requirement for the use of this material is a notebook-studio of ten laptops, which are arranged at ten so called stations, that means tables where beside of the laptop additional material can be arranged, like working papers and the task-descriptions the students have to accomplish. Two students can work in a cooperative way at every station. Everybody has a certain period, for example 12 hours, in which he can process all 10 stations and everybody is responsible to discuss with the others how to organise the work.

Start of the presentation, editorial

2. Up-Country-Tradition:
a) Female and male costume
b) Namaskara
c) Vannams, example: Asadrusa-Vannam d) Ves-Dance
e) Kohobma Kankariya as a basic source ritual of the Up-Country music culture; examples: Kuveni Asne, Avendume
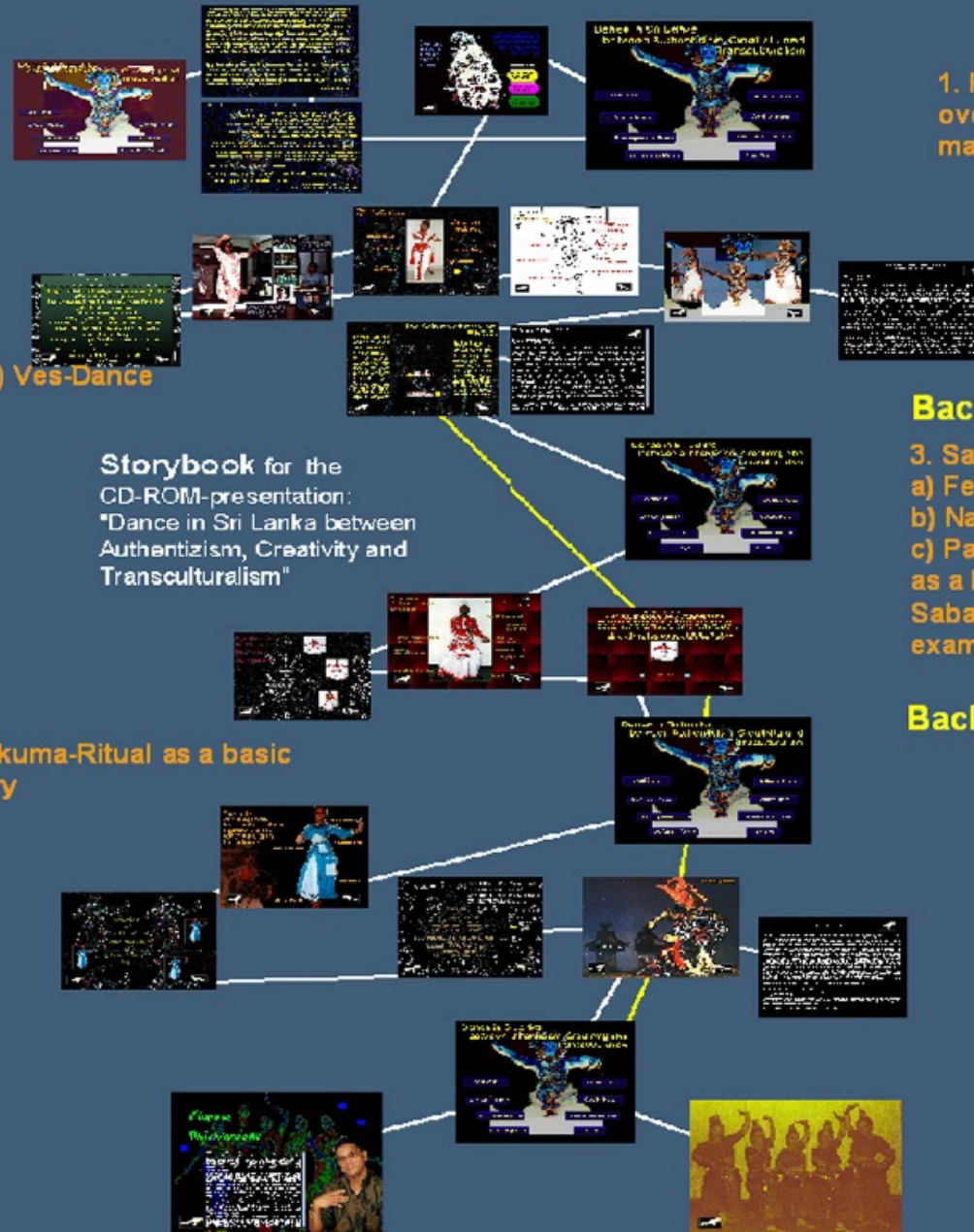
Back to the main menu

4. Low-Country-Tradition:
a) Female and male costume
b) Namaskara
c) Giri Devi-Dance; d) Sanni-Yakuma-Ritual as a basic source ritual of the Low-Country music culture; example: Raksha Yakuma

Back to the main menu

5. Creative Ideas:
Channa Wijewardhene and his dance-style mixing indian, european and traditional sri lankan items

Storybook for the CD-ROM-presentation: "Dance in Sri Lanka between Authentizism, Creativity and Transculturalism"

1. Regional overview, main menu

Back to the main menu

3. Sabaragamuwa-Tradition:
a) Female and male costume
b) Namaskara
c) Pahan Madhu Ritual as a basic source ritual of the Sabaragamuwa music culture; example: Devakhol Dance

Back to the main menu

6. Transcultural ideas:

Almut Jayaweera and Tamara Kurz, who have learned sri lankan dance items and are working with their students in Germany in a more authentic or more transcultural way.