



## **Bharata Natyam dancer Leela Samson ‘reflects on her journey’**

**After a hiatus of two years, the NCPA presents legendary dancer Leela Samson in a Bharata Natyam Recital titled ‘Reflections on my journey’: on August 27**

**Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**

**Mumbai, August, 2010:** “I am caught between worlds — present and past, mundane and metaphysical. I love dance. That is my eternal truth.” — Leela Samson

Dancer, writer, teacher, mentor, choreographer, Director of Kalakshetra, cultural advisor to the Prime Minister of India and the recently appointed Chairperson of the Sangeet Natak Akademi — a few of the roles essayed by Leela Samson. Hailed as one of the most technically brilliant and dynamic dancers of all time, simplicity and refined minimalism define her and her dance.

In the city for a rare solo recital which will represent her extensive choreographic work, **The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA)**, India’s premier arts and culture institution, proudly presents ‘**Reflections on my journey**’, a **Bharata Natyam Recital by Leela Samson on Friday, August 27, 2010, at the Experimental Theatre, NCPA.**

Reminiscing about her life as a dancer, Samson says, “My journey as a dancer began as a child in Kalakshetra, where I learnt of the grace and dignity of line and form. I grew conscious of a gradually evolving methodology. Yet, it was only later that I found one that became vital and meaningful to me as a dancer — through teaching, performance and choreography—three paths that engaged me over thirty years. As a dancer, I am caught between worlds—present and past, mundane and metaphysical. I personally believe that one must be without anyone to discover oneself. When you realise yourself, the solo journey begins, taking on a different depth at every stage.”

Speaking on the performance, **Ms Amrita Lahiri, Head Programming (Indian Dance), NCPA,** says, “The NCPA has a long tradition of hosting the great gurus of dance in Mumbai, and we are

privileged to have Leela Samson perform on August 27. Her programme, 'Reflections on my Journey' is reflective of a long career as a leading Bharata Natyam soloist. It is a privilege for NCPA to host the performance of such a reputed and prominent figure in Indian arts and culture today.”

Samson’s style of dance adheres to the Kalakshetra technique that makes room for innovation and experimentation. She has travelled extensively, performing at dance festivals in India and abroad. Her personal style is unostentatious, characterised by a certain serenity and ease. She has also choreographed many critically acclaimed Bharata Natyam performances. She has also trained many students who are now teachers in their own right.

Having spent her formative years at Kalakshetra, she learnt the nuances of Bharata Natyam under the tutelage of the founder late Rukmini Devi Arundale. The rudiments that she learnt from her guruji made her explore and expand the frontiers of her talent further.

Leela Samson is the recipient of the Sanskriti Award (1982), the Padmashri Award (1990), the Nritya Choodamani Award (1997) and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2000). She has been the subject of two documentary films, Sanchari by Arun Khopkar and The Flowering Tree by Ein Lall. In January 2010, Penguin Books published Leela Samson’s biography of her guru, titled Rukmini Devi: A Life.

#### **About the NCPA:**

Inaugurated in 1969, the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, exists to provide leadership on a national level as India’s premier performing arts, research and training centre through the presentation of Indian and international art forms, the promotion of excellence and the preservation of Indian & International cultural heritage.

**Tickets: Rs. 300/- & 200/-**

**Box Office: August 9 for Members and August 12 for the Public**

To use the online booking facility simply log on to the NCPA official website

<http://www.ncpamumbai.com> / buy-tickets or visit [www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com).

For further information please log on to [www.ncpamumbai.com](http://www.ncpamumbai.com)

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