



NCPA presents 'NCPA Mudra Dance Week' celebrating the spirit of *Stree-Woman*

**A five day extravaganza of diverse Indian Dance forms from 26th to 30th
April, 2010**

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Mumbai, April xyz, 2010: The National Centre for the Performing Arts, India's premier arts and culture institution, around the occasion of *International Dance Day* presents the ***NCPA Mudra Dance Week***, which will offer a captivating glance into the rich and diverse tradition of Indian dance forms. Commencing from the **26th April to the 30th April, 2010**, the *NCPA Mudra Dance Week* will showcase five different dance forms by five expert dancers on the theme of *Stree: Woman*

Commenting on the initiative, **Arundhati Subramaniam, Head – Programming (Indian Dance), NCPA**, said, "The *NCPA Mudra Dance Week* is a small but determined attempt to banish cultural cubby-holes of all kinds. It is a celebration of the variety and sophistication of dance styles in this country. It's an attempt to make a breathtaking gamut of forms abundantly and easily available to viewers, both past and potential. Five days. Five dance forms. Five dancers. And determinedly affordable rates."

The theme *Stree:Woman* has been chosen to salute the inner strength, power and wisdom a woman possesses, not to mention the subtle qualities she brings with her

like tolerance, sacrifice and humanity. The NCPA has engaged some of the most renowned exponents of their fields to perform and bring out the essence of the theme. Various performances lined up for the dance week include a Manipuri dance recital by Bimbavati Devi, Kudiyaattam dance recital by Kapila Nagavallikkunnel, Bharata Natyam dance recital by Lata Surendra, Mohini Attam Dance recital by Dr. Neena Prasad and a concluding Kathak dance recital by Purva Naresh.

NCPA Mudra Dance Week opens on 26th April with Manipuri dance *Matrika* and *Anubhavaamah* by Bimbavati Devi and her vibrant troupe based on compositions of Rabindranath Tagore, Shri Aurobindo and Bankim Chandra along with a piece that uses Manipuri classical dance, martial art and other performing art traditions to explore the darker side of the human psyche: the demons of lust, anger, greed, obsession, arrogance and jealousy. The work is inspired from the traditional kartal cholom, pung cholom and thang ta, besides Manipuri folk and classical dance.

This will be followed by the *Sita Parityagam* on 27th April to be presented by Kapila, which would be concluded with an NCPA CHAURAH discussion with the artist. Kapila Nagavallikkunnel is a brilliant young Kudiyaattam dancer who inflects her portrayal of Sita with a sensitivity and energy that's markedly contemporary. *Sita Parityagam* is inspired by a verse from Kalidasa's play, *Raghuvamsa*, which narrates the subtle details of Sita's life after her abandonment.

28th April brings *Amrutam*, a dance production based on the compositions of two great women mystics of India: Andal and Meera. A comparative analysis of their works reveals how both yearned for the proximity and presence (*sampoorna saanidhyam*) of the dark-hued Lord of their hearts. This would be performed by Mumbai based Lata Surendra.

On April 29th 2010, the audience can witness the focal point of the dance week – *Amrapali* by leading dancer and scholar Dr Neena Prasad, which is all about a woman and liberation against the backdrop of Buddhism. This Mohini Attam piece highlights the life of the exquisite courtesan, the patriot of Vaisali, the lady love of Ajatasatru of

Magadha, the disciple of the Buddha. The work explores the life and journey of perhaps the first female saint to attain the highest state of self-realisation.

This spectacular dance week would come to its conclusion on April 30th, 2010 with - *Devi*, a Kathak performance by Purva Naresh. This is a striking new experiment in which Purva Naresh explores to fuse kathak with contemporary urban theatre.

The NCPA invites you to come and share the experience and witness one of the most culturally insightful and artistic events of the year.

Mudra Dance Week Schedule:

Date	Programme	Time	Place	Ticket Details
April 26, 2010	Matrika (and other compositions) Manipuri Dance Recital by Bimbavati Devi and Troupe	6.30 pm	Experimental Theatre	Tickets: Rs.75/- (for Members) Rs.100/- (for Public) Box Office: April 9 for Members and April 12 for the Public
April 27, 2010	Sita Parityagam (The Abandoning of Sita) Nangiar Koothu Recital by Kapila Nagavallikkunnel	6.30 pm	Experimental Theatre	Tickets: Rs.75/- (for Members) Rs.100/- (for Public) Box Office: April 9 for Members and April 12 for the Public
April 28, 2010	Amrutam Bharata Natyam Recital by Lata Surendra and her students	6.30 pm	Godrej Dance Academy Theatre	Tickets: Rs.50/- Box Office: April 9 for Members and April 12 for the Public
April 29, 2010	Amrapali Mohini Attam Recital by Neena Prasad	6.30 pm	Experimental Theatre	Tickets: Rs.75/- (for Members) Rs.100/- (for Public) Box Office: April 9

				for Members and April 12 for the Public
April 30, 2010	Devi Kathak Dance Theatre Presentation by Purva Naresh and others	6.30 pm	Little Theatre	Admission passes can be collected from the Box Office from April 9, 2010

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.

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.

For further information please log on to www.ncpamumbai.com

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