

NEWS Bulletin

संगीत
नाटक
अकादेमी



Sangeet
Natak
Akademi

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC,
DANCE & DRAMA, INDIA

NUMBER 19 ♦ JUNE – JULY 2007



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

Chairman SNA meets President



Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Chairman, Sangeet Natak Akademi presents a set of Akademi Publications and compact discs (CDs) of Master Musicians of India to Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on 31st July 2007.

A Note from the Publisher

Sangeet Natak Akademi under its scheme of 'Assistance to Young Theatre Artists' conducts a training programme in which 30-day workshops are organized in states and after completion of these workshops in each state of a particular zone, a 75-day workshop is held for participants chosen from the 30-days workshops. Till date the Akademi has organized fifteen workshops in various States since launch of its first pilot project in March, 2000 and imparted training to 373 participants. Two intensive training (phase II) workshops have also been held in which 51 artists have been trained. This issue of Bulletin opens with a brief report on

fifteenth workshop held at Khairagarh, Chhattisgarh from the 3rd of July to the 1st of August 2007.

Nritya Pratibha is a festival of dance focusing on young dance talent. It is organised by Sangeet Natak Akademi as part of a well established programme to promote dance among a new generation of artists all over India helping them to find a foothold on the national platform. The Pratibha programme is not confined to dance; over the years, festivals of music and theatre featuring young artists have also been held as a part of the series in different parts of the country. A report on a Nritya Pratibha held from 21 to 24 July 2007 at Dehradun focusing on young dance

talent in Northern India forms a part of the Bulletin.

The Akademi started organizing performances of traditional puppetry prevalent in India from August 2005 with the object of bringing to the fore groups in remotest of villages and to take stock of the status of the art in the region as well as to provide it a performance platform. Nine performance of traditional puppetry, representing various states of the country have been held in Delhi till now. An account of Kalasturi Bahulaya of Maharashtra performed at Meghdoot Theatre in Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi, on 27 July 2007, also finds place in the Bulletin.

Jayant Kastuar
Secretary

Young theatre artists' workshop, Khairagarh

A month-long workshop was organized for the benefit of young theatre artists of Chhattisgarh at Khairagarh from 3rd of July to the 1st of August, 2007. The workshop was held in collaboration with Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya and covered first phase of the Akademi's programme by providing basic training to the theatre artists.

As many as 23 young theatre artists between the age of 21 and 35 years, including two female participants were selected through interviews held at Raipur, capital of Chhattisgarh. Participants came from various parts of the State such as Jashpur, Korba, Rajnandgaon, Durg, Raipur, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Khairagarh and Jangir-Champa.

Shri Satish Anand, well-known theatre director and Akademi award-winner was the camp director at the workshop. He was assisted by the local coordinator, Shri Yogendra Choubey, an alumnus of the National School of Drama, New Delhi.

Well-known theatre personalities imparted training in different aspects of theatre. The faculty members included Satish Anand, Delhi (Acting: Voice & Speech / Text Reading & Analysis); Yogendra Choubey, Raigarh (Acting); Gyandev Singh, Khairagarh (Yoga & Movement); Probir Guha, Kolkata (Improvisation & Movement); P. Gopinath, Thiruvananthapuram (Kalaripayattu); Suman Kumar, Delhi (Scenic Design & Costume Design); Lokendra Trivedi, Delhi (Theatre Music); Mirza Masood, Raipur (Creating Performance Text); Niranjana Goswami, Kolkata (Mime); Rajkamal Nayak, Raipur (Theatre of Poetry); A.N. Roy, Khairagarh (Theatre Management); Badri Singh Kathariha, Bhopal (Make-up); Dinesh Thakur, Mumbai

(Production Process); Suresh Bhardwaj, Delhi (Lighting); Devendra Raj Ankur, Delhi (An Overview of World Theatre and Indian Theatre and Kahani ka Rangmanch — Theatre in Story format); and Dr Om Prakash Bharati, Deputy Secretary, Drama, Sangeet Natak Akademi.

To give the participants a fair idea of the folk traditions of Chhattisgarh, performances of different regional folk theatre forms were organized. The performances included Nacha by Dileep Tarak, Balram Tarak & Party, Bans Geet by Nakul Yadav and Party, Devar Karma Songs and Dance by Shanti Devar and Party, Folk Music by P.C. Lal Yadav and Group, and Chandaini by Ramadhar Sahu and Rakesh Tiwari. Dr Kaptan Singh, Dr Mandavi Singh, Dr I.D. Tewari and Dr Bharat Patel gave detailed lectures on Yoga, Dance, Shakespeare's Theatre, and Folk Songs and Dances of Chhattisgarh.

Video / CD screening of the following plays were arranged for the benefit of participants:

Anveshak (Hindi), written by Pratap Sehgal, directed by Satish Anand

Mrichchhakatikam (in Bidesia style), written by Shoodrak, directed by Satish Anand

Daaku (Hindi), written by Mudrarakshas, directed by Satish Anand

Khul Ja Sim Sim (Hindi), by Chandrasekhar Kambar, directed by B.V. Karanth

Tughlaq (Hindustani), written by Girish Karnard, directed by Dinesh Thakur

Rani Dayee (Hindi), written by Nandkishore Tiwari, directed by Yogendra Choubey

Some scenes from films of Charlie Chaplin were also screened.

The valedictory function was organized on 1 August. Prof. Geeta Pental, Vice-Chancellor, Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya was the Chief Guest and gave away certificates to the participants. The Workshop Director, Shri Satish Anand, read out the workshop report to the gathering of theatre personalities and artists from the State. The chief attraction, however, was the dramatic presentation got up by participants in the workshop.



Top: Make-up practice session at workshop. Above: A glimpse of Kalaripayattu.

Nritya Pratibha, Dehradun

Sangeet Natak Akademi organized Nritya Pratibha, a festival of young dancers, at Dehradun, from 21 to 24 July 2007 in collaboration with Rural Entrepreneurship and Cultural Heritage (REACH) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). The festival focused on young dance talent in northern India; the dancers featured came from the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi. For wider representation of dance styles in this all-India event, a few dancers from States other than the above were also included. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Harbans Lal Kapoor, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Uttarakhand, on 21 July at IGNFRA Auditorium and the festival was held at AMN Ghosh Auditorium, Dehradun from 22 to 24 July. The festival was well received by the audience of Dehradun. The programme follows:

Saturday, 21 July

Sumelika Bhattacharyya, Delhi: Odissi

Namrata Rai and Shyam Kartik Mishra, Dehradun: Kathak

Progressive Artists Laboratory, Imphal: Pung Cholom

Archana Tiwari and Kumar Gaurav Sharma, Lucknow: Kathak

Sunday, 22 July

Manjula, Delhi: Mohiniattam

Sujneet Kaur, Jalandhar: Kathak

Aparajita Sarma, Delhi: Bharatnatyam

Progressive Artists Laboratory, Imphal: Ras Leela

Monday, 23 July

Rangamandali, Guwahati: Gayan Bayan

Jolly Moni Saikia and Punkaj, Guwahati: Sattriya

Ashwathy K. Kumar, Delhi: Kuchipudi

Himachal / J&K: Kathak

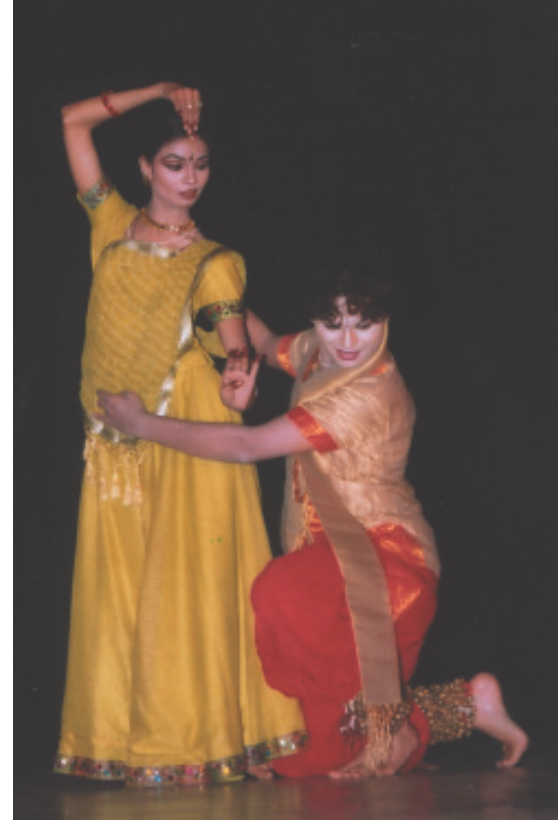
Tuesday, 24 July

Sudha Mallik, Ghaziabad: Odissi

Pavithra and S. Vasudevan, Delhi: Bharatnatyam

Shubhra Galhotra, Kurukshetra: Kathak

Artists of Akademi's Chhau Project: Chhau (Mayurbhanj)



Right: Kathak performance by Archana Tiwari and Kumar Gaurav Sharma.



Virasha performing Kathak.



Bharatnatyam by Pavithra and Vasudevan.

Traditional Puppetry / Theatre / Video Reports

AKADEMI'S FORTNIGHTLY PERFORMANCES IN DELHI

Kalasutri Bahulya: String Puppetry of Maharashtra

Kalasutri Bahulya, literally 'doll moved by thread', presents stories from Ramayana from the birth of Rama to the killing of Ravana. The performers are also good chitrakathi tellers and narrate tales from the epics. The performance begins with an invocation to Lord Ganesha by the singer and his accompanying musicians who sit in front of the stage. The musical instruments used are the tabla, tuntune (a stringed instrument), cymbals and conch.

The puppets are small, with bodies made of wood and joints at the shoulders. They do not have legs and wear long skirts. There is one puppet with moveable jaw. The puppets are manipulated from within a box-like stage by pulling three strings that are attached to their hands and the top of their heads at one end, and a triangular control at the other end.

A performance of Kalasutri Bahulya was held on 27 July 2007 at 6.30 p.m. at Meghdoot Theatre-II, New Delhi. The group, Lok Kala Bhavan, Pinguli, presented a story, 'Ahiravana and Mahiravana'. The group is a well-known group of Maharashtra and has earlier performed on the occasion of Swarn Jayanti 2003 at the invitation of the Akademi, and again in 2005 in Mumbai and 2006 in Lucknow.

The director of the group, Ganpat Sakharam Masge, is an eminent puppeteer belonging to a traditional family of puppeteers adhering to the Kalasutri Bahulya tradition in Pinguli in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra. His family has been practising this art for some 300 years, adhering to the original style. Ganpat Sakharam learnt this art from his guru and father Bhikaji Sakharam Masge. He has received the Sangeet Natak Akademi award for his contribution to the puppetry of Maharashtra. Shivdas K. Ganpat Masge was on tabla, Eknath P. Masge on Jhanjh, Sakharam V. Masge on Tuntune and Pandurang B. Sawant on Jhanjhari. Lights were taken care of by Dattaprasad C. Rasankute. He also manipulated the puppets along with Sagar B. Gangavane and Ganpat Masge.

Progressive use of Hindi

Hindi Workshop

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee the Akademi holds quarterly Hindi workshops, a two-day Hindi Workshop was organized on 25-26 June 2007 in Meghdoot Theatre II. The Workshop was conducted by Professor Ganga Prasad Vimal of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Translation, noting, drafting and correct sentence formation were the topics of discussion.

Sixteen employees of the Akademi participated in the workshop, which was meant to enable the staff to use

Hindi in their day-to-day official work.

Documentation

Nritya Pratibha, Dehradun, 21 - 24 July, 2007; 8 hours video; 300 photographs.

In Memoriam

S.V. Parthasarathy



Sangeet Natak Akademi and its associate bodies deeply mourn the sad demise of Shri S.V. Parthasarathy, an Akademi Award-winner.

Shri S.V. Parthasarathy was born in 1917 at Thiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu. He received his training in Carnatic vocal music under Shri T.S. Sabesa Iyer, Shri K. Ponniah Pillai, Tiger K. Varadachariar and Shri Krishna Iyerger during the 1930s and subsequently learnt to play the veena. Shri Parthasarathy started his professional career as a Lecturer in music at Annamalai University in 1954 but for the better part of his working life was producer of carnatic and light music at All India Radio, Trichy. He resumed teaching at Annamalai University as Professor of Music in 1985 and became the Dean of the Fine Arts Department in 1988.

Shri Parthasarathy had performed vocal music since the late 1930s and had distinguished himself as a composer of light music and a music broadcaster. For twenty years at AIR, he covered the Thyagaraja festival in Tiruvaiyaru and continued to perform over radio. Shri Parthasarathy wrote on music in *The Hindu* and produced recordings of songs sung by himself. He was bestowed with several honours for his work by Sabhas in Tamil Nadu.

Shri S.V. Parthasarathy received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for his contribution to Carnatic vocal music in 2005.

Shri Parthasarathy passed away in Chennai on 25th July 2007.

