



LINKING AUSTRALIA WITH INDIA

Indian Link

THE OZONE GROUP
Real innovation into Real Estate.
www.ozonegroup.com



ARTS STAGE SYDNEY

Divine benevolence



Usha Ramanujam Arvind

October 26, 2015 / by Usha Ramanujam Arvind / 0 Comment

The Rasika Dance Academy's annual event is rich in Hindu mythology



Whenever evil threatens to consume the universe, benign forces of nature will inevitably rise to restore the balance of power.

*Yadaa yadaa hi dharmasya glaanirbhavati bhaaratata,
Abhyutthaanam dharmasya tadaatmanam srajaamyaham.*

Continuing the legacy of the Vazhuvoor tradition, Rasika Dance Academy's annual Bharatanatyam showcase *Sri Chakra: When Gods Dance* offered a profound interpretation of this underlying philosophy of Sanaatana Dharma.

"Immortalised in humanity's oldest scriptures, weaving the concept into dance form and recreating this for stage, has always been close to my heart," Rasika founder Manjula Viswanath told *Indian Link*.

"Each Avatar has a story of its own. The challenge to portray this in a ballet, working my way through the scenes and expressions is mind blowing to a dance teacher," she explained.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER

[mc4wp-form]



CONTINUE LISTENING: POP OUT PLAYER



READ THE LATEST E-PAPER ONLINE



MELBOURNE

ADELAIDE

BRISBANE

PERTH

SYDNEY

ARCHIVES

Expression of Interest
now open to deliver the
2017 and 2018 Indian Film
Festival of Melbourne

FILM.VIC.GOV.AU



From conceptualisation, choreography, costumes and stage décor, the sumptuously designed frames brought the story to life, recreating a little piece of heaven for the audience. Employing a combination of live and recorded music, the dual narrative technique of thematic *margam* and classical ballet provided infinite variety.



The evening's performance at UNSW Science Theatre had two distinct segments, linked by the common theme. While *Sri* paid tribute to feminine energy both creative and destructive, *Chakra* explored the earthly manifestations of Vishnu as the preserver of life through his ten incarnations.

The *Pushpanjali*, Paapanasam Sivan's invocation in Raagam Saraswati set the stage for the creative energies to flow. A medley of dedications highlighting the prowess of Devi as Sharade, Meenakshi, Sakthi and Kali followed. Both *Shringapuradeeshwari*, which extolled the artistic abilities of Saraswati, the patron deity of Sringeri, and *Devi Neeye Thunai* on the captivating Meenalochani celebrated the beauty and heritage of our ancient art forms. In contrast, the energetic pieces *Siva Sakthi* and the Ragamaalika on Kali, culminating in the immortal *Mahishasura Mardhini stotram* invigorated the audience with electrifying performances.

Incorporating emotive grace and supple movements with mathematical precision, the dancers displayed great sensitivity to thematic demands, weaving effortlessly through the broad spectrum of the repertoire. We have come to expect nothing but the very best from Rasika's senior students – Madhu Jayaram, Lalitha Bala, Anjana Chandran, Aneetha Vytheeswaran and Shalaka Bodha. Inspired by their guru, they constantly push artistic boundaries while demonstrating technical prowess and extraordinary stamina, in turn serving as exemplary role models for the juniors. The symbiotic relationship shared by the extended Rasika family makes its productions an enriching experience.

Soul stirring vocals by Subha Harinath and Shruthi Balaji were supported by live orchestra comprising Balaji Jaganathan (violin), Sivakumar Sethupathi (mrudangam), Charou Ram (rhythm pad), Venkatesh (flute) and Saumya Sritharan (veenai), while Sruthi Krishnan and Lalitha Bala joined their guru Manjula as nattuvanars, providing direction for the segment on *Sri*.

Indian Link
Like Page 13K likes

Indian Link
2 hrs

Gujarati garba at Hindu Council Australia Deepavali at Martin Place

TOP INDIA STORIES VIA ABC NEWS

Anti-India clashes erupt in Kashmir city after boy's killing

Man travels through Asia and Europe by solar tuktuk to promote clean energy

Indian tram workers were keen to emphasise that electric trams were environmentally friendly

How a Melbourne conductor helped save Kolkata's trams

A decorated Kolkatan tram from 1996

WHAT'S ON





An opulent rendering of Dashavataram kept the audience enthralled in the second half, offering a feast for the senses. Bangalore-based Balasubramanya Sharma's vocal provided the perfect backdrop for the drama to unfold. The sheer diversity of the pieces challenged the capable dancers to give their very best, whether sculpture-esque postures, intricate footwork, emotive gestures or graceful movements.

Vying for attention were the elaborate props, the effective use of lighting and elegant couture, specially designed to add vibrancy to the rich tapestry on display. Accentuating the tempo of story-telling, they reflected the changing mood of each composition. The sheer depth and scale of the backstage operations speaks volumes of the dedication and commitment of Rasika's extended army of volunteers.

"One cannot overemphasise the importance of props and costume for the success of a production. These critical pieces blend together with dance and have always been a trademark of my school Rasika Dance Academy. Just imagine 3 hours of continuous dance with costume changes that need to happen while the song is playing, where some dancers need to exit, coming back on stage in a completely different costume in less than a minute some times. This is where we work as a team that includes parents, who are the real heroes in my productions," Manjula graciously acknowledged.

Experimenting both with themes and techniques, since its inception in 2003 Rasika has grown as a creative entity with a social purpose. Imbibing Guru Padmini Ravi's ideology that tradition has infinite capacity to evolve and renew itself, Manjula has endowed a unique legacy of her own to her students in Sydney.

Like its predecessors, *Sri Chakra* once again raised substantial funds, this time for Northwest Disability Services.

Photos: RasikaDance.com.au



LIST YOUR EVENT ON INDIAN LINK

INDIAN LINK SCREENS
REACH 28,000 INDIANS PER WEEK
Call now on **0410 578 146** to book

POLLS

What is your favourite part of Diwali?

- Feasting on sweets
- Watching the latest Bollywood blockbuster released each year
- Deepavali fairs
- Pattaka!

Vote

View Results

YOUTUBE CHANNEL



Aussies who belong in India: Peter

Meet Dr Peter Friedlander, an Aussie academic who's a senior lecturer in Hindi and Urdu at ANU, fluent Hindi speaker and lover of all things Indian... Web: <http://www.indianlink.com.au/> Facebook: /IndianLinkAustralia Twitter: @Indian_Link

Visit our YouTube channel

0 Comments

Indian Link

1 Login

Recommend

Share

Sort by Best



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add Privacy

DISQUS



MATRIMONIAL



Find your Perfect Partner



LINKING AUSTRALIA WITH INDIA

Indian Link

All Things Indian. In Australia. Building an award-winning tradition across print, radio and online.

Copyright © 2013 Indian Link | Linking India and Australia | About Us | Contact Us | Advertise With Us | Write for Us | Site Map