

Trindavan Indian Dance Academy's 6th Annual Festival

May 8th, 2011

"A Pilgrimage thru song and dance"

1. PRAYER—*The Journey Begins*

2. **ANANDA NARTANA GANAPATI-** Raagam- Naattai --- Taalam- Aadi
(Dancers : Richa Tenany, Nilam Patel, Maya Ganeshan, Karbi Chaudhury, Diya Jamwal, Swarna Rao, Aditi Vepa)

The divine setting is Kailasa, the mountain home of Shiva and Parvati; Ganesha, the plump elephant headed lord of auspicious beginnings dances to the accompaniment of a celestial orchestra. His dance-- adorable and amusing-- brings happiness to his audience.

3. **ALAARIPPU- blossoming of rhythmic movement** Taalam- Tishram
(Dancers: Manjula Gurram, Sunaina Karanwal, Manju Cheenath, Ankushi Dutta, Naveli Garg, Neha Subash, Nithya Swaminathan, Varshini Sitarama, Pooja Tallapaneni, Namrata Shah)

Maharashtra celebrates Ganesha in all of his forms—poet Gyaneshwar's *mauli* captures Ganesha as the original source or seed of all life and knowledge on earth. This is followed by alarippu, a commemoration of stylized dance movement or *nrta*.

4. **INVOCATION-** Raagam- Raagamalika --- Taalam- Aadi
(Dancers: Anjana Mohanraj, Karina Ravipati, Sruti Vadde, Charita Kaki, Nadia Mustapha, Nahusha Madhusudhan, Mahi Patil, Shreya Somasekaran, Swetha Atluri, Diya Suresh, Aishwarya Harinath, Vandita Sethuraman)

Auspicious events are initiated with the customary invocation to Indian gods: Ganesha, the remover of obstacles; Saraswathi-the goddess of education and the Arts; Lakshmi; the provider of material wealth and prosperity; and Shiva, the cosmic dancer.

5. **ALAARIPPU- blossoming of rhythmic movement** Taalam- Tishram
(Dancers: Lakshmi Medikonda, Maya Balachandran, Christina Doss, Catherina Doss, Sayukta Agarwal, Tanvi Antoo, Niharika Desiraju, Valli Vinai)

Murugan or Kartikeya, the son of Shiva and Parvati, popular in Tamil Nadu as the warrior god is invoked to bless the dancer. This is followed by Alarippu, the unfolding of movement and rhythm from bud to blossom.

6. **JATISWARAM** Raagam- Vasanta-- Taalam- Rupaka
(Dancers : Madhumita Balasubramaniam, Sandhya Iyer, Swetha Vadde, Swetha Madala, Rohini Ramabhadran, Amrita Vepa, Riya Gupta, Nikita Anumukonda, Samyukta Lokanandi)

This item takes stylized movement to the next level, whereby the dance sequences (*jathi*) are performed to musical notes (*swaram*).

7. **FOLK DANCE FROM ASSAM-- BIHU**
(Dancers: Akhil chaudhury and Ranjita Chaudhury)

Bihu denotes a set of three different cultural festivals of [Assam](#); the most important and colorful of them being the Spring festival "Bohag Bihu" or Rongali Bihu celebrated in mid-April. It is celebrated by all Assamese people irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

8. **MALLAARI-** Raagam- Gambhira Naattai-- Taalam- Triputa
(Dancers: Ananya Gupta, Krithika Jagannathan, Akansha Ravi, Harika Atluri, Srisahiti Mannava, Anushka Veerabhadran, Anupama Bhattacharya, Priyanka Chandar, Shivali Kanwar, Sindhu Kuncharapu, Nischita Krishnamoorthy)

During special occasions, gods are transported to a decorated chariot (*ratha*) on a journey (*yatra*) around the temple to see and be seen by devotees. Dancers form a prelude to the sacred ratha, performing *mallaari* in which rhythmic syllables invigorate dance patterns.

9. NATESHA KAVITVAM- Raagam- Hamsadwani --Taalam- Aadi

(Dancers : Tanvi Muruges, Ketaki Abhyankar, Ritida Nanda, Ashka Thakur, Ramani Seethamraju, Ritu Murali)

The sacred site of Chidambaram is home to dancing Shiva Nataraja. This poem extolls the beauty and vibrancy of the *tandava* dance through a unique musical structure that deftly uses verse and rhythmic syllables (*sollus*).

10. NAACHIYAR KAVITVAM- Raagam- Malaya Marutam- Taalam- Aadi

(Dancers : Shreya Madala, Nisha Punjabi, Tuhina Kopikar, Smita Balaji, Rhea Mishra, Sweta Ganatra, Riya Vaidya, Ankita Kaki, Snigdha Jayavarapu, Dipti Kothakota)

Srirangam is the earthly abode of Vishnu as Ranganatha. Young kodhai, discovered as a baby in the *tulasi* forest, playfully offers a sacred garland to Vishnu, after having worn it herself. This act becomes a prelude to her union with Vishnu as the revered Andaal.

11. KALINGA NARTANAM- Raagam-Brindavana Saranga- Taalam- Aadi.

(Dancers: Arya Gandhari, Sandhya Shankar, Bhavya Doshi, Sitha Srinivasan, Sowmya Srinivasan, Eesha Sasumana, Sanjana Mallireddy, Shalini Garapally)

On the banks of the Yamuna river in Gokul, Krishna is playing with his friends. The ball falls into the river, Krishna plunges in and encounters the dreaded serpent Kalinga. A dramatic battle ensues and Kalinga is defeated.

12. VARNAM- Raagam- Shankarabharanam- Taalam- Aadi.

(Dancers : Vidya Subramanian, Madhu Ganesh, Selvi Mohanraj, Kavita Murali, Smitha Kolady)

The majestic temple of Shiva as *Brihad Iswara* (the colossal Lord) in Thanjavur is the setting; the dancer/devotee expresses her deep love for Brihadeesha by extolling his magnificence. Imploring him to listen to her request, she conveys her steadfast devotion.

13. VARNAM- (charanam)- Raagam- Shankarabharanam --- Taalam- Aadi

(Dancers : Tejal Desai, Rashi Ohja, Nehal Tenany, Minnu Rao, Preeti Chitgopekar, Shalini Nair, Shruti Sivanandan)

The pilgrimage remains in Thanjavur; the dance picks up pace as the conversation turns personal. "Why are you angry with me?", the devotee asks Brihadeesha. The link between love (*sringara*) and devotion (*bhakti*) is brought out lyrically in the Varnam.

14. ASHTAPADI- The song of Govinda Composer- Jayadeva

(Dancer : Samvika Mehra)

In the forests of Vrindavan, Krishna sits alone and dejected. The sakhi (friend) arrives and beseeches him to end the quarrel with Radha as she suffers pangs of separation.

15. DURGA SHLOKAM

(Dancers : Bindu Shankar, Natasha Halarankar, Somya Sinha, Neha Reddy, Monisha Vattikutti, Priya Doss)

In West Bengal, Durga is legendary as *mahisa asura mardhni*, the fierce and militant Goddess, who courageously vanquished demon Mahisa and enemies in the battlefield.

MANGALAM- AN AUSPICIOUS CONCLUSION

