



Nartanam

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Sanskriti Mahotsav - 3 Generations

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Kathak danseuse Shila Mehta and her institution Nupur Zankar presented "3 Generations" at the annual Sanskriti Mahotsav on 16 February, held this time at Ravindra Natya Mandir. The focus this year being Guru Sishya Parampara, the event featured three generations of dancers - Guru Pt Vijai Shankar, his disciple Shila Mehta and her own disciples. Her book "Practicals in Kathak Dance" was released by Darshana Jhaveri and Pt Vijay Shankar on the occasion.

A dancer full of verve and grace, trained by eminent gurus like Pt Prahlad Das, Pt Vijai Shankar, Pt Birju Maharaj, et al, Shila Mehta paid tribute to the Trimurtis in the invocatory bhajan 'Sur Shakti'. The all pervasive energy is present in movement, the sun, moon, stars, rivers, mountains, peacock, lightning, and the like. The concept was depicted at first to only footwork in utter silence except for the sound of the ghunghroos. An occasional soft beat on the tabla by Kalinath Misra enhanced the beautiful effect. Then the music started as she danced to the bhajan. Tasteful costume and minimal jewelry added to the charm of her dance.

This was followed by the performance of her students, right from the tiny tots showing basic footsteps to senior students exemplifying the fine training and practice that has gone into it. Traditional nritta items by the danseuse and a charming abhinaya piece - the Tulsidas bhajan "Dekh sakhi chalat Ram" depicting Ram vanvaas, was followed by a much awaited performance by Pt Vijai Shankar, who danced despite an injured foot. Beginning with the sloka "Shantakaram" he presented a few nritta items followed by a lovely abhinaya piece - a Bindadin thumri "Jhoolat Radhe Nanda Kishore". The recital concluded with all three generation of dancers including four of Shila's disciples danced together the Koyal Paran. A proud moment indeed for the youngsters!

AFTERNOON DESPATCH & COURIER
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009

ADC Reviews

Safojiraje Bhosale Centre and Nupur Zankar Academy presented a unique program of dance with the participation of leading dancers like Bharata Natyam exponent, Dr. Sandhya Purecha, Kathak exponent

Smt. Shila Mehta and Bangalore-based Bharata Natyam dancers Prasanna Kasthuri and Pulikeshi Kasthuri. The program was organized at the mini theatre of Ravindra Natya Mandir, last week.

The program commenced with the immaculate Kathak recital by accomplished exponent, Shila Mehta, who performed the 'dhamar' followed by the Tarana which was performed by the students with enthusiasm and precision. Shila concluded the performance with two interpretative numbers pertaining to

Lord Krishna. The first one dealt with the romantic Krishna who blocks Radha's way and in the second number "Jaja Madhava", Radha is angry with Krishna and tells him to go away as she sees the tell tale marks on his face and body.

