



OFFICERS OF THE AKADEMI

Chairman

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA

Vice-Chairman

SHRI KAVALAM NARAYANA
PANIKKAR

Financial Advisor

SHRI R.C. MISHRA

Secretary

SHRI JAYANT KASTUAR

Bommalatta Utsav, Warangal

The Bommalatta Utsav, a festival of puppetry traditions of Andhra Pradesh, was held in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh from 18 to 22 January 2008 in collaboration with Association for the Promotion of Puppetry in Andhra Pradesh (APPA). The five-day event had two segments: puppet performances by puppetry groups from Andhra Pradesh from 18 to 22 January and a workshop between 20 and 21 January 2008. Special documentation was also done from 18 to 22 January 2008. Experts in the field of puppetry from Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Kolkata attended the festival.

The festival focused mainly on leather puppetry of Andhra Pradesh and attracted 60 troupes comprising 6000 traditional practitioners from different parts of Andhra Pradesh.

Performances

18 January

Lanka Dahanam: S. Chidambra Rao, Chaya Nataka Brundam, Anantpur

Uttara Gograhamam: Tota Pawan Kumar, Natya Kala Bharathi Natika Committee, Kakinada

Laxmana Murcha: Rekhanar Kotilingam, Prasananjaneey Brundam, Prakasana

19 January

Chanchu Lakshmi: Mothe Jagannatham, Koyya Bommala Kala Brundam, Warangal

Padmavuyham: Rekhanar Hanumantha Rao, Guntur

Sundarakanda: Kumara Onkar, Nellore

20 January

Maruthi Vigayam: Kumar Tirupalu, Nellore

Bharuvu Bratukulu Natika (Panchatantra Katha): Vanarcha Ramakrishna, Anantapuram

Narthana Shala: Thota Ranga Rao, East Godavari

21 January

Lavakusha: Vanaparthi Subbarao, East Godavari

Kirata Arjaneeyam: Anaparthi Venkata Ratnam, East Godavari

Karivalaraju Katha: Kadam Sammaiah, Kadam Sammaiah Brundam, Warangal

Rama Ravana Yuddam: Puranapu Yadagiri, Puranapu Yadagiri Brundam, Nalgonda

22 January

Babruvahana Charitra: Kaley Chalapathi Rao, Saibaba Natya Kala Mandali, Nellore

Baharupia (Twins), Magician, Anarkali: Puran Bhat, Aakar Puppet Theatre, New Delhi

Sati Sulochana: Thota Narasimha Murthy, Karuna Nilaya Chalana Chitra Kala Pradarshana, East Godavari

Keechaka Vadha: Vanaparthi Pedda Nancharaiah, Khammam

I N S I D E

BOMMALATTA UTSAV, WARANGAL	1
NRITYA SANGAM, JAMSHEDPUR	2
PRAKRITI, A FESTIVAL OF TRIBAL ARTS, NEW DELHI	3
SANGEET PRATIBHA, SILIGURI	3
RANG PRATIBHA, BANGALORE	4
FESTIVAL OF SOLO PERFORMANCE, KOLKATA	4
DELHI INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL	4
NATYOTSAV, PATNA	5
DOCUMENTATION	5
IN MEMORIAM	6



Nritya Sangam, Jamshedpur

Sangeet Natak Akademi launched the Nritya Sangam series of dance festivals in 2004 with the aim of bringing to dance enthusiasts in far-flung town and cities the spectrum of Indian dance within the compass of a single event. Well-known artists in major forms of dance have been featured in the Nritya Sangam series. This year, Nritya Sangam was organized from 20 to 24 January 2008 in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Jharkhand and Kalamandir, Jamshedpur at Tata Auditorium of the XLRI, Jamshedpur. The programme follows:

20 January

Priyadarshini Govind, Chennai:
Bharatanatyam; Omprakash Mishra,
Varanasi: Kathak.

21 January

Mandakini Trivedi, Mumbai: Mohiniattam;
Rina Jana, Kolkata: Odissi; Anuradha
Jonngaladda, Hyderabad: Kuchipudi.

22 January

Ibemubi Devi, Imphal: Manipuri;

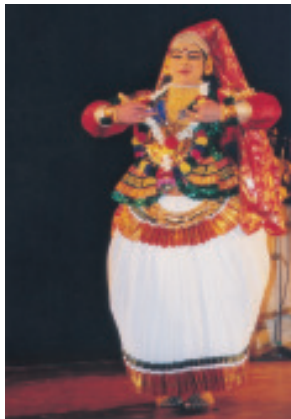
Kalamandalam Rajasekharan, Thrissur:
Kathakali; Vasanti Vaishnav, Bilsapur:
Kathak.

23 January

Minati and Manoranjan Pradhan,
Bhubaneswar: Odissi; Vaibhav Arekar,
Mumbai: Bharatanatyam; Margi Sathi,
Thrissur: Nangiarkoothu.

24 January

Anita Sharma, Guwahati: Sattriya Dance;
Chitra Chandrasekhar, Bangalore:
Bharatanatyam; Aditi Mangaldas, Delhi:
Kathak.



Top left to right:

Omprakash Mishra (Kathak), Mandakini Trivedi
(Mohiniattam), Rina Jana (Odissi).

Bottom left to right:

Vaibhav Arekar (Bharatanatyam); Kalamandalam
Rajasekharan (Kathakali), Priyadarshini Govind
(Bharatanatyam).

Prakriti – A Festival of Tribal Arts, New Delhi

A festival of tribal arts, Prakriti, was organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India in association with the Zonal Cultural Centres and Sangeet Natak Akademi from 5 to 7 December 2007 at Meghdoot Theatre, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. Shri P.R. Kyndiah, Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, Government of India inaugurated the festival. Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Chairman of the Akademi, Shri Jayant Kastuar, Secretary, and Shri Lov Verma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture were also present on the occasion. As many as twenty-one States presented their arts in the festival.



Suggi Kunitha, Karnataka.

The performances during the three days' festival included Dharkahari Dance (Uttar Pradesh), Baiga Karma Dance (Madhya Pradesh), Kalbelia and Garasia Dances (Rajasthan), Mewasi Dance (Gujarat), Bhavada Dance (Dadra & Nagar Haveli), Gudum Baja (Madhya Pradesh), Thapetta Gullu Dance (Andhra Pradesh), Sambhalpuri Dance (Orissa), Saila Dance (Chhattisgarh), Hojagiri Dance (Tripura), Tamang Selo Dance (Sikkim), Jaunsari Harul Dance (Uttarakhand), Jabro Dance (Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir), Gujjari Dance (Himachal Pradesh), Suggi Kunitha (Karnataka), Gussadi Dance (Andhra Pradesh), Kota Dance (Tamil Nadu), Lahoo Dance (Meghalaya), Lion and Peacock Dance (Arunachal Pradesh), and Khupieilli Dance (Nagaland).

Sangeet Pratibha, Siliguri

Sangeet Pratibha, a festival of young musicians focusing on musical talent in eastern India, was held from 27 to 30 December 2007 at Dinabandhu Mancha, Siliguri in collaboration with the West Bengal State Music Academy, Kolkata. The festival performances were presented by twenty-one artists, mostly from the eastern states of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal. Performances included Hindustani vocal and instrumental music on the Sitar, guitar, Shehnai, Talvadya Kacheri, flute, and Sarod. A special session of regional traditions of music including Borgeet of Assam, Bangla Tappa and Puratani Geet, Odissi Sangeet, and Mand of Rajasthan were also included. The festival was well received by the people of Siliguri. The programme follows:

27 December
Lokesh Anand, Delhi: Shehnai; Anal Chatterjee, Kolkata: Hindustani Vocal; Supratik Sengupta, Kolkata: Sitar.

28 December
Arpita Mukherjee, Dhanbad: Hindustani Vocal; Rajkumar Jha, Ayodhya: Pakhawaj; Ajay P. Jha, Darbhanga: Guitar.

29 December
Shabbir Hussain Khan & Umesh Mishra, Kolkata: Sarangi; Sabina Mumtaz Islam, Guwahati: Hindustani Vocal; Jyotindra Prasad Mishra & K. Bhuvaneshwary, Bhubaneswar: Sitar & Violin; Kumar Rishitosh & group, Patna: Talvadya Kacheri.



30 December
Santosh Kumar, Bokaro: Flute; Aparna Mishra, Gaya: Tappa, Thumri; Udai Kumar Mishra & Dinanath Mishra, Bettiah: Hindustani Vocal; Atish Mukhopadhyay, Kolkata: Sarod.

30 December (special morning session of regional traditions of music)
Mitali De, Guwahati: Borgeet, Assam; Souvik Sanyal, Siliguri: Bangla Tappa and Puratani Geet, West Bengal; Sangeeta Panda, Bhubaneswar: Odissi Sangeet, Orissa; Pukhraj Sharma, Bikaner: Mand, Rajasthan.

Below: Sangeeta Panda (Odissi Sangeet);
bottom left: Lokesh Anand (Shehnai);
bottom right: Rajkumar Jha (Pakhawaj).



Rang Pratibha, Bangalore

The Akademi has planned a series of festivals in States and Union Territories of the country to bring to the fore new talent in contemporary theatre. Under this series, Rang Pratibha, a festival of plays by young directors of Karnataka was presented in the State of Karnataka.

The festival was organized from 6 to 15 January 2008 at Bangalore in collaboration with Karnataka Nataka Academy, Bangalore, and the Directorate of Kannada & Culture, Bangalore. It featured ten productions by young directors of Karnataka chosen by a Committee of experts from the State.

Apart from performances, there were morning sessions for interactions for participating directors with local theatre experts. The Akademi invited Shri Sachin Tewari from Allahabad and Shri Dolgovind Rath from Bhubaneswar

to interact with local theatre artists. The programme follows:

- 6 January
Ushaharana, dir. Sreepad Bhat
- 7 January
Darashiko, dir. K. Ramakrishnaiah
- 8 January
Bhalare Vichitram, dir. Sasvehalli Satish
- 9 January
Parityakta, dir. Manjunath L. Badigera
- 10 January
Huliseere, dir. K.R. Omkar
- 11 January
Saviradavalu, dir. Malatesha Badigera
- 12 January
Bicycle Thieves, dir. Sridhara Murthy G.J.
- 13 January
8/15, dir. Ritwik Simha
- 14 January
Kolli, dir. A.Dakshayini Bhat
- 15 January
Manasuka Rayana Manasu, dir. Vasudev V.

Festival of Solo Theatre Performance, Kolkata

A festival of solo theatre, Ekal Yatra was organized by Rangkarmee, a leading theatre group headed by Smt. Usha Ganguly, Kolkata, on 13-15 January 2008. The festival featured solo performances by eminent and upcoming women theatre directors.

Delhi International Arts Festival

The Akademi sponsored the Delhi International Arts Festival presented by Prasiddha Foundation, Delhi. The festival was organized in association with Government of Delhi, and the Ministries of Culture and Tourism, Government of India. The Akademi sponsored some of the programmes held in various parts of Delhi, including classical dances held at Meghdoot Theatre, Rabindra Bhavan, Delhi, from 16 to 22 December 2007.



Top left: *Kolli*, directed by A. Dakshayini Bhat.
Bottom left: *Bicycle Thieves*, directed by Sridhara Murthy G.J.

Natyotsav, Patna

Natyotsav, a festival of plays by select participants of Sangeet Natak Akademi's East Zone Theatre Workshop (Phase II) was organized at Kalidas Rangalaya, Patna from 28 January to 3 February 2008. Twelve plays were presented in the festival.

Apart from performances, there were morning sessions for interactions for participating directors with local theatre experts. The plays presented were as follows:

28 January

Uttar Priyadarshi, dir. Santosh Kumar Rana
Samjhota, dir. Parveen Kumar Gunjan

29 January

Duniya Roz Badalti Hai, dir. Santosh Kumar Jha

Sacrifice, dir. Debashish Dutta

30 January

Prokriti, dir. Kriti Mazumdar

Ashwathama, dir. Suman Saha

1 February

Original Kaam, dir. Ravi Bhushan Kumar

Aaj, Kal Ya Parson, dir. Mohammed Mehmood Alam

2 February

Romeo, Juliet aur Andhera, dir. Manvendra K. Tripathi

Rundh Vaak, dir. Atnu Sarkar

3 February

Baki Itihas, dir. Mrigendra Kumar

Ajab Desher Ajab Raja, dir. Shewal Das



Top: *Sacrifice*, directed by Debashish Dutta; bottom: *Ashwathama*, directed by Suman Sahay.

Documentation

During December 2007 – January 2008, the following programmes were documented:

Prakriti: A Festival of Tribal Arts, 5-6 December 2007, New Delhi. Video 3:13 hours. Photographs 360.

Sangeet Pratibha 27 – 30 December 2007, Siliguri. Audio and Video 14:13 hours. Photographs 200.

Ekal Yatra, 2008: a national festival of woman's solo performance 13–15 January 2008, Kolkata. Video 11:39:41 hours. Photographs 430.

Bommalatta Utsav: a festival of puppet traditions of Andhra Pradesh 18–22 January 2008, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh. Video 43:36:15 hours. Photographs 800.

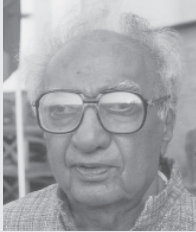
Nritya Sangam: Festival of Dance 20–24 January 2008, Jamshedpur. Video 14:21:16 hours. Photographs 360.

Special Documentation: Interviews — Shyamanand Jalan by Pratibha Agarwal; Usha Ganguly by Kripa Shankar Chaube; Pratibha Agarwal by Samik Banerjee. Video 3:20 hours.

IN MEMORIAM

The Sangeet Natak Akademi and its associate bodies deeply mourn the sad demise of Akademi Awardees.

Kailash Pandya



Born in 1923 in Bhavnagar, Gujarat, Shri Kailash Pandya was actively associated with the Indian People's Theatre Association, Bombay, from 1943 to 1948. From 1949

to 1957, he worked with Shri Jayashankar Sundari at Nat Mandal, Ahmedabad, and in 1958 attended the Asian Theatre Institute, Delhi, which later grew into the National School of Drama. He also learnt Kathakali from Guru Kunju Nair and Bhavai from Guru Chimanlal Nayak.

As head of the theatre department at Darpana Academy of Performing Arts, Ahmedabad, Shri Pandya produced a variety of Indian and Western plays by Bhasa, Gogol, Brecht, Tagore and Tendulkar. He was especially interested in folk theatre and experimented with Bhavai in some of his productions. Shri Pandya was also a talented actor and worked with Shrimati Dina Gandhi, Shrimati Mrinalini Sarabhai and Professor C.C. Mehta. He participated in a number of theatre seminars and workshops in India and abroad.

Shri Pandya received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to theatre as a director in 1993.

Shri Kailash Pandya passed away on 24 December 2007.

Shanta Rao



Kumari Shanta Rao started learning dance at a very early age. She studied Bharata Natyam with Guru Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai. Kathakali with Guru P. Ramunni Menon

and Mohini Attam with Guru Krishnan Panikar.

Kumari Shanta Rao toured and performed all over India and in many countries abroad. Her work received high accolades from critics and scholars of worldwide repute. An artiste completely dedicated to her muse, Kumari Shanta Rao not only established herself as a leading exponent at Indian dance but also earned respect as one charged with an undying zeal to help the promotion and propagation of the art.

She was honoured with the civilian award of Padma Shree. For her eminence in the field of dance and her contribution to its enrichment, Kumari Shanta Rao received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Bharatanatyam in 1970.

Kumari Shanta Rao passed away on 28 December 2007.

Narendra Sharma



Shri Narendra Sharma was born in 1924, in Bulandshahr. Attracted to the dance as a child, he was one of the first to enlist himself as a student at the Uday Shankar India Culture

Centre, Almora. All the training in dance Shri Narendra Sharma received was at that Centre, and he was one of the foremost practitioners of the style.

Shri Narendra Sharma choreographed a number of dance pieces as well as 'ballets'. He worked for New Stage, Bombay, and for the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra, New Delhi. He was Director and Choreographer of Bhoomika, a dance unit started by him in New Delhi. He was also the Dance Director with the Modern School, New Delhi.

Shri Narendra Sharma visited abroad, both to teach and to study. He was also sent as a Choreographer outside India under the Cultural Exchange Programme of the Government.

What Shri Narendra Sharma was most concerned with at that moment was to create a healthy Free Dance movement for children, a crusade in which his efforts showed substantial results.

For his eminence in the field of dance and his contribution to its enrichment Shri Narendra Sharma received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for Contemporary Choreography in 1976.

Shri Narendra Sharma passed away on 14 January 2008.