

An evening of Odissi Dance

Senior Disciples of Guru Smt Alpana Nayak, eminent Odissi Exponent presented **BHOOMI PRANAM - A SALUTE TO MOTHER INDIA** at Main Auditorium, India International Centre(IIC) on 14 August 2011 at 7 PM. The programme was organised by **Association for Learning Performing Arts and Normative Action (A.L.P.A.N.A.)** which is registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. It is working since 2003. The Society aims at promotion of performing arts and working towards equitable human development and growth. The emphasis is on inclusive growth and composite heritage.

Dr. Vivek Kumar Agnihotri, Secretary General of Rajya Sabha was the Chief Guest and Guru Sharon Lowen, Internationally renowned Odissi Exponent and Scholar was the Distinguished Guest of the evening. After the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the guests the performances started.

Traditionally an Odissi dance recital starts with **Mangalacharana**, where the dancers dedicate themselves to the Almighty and beg forgiveness from Mother Earth for stamping feet on her, beg apology from the audience of any shortcomings and pay obeisance and seek blessings from the Guru. In *Mangalacharana* dancers began with a prayer to Goddess Saraswati **Manikya Veena Mupala Layanti.....** written by **Mahakavi Kalidasa**. In this shloka the Goddess has been depicted as "Jagat Janani", "Vak Vilasini", "Sangeet Rasike" and "Kalyani." The dancers were Amrit Setia, Arushi Tiku, Ayushi Nayak, Pragati Malik, Vasudha Kohli & Vitasta Tiku

The next item was **Shankarabharana 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 raaga 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. In **BHOOMI PRANAM** the Pallavi was based on Shankarabharana Raaga and the artists were Amrit Setia & Ayushi Nayak

Third item of the evening was an **Oriya Abhinaya: Patha Chhadi de mu jibi phoola toli.....**- in which the divine consort, Radha is pleading before Krishna to let her go to pluck flowers for worshipping Sun God

(Surya puja). In this song the poet describes Lord Krishna as a naughty brat who always flirts with other women, troubles them by stealing curd and milk from their houses and also stealing their clothes when they take bath in the river Yamuna. The Abhinaya was presented by Vasudha Kohli.

Next item was **Shivastakam** a prayer to Lord Shiva who is the God of all Gods. He is the destroyer as well as the preserver of whole universe. The dancers were Vitasta Tiku, Arushi Tiku and Pragati Malik.

Last item of the evening was based on our National song '**Vande Mataram - A tribute to Mother India**' written by Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. It is a prayer to our beloved country India which is the most beautiful place on earth. She provides us with trees, fruits, flowers, rivers, birds, animals - everything in abundance. Hence our dancers salute her in *Vande Mataram*. The dancers were Amrit Setia, Arushi Tiku, Ayushi Nayak, Pragati Malik, Vasudha Kohli & Vitasta Tiku.

The Accompanying musicians were Sri Prashanta Behera, Vocalist, Sri Prafulla Mangaraj on Mardala, Sri Dhiraj Pandey on Flute and Guru Smt Alpana Nayak on Manjira.