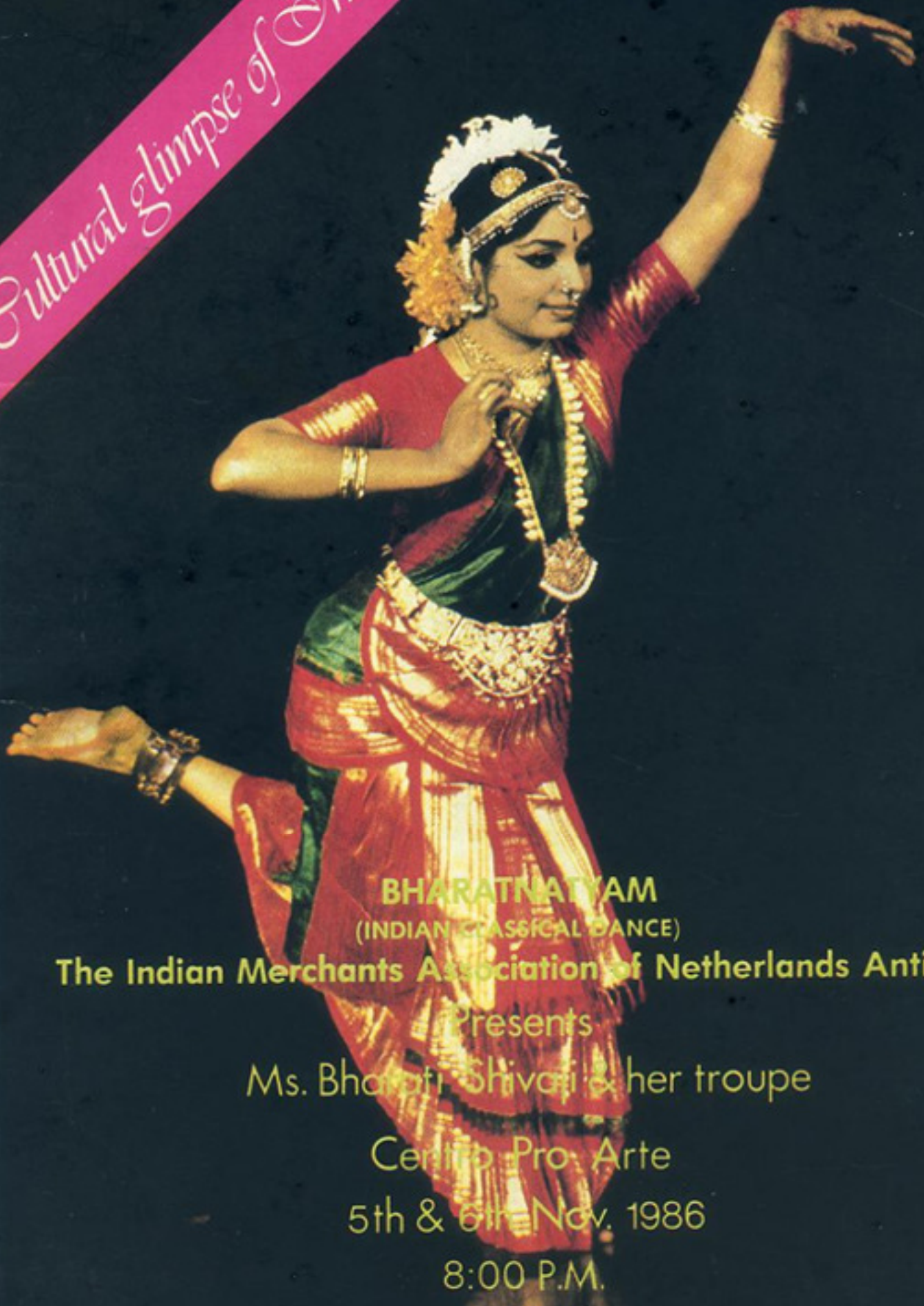


Cultural glimpse of India



BHARATNATYAM
(INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE)

The Indian Merchants Association of Netherlands Antilles

Presents

Ms. Bharati Shivanji & her troupe

Centre Pro Arte

5th & 6th Nov. 1986

8:00 P.M.

I. M. A. N. A.

WHAT IS THE I.M.A.N.A.

In 1976, a group of Indian Merchants took the initiative to form the "Indian Merchants Association of the Netherlands Antilles", more commonly known as "IMANA". The hope was to make a unified effort to improve social, cultural and economic relations between India and the Antilles, as well as improve and stimulate interaction between Indians and the local society.

In the past decade, the IMANA has contributed in many ways to its goal. Among the activities that have been performed are the donations to various non-profit organizations, sponsoring scholarships at the University of the Netherlands Antilles and various cultural activities.

Recently, the IMANA has made efforts to revive the local economy, by contributing to the reconstruction of the wharf of Otrabanda, and by contributing manpower to study current economic problems and their solutions.

By sponsoring this dance group, the IMANA hopes to wet the palates of the art lovers among us, with the hope to bring various other functions of this nature in the future.

सत्यमेव जयते

NATIONAL EMBLEM

The national emblem of India is a replica of the Lion Capital at Sarnath near Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The Lion Capital was erected in the third century B.C. by Emperor Ashoka to mark the spot where the Buddha first proclaimed his gospel of peace and emancipation to the four quarters of the universe. The national emblem is thus symbolic of contemporary India's reaffirmation of its ancient commitment to world peace and goodwill.

The four lions (one being hidden from view)—symbolizing power, courage and confidence—rest on a circular abacus. The abacus is girded by four smaller animals—guardians of the four directions: the lion of the north, the elephant of the east, the horse of the south and the bull of the west. The abacus rests on a lotus in full bloom exemplifying the fountainhead of life and creative inspiration.

The motto "Satyameva Jayate" inscribed below the emblem in the Devanagari script means "Truth Alone Triumphs".

BHARATI SHIVAJI

An outstanding dancer with distinct individuality, Bharati Shivaji brings to her audiences a wide range of classical dances. Trained in Bharatanatyam under Guru Smt. Lalita Shastri in the strict discipline of the Kalakshetra style, Bharati impart a deep spirituality in her dancing which ranks her apart.

She was awarded the title Singarmani, by the Sur Singer Samsad in Bombay.

In 1972, she was the recipient of the Govt. of India scholarship for advanced training in Bharatanatyam.

Her artistic sensibility and gift for mime brings to each of her recitals, an imaginative splendour that goes beyond mere technique.

With a superb stage presence, she is one of the finest exponents of Bharatanatyam.

Bharati's versatility led her to explore other classical styles: from renowned Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra she learnt Odissi - the sensuous dance from Orissa.

She has also inherited musical talent from her mother, who is an accomplished vocalist. In the early years, Bharati was singing for Odissi dance.

The most significant work of Bharati, however, is in the field of Mohiniattam - the classical dance of Kerala.

Her artistic skill attracted the Sangeet Natak Akademi and she was sent to Kerala to pursue Mohiniattam under a special Fellowship scheme.

Bharati has concentrated mainly on the aesthetic aspect of mohiniattam rather than the historical.

She has kept in mind how to keep the unique characteristics of this dance distinct from other dances and yet give it a complete repertoire, building up a concert recital aesthetically and systematically as in other traditional dances.

Bharati has performed in Japan at EXPO-70, Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok.

She visited the U.S.S.R. and performed at the Indian National Exhibition held in Moscow in 1978, and later toured other parts of the Soviet Union under the Cultural Exchange program.

She has also performed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in honour of High foreign dignitaries and Heads of States.



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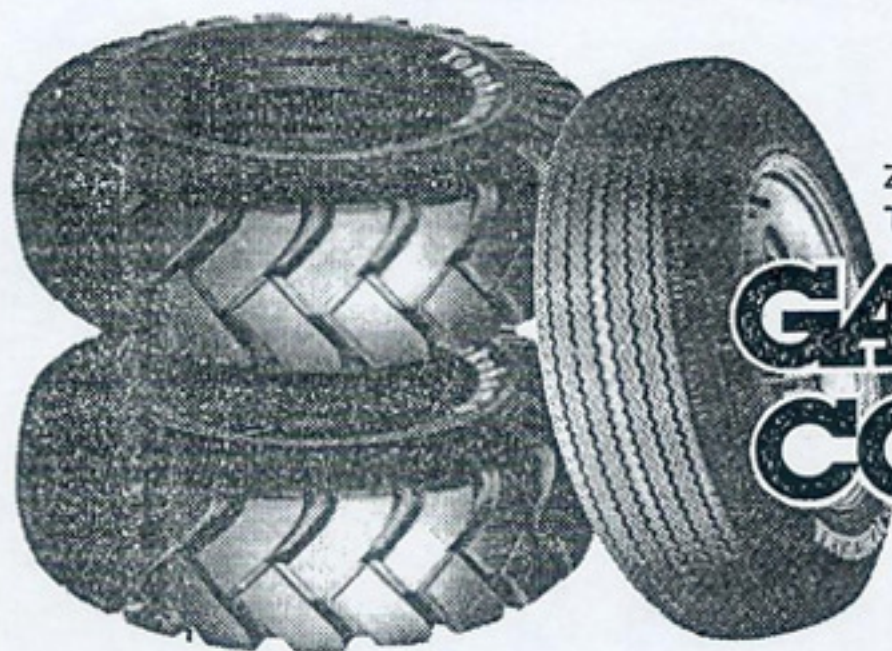
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Our sincere thanks to the government of India through the esteemed offices of Mr Ranjit Gupta, Ambassador of India in Caracas, who encouraged and assisted us in holding and organizing this great cultural event for the first time in Curaçao.

Through this event, we hope to give you a glimpse of our rich cultural background, and we look forward to organizing similar programs in the future to strengthen our social and cultural ties.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to mention that I.M.A.N.A. represents Indian Merchants Association of the Netherlands Antilles. As you all know very well, our small business community here in Curaçao is settled here since last sixty years, trying to contribute a bit towards the economical, social and cultural side of Dushi Curaçao. We feel confident of the future stability of the Island and are willing to share equally with all Curazoleño the fruits of the Future.

We thank the Government of Curaçao and the Minister of Culture and Education for their support and co-operation in making this event successful.

We wish you a pleasant evening.

Namaste,

KISHORE MUKHI

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kishore Mukhi', written over a horizontal line.

President I.M.A.N.A.



कोनसूल जेनेरल आफ इंडिया कुरासाव

Consul General of India
to the
Netherlands Antilles
Curacao

I have great pleasure in conveying my greetings and good wishes to the Indian Merchants Association of the Netherlands Antilles. The Indian community in the Netherlands Antilles, over the years, has become a valuable factor in the country's economic sector. IMANA, as the representative organisation of the community, has an important potential role. The social and cultural activities conducted by it in the past have been useful and deserve support and commendation.

I am very happy that IMANA is hosting the visit of an Indian classical dance troupe to Curaçao and will thus be contributing effectively to the projection of Indian culture before the friendly and articulate people of the Netherlands Antilles. I hope that this type of activity will be undertaken with greater frequency in the future thereby helping to strengthen the bonds of kinship, understanding and cooperation between the Indian community and the local population.

I wish IMANA continued success in all its endeavours.

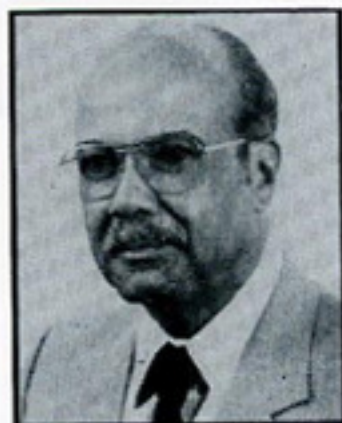


सत्यमेव जयते


(Ranjit Gupta)



GOUVERNEUR NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN



There are many views on man, views on his origin, his mission in this life, and on his destiny.

Many of these views have a mystic and religious basis, others are purely rationalistic and confine themselves to the phenomenal world.

Human performances derive their significance from the perspective on one of these views on the being of man, within which they find a place.

This is certainly the case with art; song and dance, for example, should often be seen within the perspective of a religious and mystic view of man, but they are increasingly finding a place within a secular view of the world.

Yet, it cannot be denied that these artistic expressions do, in addition, have something generally human, whereby they arouse in people, who look at them from different perspectives, emotions which surpass the momentary and make the spectator share in the brotherhood of man.

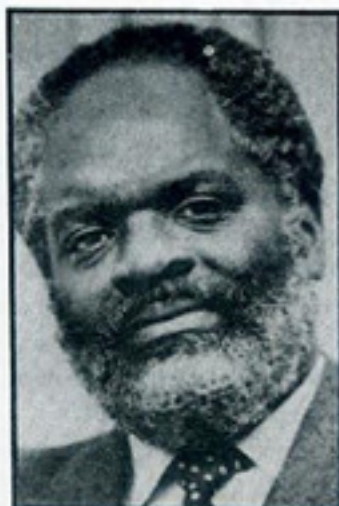
The enigma which beauty contains unites all men, regardless of race, belief or culture.

It only needs an open receptive mind which will certainly exist in the Antillean public.

I wish to express the hope that this first acquaintance with the classical culture of India may develop and deepen further.

Dr. R.A. Romer

Governor of the Netherlands Antilles



To all members of the Indian Merchants' Association of Netherlands Antilles and the Indian Community of the Netherlands Antilles, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratification for the commendable work you all are doing by displaying the magnificent Eastern Culture to the west and thereby trying to show to the world what a marvellous blend it can create.

I also take the opportunity through this message, to congratulate the I.M.A.N.A. and all those who have eagerly endeavoured in the past and the present, to enhance the already existing harmony, understanding and unity between the Indian Community and the people of the Netherlands Antilles, and I am quite certain you will continue doing so enthusiastically always in the future too, thereby keeping the "Torch of Peace" always lighted, showing the way to economic, social and cultural success.

This occasion of an Indian classical Dance Group coming to Curaçao to portray, to the people of this side of the continent, the intricate art of story telling and speaking through actions in dance, gives me great pleasure to exploit what little I know about India and its exquisite rich culture.

The recent past has known of an Englishman, during the war and reign of the British Empire in India, who was warned of an impending danger by one such classical dance by his Indian female associate.

These classical dances are also surprisingly capable of depicting the entire epic of Mahabharat and Ramayan by just graceful and synchronized gestures and movements of the eyes, neck, hands, body, legs and feet.

I once again gratefully congratulate the participants of the Dance Group and the hardworking organizers of this show in their success and accomplishments and I also wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours.



MINISTER PRESIDENT

Don F. Martina
Prime Minister



The Netherlands Antilles has enjoyed longlasting friendly relations with India, characterized by the strong mutual rapport between our peoples. But more than history and trade bind us together.

Despite the glaring difference in size, we share the same ideals of peace, equality and fraternity. We are also engaged in a similar pursuit of economic revitalization, more intense democratization of government apparatus and increased material as well as spiritual wellbeing for our peoples. However, it would be erroneous, in my view, to think that any of these lofty goals can really be achieved by ignoring our respective cultures. In fact, I make bold to say that there is no better alternative to promoting genuine friendship, mutual understanding and respect between nations than through culture.

The Indian Merchants Association of the Netherlands Antilles and the Indian Consulate have demonstrated that they believe this to be true by organizing this Indian Classical Dance Show.

The event is, however, significant in many more respects. India, the land of the Taj Mahal and of the venerable Mahatma Gandhi; land of towering world figures like Pandit Nehru and our beloved Indira; land of a rich and ancient culture; of the satyaghara and of Tagore; that India which kings dreamed of as the Promised Land and Columbus thought he had discovered when he landed at Cayo Samana; it is that India of the excruciating realities of being the world's largest modern democracy and yet of the mysterious allure of old, that comes to us today in one of its most exquisitely expressive art form-dence.

This must, therefore, be seen as one of the major happenings in the Cultural calendar of our country this year. I am certain that the Show will offer us - that is, those of us who have not been able to buy a passage to India - a very rare and tantalizing glimpse into the fascinating cultural heritage of a people who, through their well-known industriousness and positive contributions to our society, have endeared themselves to us.

Hearty congratulations to our brothers and sisters of the Indian community of Curaçao for their commendable initiative. May I also seize the opportunity to welcome to our capital that exponent of Bharatanatyam and Mohiniattam, Ms. Bharti Shivaji and all those accompanying her on this tour. Her graceful art of pure classical dance from South India will surely thrill and delight this West Indian public. I wish her a most successful tour.

Finally, may I express my fervent hope that this will mark the beginning of a more fruitful, mutually beneficial, close cultural cooperation between our two nations.

BON BINI AND ENJOY THE SHOW

*Drs. Linda Badejo-Richardson,
Minister of Education and Culture.*



MINISTER VAN ONDERWIJS



EILANDGEBIED CURAÇAO



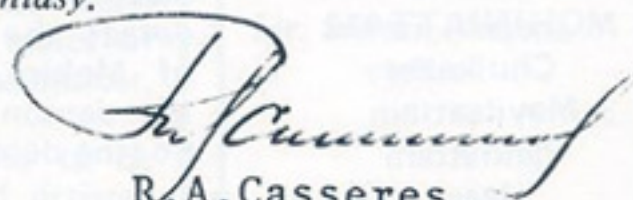
It is common knowledge that after so many years of mercantile activities in Curaçao, the Indian community is considered indispensable for our society. Complying with your request, therefore, gives me great pleasure. The commercial ties that bind us are strong, perhaps so strong that they prevent us from turning around and taking another view at each other.

Maybe we have looked at the Indian community mainly through business eyes and have failed to see them against their rich cultural background. That is why I am truly pleased with the fact that the Indian Merchant Association has succeeded in letting Ms. Bharti Shivaji perform at the Centro Pro Arte.

If we exchange cultural heritage, we get better acquainted, which will undoubtedly lead to an increase of mutual respect.

It is also quite an idea to let a dancer be your cultural ambassador, because dance speaks an international language of its own. Whereas words sometimes may be taken as an insult, gracious movements never are. Whereas words sometimes are misunderstood, the mystery of certain dances, especially oriental ones, will only give wings to our fantasy.

*If dance is a language
Indian dance is poetry.*


R.A. Casseres.
Governor of Curaçao.

Mohiniattam

Programme

WELCOME:

By the president of
I.M.A.N.A.

ADDRESS:

Consul General of
India

The honorable Minister
of Education & Culture
(on the 5 th only)

INTRODUCTION

PART 1

BHARATNATYAM

Pushpanjali

Navarasam

Jatiswaram

Shiva Panchakshram

Tillana

INTERMISSION:

(20 minutes)

PART 2

MOHINIATTAM

Chulkettu

Mayilaattam

Pandattam

Jeeva

Mohiniattam is one of the most important classical dances of the state of Kerala (South of India) representing the styles "Lasya" and "Tandava".

The technique is based on the model "Kathakali" which is a unique way of dancing with legs and feet separated widely, knees bent utilising the rhythmic sound of the drums.

Starting with a medium tempo, the tempo increases till it reaches a fascinating climax.

In a series of sequences, the dance progresses till reaching a pattern of movements full of grace, and strength combined with the movements of the feet, hands and legs.

The style of this classical dance is full of strength and execution with beautiful posture, while the historical lyric is sung and the dancer plays the theme, the spectator is transported to the exotic and beautiful places through the music and the acting of the artist. The 'Abhinayam' in the Mohiniattam is based on the dance theatre Kathakali and the themes are often taken from the legends of Ramayana and Mahabharata.

Mohiniattam presents a style of dance which is living and full of magic, mixing perfectly the NRITYA or the part of the dance made up of movements of the limbs, the facial expressions, the eyebrow movement, the eyes and NATYA the mixture of dance and drama.

According to one legend, when Vishnu desired to defeat the demon 'Bhamasura', he took the form of Mohini, representing an illusion and challenged the demon to a competition of the dance in which he (the demon) was destroyed.

Bharat Natyam

This dance of India has been historically the most common classical dance of the country whose principles and techniques were systemetized and founded in the Bharat Natya Sastra more than 1800 years ago. The Bharat Natyam has been the mother art of the other dances of India. It has been the inspiration for other arts like sculpture painting and acting.

Even though it has been preserved and developed systematically and with great purity in Tamil Nadu, it cannot be considered solely the regional art of the south of the country.

Bharat-Natyam is a dance drama full of dramatic actions, lyrical composition in which the music is mixed in a perfect manner to portray stories full of emotion and charm.

The word "Bharat" is composed of the first syllables of the three basic elements: BHAVA or expression, RAGA or melody and TALA or rhythm.

NATYAM means the combination of dance and action. The dance composed of these three elements emphasizes the importance of time and rythum in which the dancer must weave the notes of the musical instruments perfectly. The affinity between the music and the dancer in phenomenal.

In Bharatnatyam, the technique of the pure dance consists of a series of phrases, of combination of postures, in which the movements of the body, limbs, head and the neck, are effected at the sound of certain syllables. The combination of the movements and postures progress from the simplest to the most complicated, till reaching a climax of the series of movements thus demonstrating the skill of the dancer.

The timeless art of Bharatnatyam continues to be fascinating, representing the knowledge and artistry of the hundreds of years.

Artists



Mrs. Bharati Shivaji
dancer

Mr. K. Padmanabhan
percussion

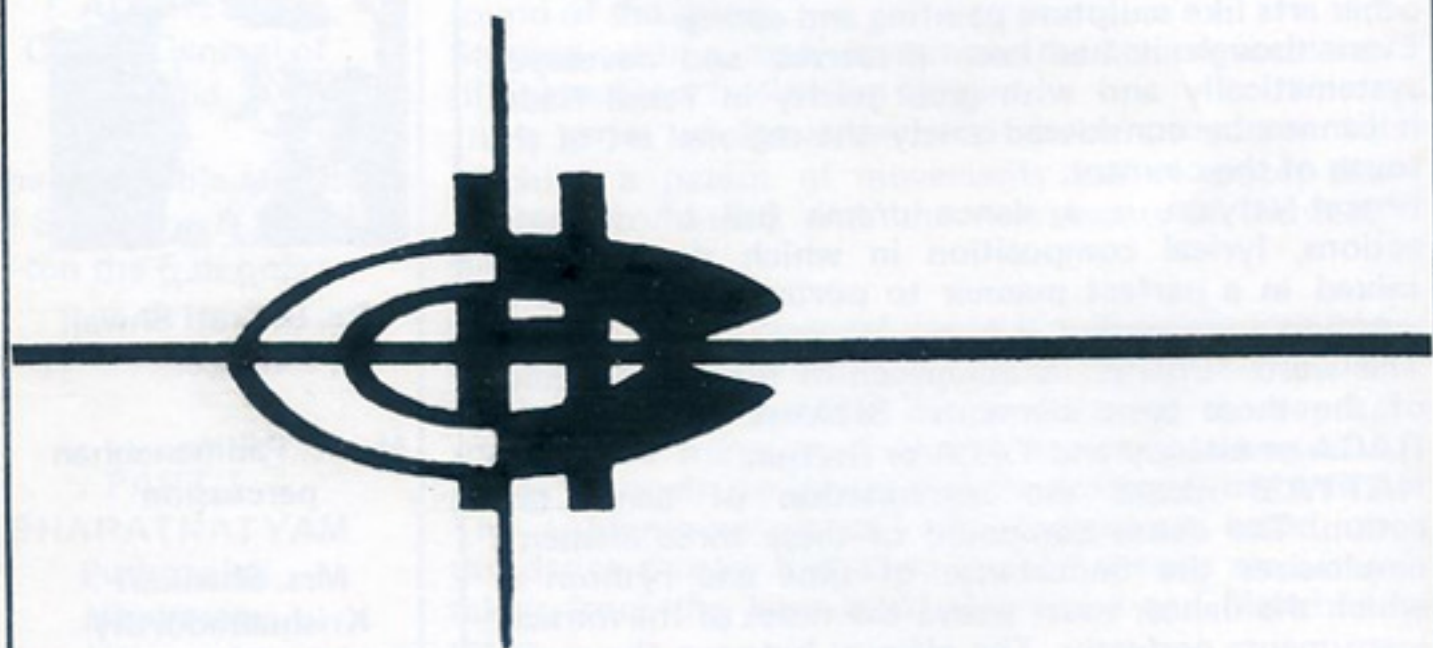
Mrs. Shankari
Krishnamoorthy
vocal for Bharatnatyam

Mrs. Girija Marar
vocal for Mohinattam

Mr. Soman
nattuvangam

Mr. Sriram Sharma
violin

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Management and staff of Centro Pro
Arte

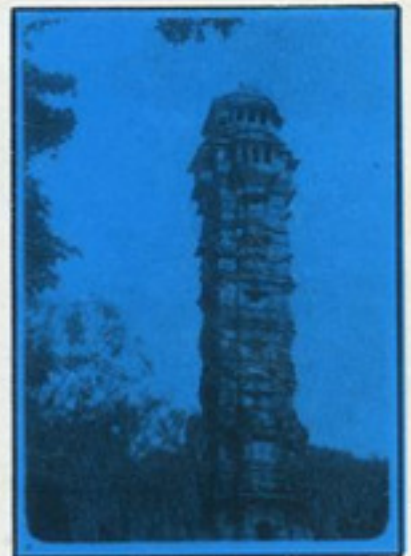
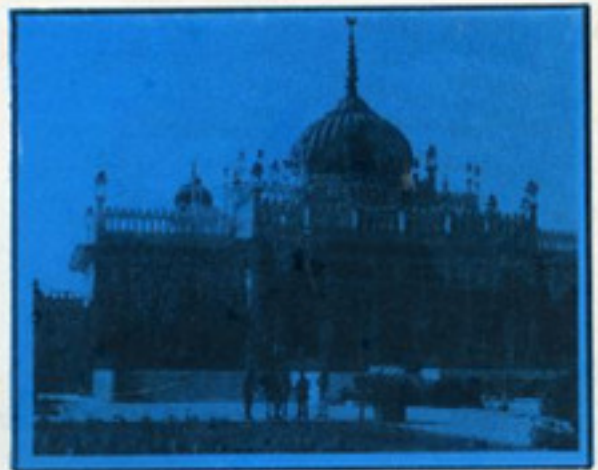
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