

NRITYANJALI

Report

NRITYANJALI – an ode to Dance was organised by Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.) at Vasuki Auditorium, Lok Kala Manch, 20, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on 28th April 2018 on the eve of World Dance Day where Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak along with her senior disciples and most talented upcoming Odissi dancers Miss Amrit Setia, Miss Devika Seth & Dr Vaishali Saini presented special choreography in Odissi Dance style. A.L.P.A.N.A., a fifteen year old organization registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in NCT of Delh aims at promotion of performing arts and working towards equitable human development and growth.. In a short span of its coming into being, A.L.P.A.N.A. has made significant contribution to its espoused cause of spreading awareness among today’s youth about the rich composite cultural heritage of India, especially Odissi Dance, Vocal and Instrumental Music.

Shri Jatindra Nath Swain, IAS, Managing Director, Solar Energy Corporation of India, Govt. of India, Padmashree Smt. Geeta Mahalik, Eminent Choreographer, Guru and Exponent of Odissi Dance and **Shri Sanjeev Singh**, IAS, Director cum Commissioner Skill Development, Employment & Dept of Technical Education, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh were the Distinguished Guests of the evening. After the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the guests the performances started.

Since the purpose of the event was to celebrate World Dance Day, it was befitting to start the recital with a salute to **RANGA** or **SABHA**..... based on “Sabha Lakshyanam” from Acharya Nandikeshwar’s “Abhinaya Darpana”. The Sabha is compared to Kalpataru, a tree in the heaven which bestows boons-Vedas as its branches, treatises on Dance as its flowers and the learned persons or scholars like bees.

After the salute to the stage, disciples of Guru Smt. Nayak performed “**Pada Vande Gana Natha**.....”, a prayer to Lord Ganesha, the destroyer of all obstacles, the God of Wisdom and the God of Dance.

The next item was **Sthayi Nrutya** which was a pure dance. It depicted different sculptural postures of ancient temples of Orissa.

The next item was an Abhinaya based on the Sanskrit Song **Chandana Charchita Nila Kalevara**... Abhinaya is an important part of Odissi repertoire where the dancer depicts a song through her facial expressions, eye movements, hand gestures and body postures. Chandana Charchita is an excerpt from **Geetgovinda** written by the legendary poet Jayadeva. In this Abhinaya, the beauty of Lord Krishna’s “Raasa” with other gopis was depicted.

The next item was another abhinaya based on an Oriya Song “**Bhangi Chahan**”, which is “**Bha**” letter **Champu** written by **Kabi Surya Baladeva Ratha**. In this song sakhi (the friend of Radha) is describing the heavenly beauty of Lord Krishna’s different postures to Radha. But Radha is not impressed with her description and trying to defy her with reasoning.

The next item was “**Vrindavani Sarangi**” **Pallavi**. The word “Pallavi” has been derived from the Sanskrit word “pallava”, which means the bud of a leaf, or the shoots of a tree, which are very tender. As a small seed grows gradually into a large tree, in Pallavi, a tune is sung in a particular raga and it develops gradually into different varieties. In this item equal importance is given to dance as well as music and rhythm. The movements in this item are extremely graceful and lyrical.

The next item was “**Shreeta Kamala Kucha Mandala...**” which is an excerpt from “**GeetagoVinda**” written by the great Oriya Poet Jayadeva. In this poem the poet has hailed the glory of Lord Vishnu, who wears earrings of precious stones and beautifully designed garland, who is the killer of the poisonous Kaliya snake, whose vehicle is Garuda-the king of birds, who as Rama married Sita and killed the demon Dushan and the ten-headed Ravana, who held the Mandar mountain on his little finger and whose face is as gorgeous as the clouds. The poet prays for the glorification of the Lord.

The Last item of the evening was Moksha meaning salvation or “spiritual liberation”. With the cosmic sound of the “Om”, the dance dissolves into nothingness — just like Moksha or the deliverance of the soul in real life.

All the guests of the evening praised Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak and her senior disciples for their elegant postures, beautiful abhinaya and also appreciated Guru Smt. Alpana Nayak’s efforts for inculcating cultural values in the youth and promoting it further.
