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Bharata Natyam

dance recital

performed by
Ginette Dion-Amhed

*Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Scholar
Disciple of Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar*

**Friday,
September 3, 2004 7:00 p.m.**

India Habitat Centre Lodhi Road, New Delhi



GINETTE DION-AHMED first studied Bharata Natyam with Guru Jai Govinda in Canada and continues to study this dance form under the guidance of Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar, director of *Abhinayaa*, in New Delhi. These studies were enriched by a BA in Dance from the University of Quebec in Montreal and a teacher's training programme in the Iyengar yoga method. Ginette performed her Arrangetram, first solo recital, in September 1996 and has since performed on several occasions in Canada and in India. She gave a solo performance with live music at the Habitat Centre in New Delhi in 2000, and danced at the Shilpgram Centre in Khajuraho in 2001.

In recognition of her dedication to the art of Bharata Natyam, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute awarded her a one-year scholarship in 2000 and a 4-month scholarship in 2003 for an intensive study of this dance form. In 2002, Ginette founded Danse Rasa with Manijeh Ali where she continues to develop and teach the art of Bharata Natyam in Canada. On September 3 of this year, she will be presenting a new repertoire on Devi, choreographed by Jayalakshmi Eshwar at the Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

Chief Guests:

Prof. Arun P. Mukherjee, president
Dr. John R. Wood, vice-president

Credit

Nattuvangam: Jayalakshmi Eshwar

Vocal: O.S. Sridhar

Mridangam: **Jaya Bhaskar**

Violin: Durga Prasad

Veena: Shyamala Bhaskar



www.danserasa.org
info@danserasa.org



JAYALAKSHMI ESHWAR an internationally acclaimed Bharatanatyam exponent, graduated from the premier Academy for Fine Arts in India, "Kalakshetra", Chennai, of late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale. Rukmini Devi is a legend in the world of Fine Arts who possessed a multi-faceted personality in field of culture, education and dance.

Jayalakshmi, an excellent performer, teacher and choreographer, has performed both solo as well as group productions in India and abroad. She has participated in many prestigious National and International Festivals. Her large number of students range from young children to highly-qualified professionals as well as special children.

She is the founder-director of *Abhinayaa*, a School for Bharatanatyam, and also heads the Bharatanatyam department of Triveni Kala Sangam, a premier institution for the Fine Arts in New Delhi.

She has been awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Senior Fellowship for 2003-2005.

"Bharatanatyam: How To..." – A unique self-teaching book for students on learning the nuances of the Bharatanatyam dance form was released in 2002. The book is accompanied by support material on music and video CDs.

Jayalakshmi Eshwar: www.abhinayaa.com, email: jaya_eshwar@lycos.com

GINETTE DION-AHMED, French Canadian, first studied Bharatanatyam with Guru Jai Govinda in Canada. She is now carrying out her research on this dance form under the guidance of Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar, director of *Abhinayaa*, in New Delhi. These studies are enriched by a BA in Dance from Université du Québec à Montréal and a teacher's training program in the Iyengar yoga method at the Centre de yoga Iyengar de Montréal, Canada, where she presently teaches.

As required by tradition, Ginette performed her Arrangetram (first solo recital) in September 1996. Since then, she has performed on several occasions in Canada and in India. In 1999, she participated in the Fifth Festival of Dance Kala Nidhi in Toronto. She then gave a solo performance with live music at Habitat Centre in New Delhi in 2000, and danced at the Shilpgram Centre in Khajuraho in 2001. Her dedication to the art of Bharatanatyam was acknowledged by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in the form of a one-year scholarship in 2000 and a four-month scholarship in 2003 for an intensive study of Bharatanatyam.

Ginette founded Danse Rasa with Manijeh Ali in June 2002, where she pursues her dedication expanding and teaching Bharatanatyam in Canada as well as exploring and creating a new vocabulary inspired by the art of Bharatanatyam.



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Bharata Natyam

dance recital

by
Ginette Dion-Ahmed
*Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Scholar
Disciple of Guru Jayalakshmi Eshwar*

CHIEF GUESTS: Prof. Arun P. Mukherjee, *president*,
Dr. John R. Wood, *vice-president*, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

September 3, 2004 7:00 p.m.

STEIN AUDITORIUM
Habitat World, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi



Pushpanjali

Ragam: **Nattai**
Talam: **Adi**

This is a floral tribute to the Gods followed by a prayer to mother Goddess.

Dance choreography:
Jayalakshmi Eshwar
Musical score:
O.S. Sridhar

Sloka "ya sha shoumba nishoumba"

Ragamalika

Following the *Pushpanjali* is a short prayer, *sloka*, in praise of the auspicious Goddess. It describes her destructive aspect in order to protect the goodness. The devotee praising the Supreme Goddess asks, "Is she the one who killed the demons Shoumba and Nishoumba? Is she the Mother Supreme? Is she the consort of Brahma and Vishnu as the embodiment of Goddess of knowledge and wealth? Is she the consort of Lord Shiva?" You are the giver of auspiciousness, and I surrender at your feet.

Lyrics from:
Sri Devi Mahatmiyam
Composition:
Adyar K. Lakshman

Varnam

Ragam: **Charumati**
Talam: **Adi**

The song pays homage to the Supreme Goddess Maha Devi in whose manifestations are three consorts of the Trinity: Saraswati of Brahma, Lakshmi of Vishnu and Parvathi of Shiva. The three Goddesses respectively represent Supreme Knowledge, Wealth and Shakti, the Energy.

Dance choreography:
Jayalakshmi Eshwar
Musical score:
Sri Durga Prasad

Dance of Shiva "ananda natamidum padam"

Ragam: **Kedaragoulai**
Talam: **Adi**

The song describes Shiva, the divine dancer, who dances in ecstasy in the golden hall of Chidambaram temple. As he dances, the sound of his bells vibrates bringing ecstasy to everyone. In one hand Shiva holds a deer which denotes man's unsteady mind which darts hither and thither like the deer, but has to be brought under control. In another he holds a drum, the symbol of creative activity, and in the third, fire, the symbol of destruction. The gesture of his fourth hand means, "Do not fear. I shall protect as I destroy." All together the sages sing the glory of Lord Shiva.

Dance choreography:
Jayalakshmi Eshwar
Musical score:
Sri Nilakanta Shivan

Padam "netru varen"

Ragam: **Panthuvarali**
Talam: **Misra Chapu**

Here the heroine (*nayika*) is "*vipralabdha*". She suffers from being separated from her lover, and expresses her anxiety to her friend (*sakhi*). She confides in her, "He promised that he would come, spoke sweet words and left, but he has not come till now."

Dance choreography:
Jayalakshmi Eshwar
Musical score:
Vaidiswaran Koil Subbarama Iyer

Tillana

Ragam: **Maandu**
Talam: **Adi**

This is a finale of a Bharatanatyam recital exemplifying the three elements of the dance form: speed, line and rhythm.

Dance choreography:
Jayalakshmi Eshwar
Musical score:
Sri Lalgudi Jayaraman

Credits

Nattuvangam: **Jayalakshmi Eshwar**
Vocal: **S. Vasudevan**
Mridangam: **Jayabhaskar**
Violon: **Sri Durga Prasad**
Veena: **Shyamala Bhaskar**

Production

Compere: **Maya Ratnam**
Costumes: **Radhe Shyam**
Make-up: **P. Pillai**
Video: **K. Lakshman**
Photo: **Anup Pahariya**
Graphics: **Marjolaine Blouin**

The sculpture of Goddess Saraswati has been kindly lent by Mr. Arvind Jain from Varuna International, New Delhi, phone: 9212140883, e-mail: arditjain@yahoo.com

I would like to thank Mrs. Malti Bhandari and Mr. Reid Cooper from the High Commission of Canada for their help, support and encouragement.

Ginette Dion-Ahmed