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PRAYATNA

FILM & DANCE FESTIVAL

The Festival

PRAYATNA Film & Dance Festival was initiated by Hrishikesh Center of Contemporary Dance in 2009 to celebrate the International Dance Day and introduce the audiences to World Dance. With four successful editions, this annual festival spread across three days is a showcase not only of dance performances but also of films, documentaries and biographies from all over the world. The festival is organized in collaboration with the Max Mueller Bhavan, Pune and Alliance Francoise, Pune. It is supported by the National Film Archives of India (NFAI) and has seen participation from legends like Padma Shri Astad Deboo, Padma Shri Rita Ganguly, Kathak legend Uma Dogra, Smt. Shama Bhate, Smt Yogini Gandhi and many other international artists.

Each year the final day of the festival falls on the International Dance Day. This day witnesses myriad flavours of integrated arts. From classical forms performed to structured formats and contemporary forms guided by the abstract, the stage is recognized as a platform to celebrate, experiment and express the universal language of movement.

Inspiration

The word "Prayatna" means "an effort". After spending 4 years in Germany and extensively travelling across Europe working with various dancers, Creative Director Hrishikesh Pawar came back to India with one motive in mind - to create a platform for contemporary dance. He observed here that the exposure to World dance and the number of opportunities were limited. Hence he came up with this effort of an annual festival that will connect the common audience to the forms across the globe. The effort was also to have a platform for dancers to come together, share and grow.

Audience

All four years of Prayatna Film and Dance Festival have received an overwhelming response from the audience. Each year the festival witnesses people across all age groups enjoying the three days. Students, theatre artists, writers, dancers and film makers come to the festival in huge numbers. About 450 enthusiasts attend the festival on each of its days.

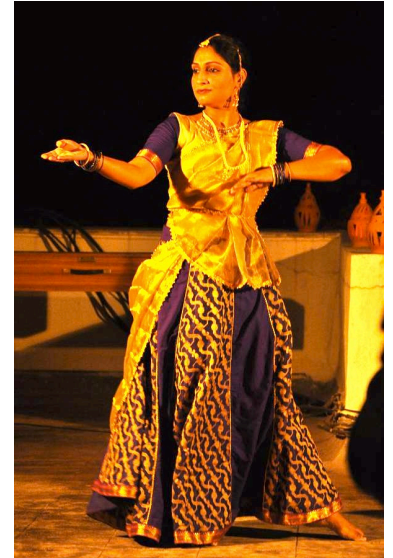
Prayatna Film and Dance Festival - 2009

Concept

Kathak Legend Rohini Bhate has not only been a guru for Hrishikesh but also a huge inspiration towards becoming a performing artist. The guru's command over literature, discipline and dedication towards the art form has always left Hrishikesh spellbound.

Another big inspiration has been the modern dancer Gret Pallucua of Germany. Gret Pallucua is one of the pioneers of the German Expressionist Dance. Her work revolves around the experiences of day-to-day life. One sees that through the film Pallucua that shows her extraordinary journey from being a shy girl to a performing artist who won hearts across the world. Hrishikesh is till date fascinated with Gret Pallucua's life.

This year's festival was aimed at reconstructing choreographic work of the above esteemed artists.



Highlights

Year 2009 marked the beginning of Prayatna Film and Dance Festival's journey. This beginning had to be dedicated to these two great artists. The highlights of the festival were performances by the disciples of Guru Rohini Bhate and the screening of Laheja; a film on her life.



"Serenata" the famous choreography by Gret Pallucua was recreated by Hrishikesh. This performance received a lot of appreciation from the audience.

Another highlight of the festival was that it presented classical, semi-classical, modern and contemporary dance forms under one roof.

The festival closed on the 29th April 2009 in the presence of Padma Shri Dr. Sucheta Bhide Chafekar and Director of Max Mueller Bhavan, Mr. Micheal Flucht.

Prayatna Film and Dance Festival - 2010

Concept

Year 2010 was the second year of the Prayatna Film and Dance Festival. Over the years Hrishikesh had studied the work of great dancers as well as film makers who spent a lot of time into making movies on the lives of these dancers. It was also observed how some of the most critically acclaimed film makers had incorporated dance beautifully in their movies.

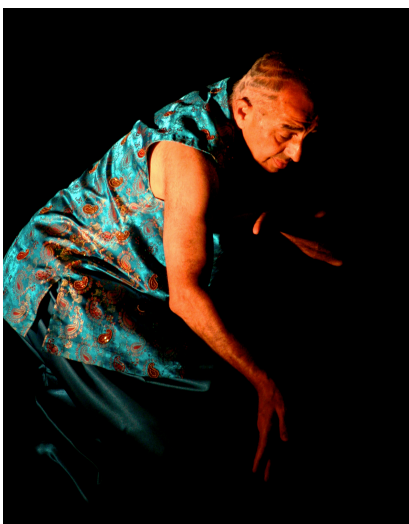


The one thing to be observed was how knowingly or unknowingly; the dance form over the years was shifting from classical to contemporary. It was important to take the audience through this process of gradual transformation in our films.

The second year of Prayatna Film and Dance Festival focused on showcasing films on great dancers, choreographers as well as films that had dance as an integral part of them.

Highlights

This year's festival opened at the National Film Archives of India (NFAI) to commemorate some visual masterpieces that enthralled the audience with the following documentaries.



Bala	Satyajit Ray
Auf Der Suche Nach Tanz	Patricia Courbound
Nishabd Bhed - Exploring Silence	Shama Bhate
Bahok	Gilles D Elmas
A Hymn for Alvin Ailey	Orlando Bagwell
Why dance for Parkinson's Disease?	David Bee
Feet On Stage	Eric Legay
Rhythm is it?	Thomas Grube & Enrique Sanchez Lanz

The year's festival concluded with a mesmerizing performance by legendary dancer Padma Shri Astad Deboo. This day also saw performances by Kalachaya Cultural Centre and Hrishikesh's Centre of Contemporary Dance.

Prayatna Film and Dance Festival - 2011

Concept

Dance as an art form needs a very strong academic foundation. In 2011, the festival was to come in its third year. Exploring the dance here, it was observed that a lot of new choreographies lacked basic understanding of the subject. There was a need to explore connections between academic education and professional artistic practice.



Also, dancers face a lot of challenges when it comes to choreographing their own pieces. Therefore it was thought how this year's festival dancers could explore choreography as an independent subject. There was a need to discuss an approach to the study and combine practice-led artistic and theoretical teaching in performing arts.

Highlights

The festival was graced by Padma Shri. Dr. Rita Ganguly who shared her journey as an actor, dancer and singer. A talk on Ganguly's life gave the audience an insight on life and art. The festival also showcased many beautiful movies like *Cafe Mueller* - Pina Bausch, *Breath Made Visible* - Ruedi Gerber, *Kalpana* - Uday Shankar and many more.



The year witnessed the B.I.T.S - Body in time and space - a choreographic exercise which had dancers in a process of creating their own "solo" work to study choreography as an independent subject in relation to contemporary art practice, production, creativity and critically engaging them with what does dance or theatre interpret in today's diverse social and cultural environment.

The year's festival ended with performances by the students of FLAMES University, Kalachaya, Naad Rop and Hrishikesh's Centre of Contemporary Dance.

Prayatna Film and Dance Festival - 2012

Concept

The study of History of Dance is as important as any other aspect in learning dance. Watching legends like Durga Lalji teaches what makes a dancer a true performing artist. The style and charisma these legends performed with can't be taught in any other way. The fourth year of the Prayatna Film and Dance Festival focused on learning the History of Dance. With this, it is necessary to have an understanding of the importance of documentation and its preservation in the form of videos, photographs, etc. Only then would the generations be able to see and be inspired by the legends in the field.



Highlights



The festival opened with "Nirvana through Dance" a film on Durga Lalji. It was an experience to see the legend on screen and to witness his body of work. The festival also had well known documentary film maker Mr. Konrad Hirsch speaking on the importance of documentation. The seminar also had eminent kathak dancer Uma Dogra on the panel discussing her experience in created the film on Durga Lalji.

One of the key highlights of the festival was a three-day exhibition called "India Dance Panorama".

This exhibition was a collection of 10 years of journalism on dance. Colourful pictures, interesting articles and reviews made this exhibition an exciting place. The exhibition pointed out the evolution of dance over the last decade

The celebrations also saw dance performances that fascinated the audience with Odissi, Kathak, Dance-theatre, Contemporary and Experimental dance

Prayatna Film and Dance Festival - Press Coverage

With the help of our esteemed partners and sincere efforts of each one in the making of these 3 days every year, the entire journey of Prayatna Film and Dance festival has received a big-hearted response from the press.

Following are a few articles published in various newspapers.



The meaning of dance...

This contemporary dance theatre tries to ease people's rigid perceptions about dance and its forms

NEHA MADHAN

THIS PERFORMANCE would be eye candy for dance connoisseurs. On the occasion of the International Dance Day on April 29, Hrishikesh Pawar's Centre of Contemporary Dance has put together an enthralling piece of dance theatre, called 'Dance Is...'. The piece would be performed on the last day of 'Prayatna' — a Film and Dance Festival, which is a three-day extravaganza organised by the Centre of Contemporary Dance in collaboration with Max Mueller Bhavan and National Film Archive of India (NFAI) with contribution from the Alliance Francaise.

"My dance troupe would be performing a contemporary dance theatre piece titled 'Dance Is...', which looks at individual expression through movement. It explores how people have always been influenced by societies and struggle to discover new methods of expression," explains Pawar. The piece has a voice over by eminent theatre/film personality Jyoti Subhash and music composition by Saurabh Bhadani.

Pawar feels that all of us live in boxes, where

everybody has a view of what dance is. "Everybody thinks or says that 'this is dance and this is not'. The piece goes beyond this and shows the flexibility of this medium of expression. It thus portrays the elasticity of the two words, 'Dance Is...'. One can put any word after these words. Whether it is happy or sorrowful that you choose to put, it would only reflect all the emotions that are there in life," says Pawar, referring to his piece which is essentially dance theatre, with a lot of vocals, voice-overs and theatrical dialogues narrated by Jyoti Subhash.

"I had seen Jyoti's plays, films and she knew that she would do justice to this particular piece," says Pawar, adding that 14 students from the Centre of Contemporary Dance would be performing this piece.

(Watch 'Dance Is...' on April 30 at Max Mueller Bhavan, 6:30 pm onwards. Entry is free.)

It explores how people have always been influenced by societies and struggle to discover their own identities and distinct methods of expression

— Hrishikesh Pawar



Pawar's troupe members live in action

DNA PUNE

APRIL 29 IS INTERNATIONAL DANCE DAY

Enjoy Indian, global dances from today

THREE-DAY FESTIVAL WITH FILMS, PERFORMANCES IN CITY

DNA Correspondent

A three-day series of dance events, including performances of Indian dance styles and film screenings, will mark the International Day of Dance in the city.

The programme will be held from Wednesday by Max Mueller Bhavan in association with National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Al-

The main attraction of the festival will be performance by internationally acclaimed dancer Astad Deboo. He will also conduct a workshop

liance Francaise of Pune, Maharashtra Cultural Centre and Centre of Contemporary Dance.

Films related to the theme of dance will be screened at the NFAI on Wednesday and Thursday at 6 pm.

The first film to be screened will be *Bala* directed by Savitri Ray. The 30-minute film is based on Bharatanatyam dancer Balamani.

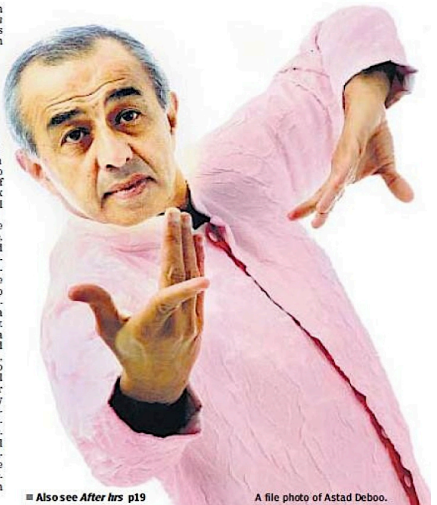
The other films include *In The Search Of Dance, Babok,*

Hymn To Aitna Ailey on Wednesday and *Dance With P.P.* (a film by Mark Morris Group) and *Rhythm Is It On Thursday*.

Open air dance performance will be presented on Friday at Max Mueller Bhavan at 7 pm on Friday.

"The International Day of Dance falls on Thursday. The German dance in the month of May as part of their tradition. To mark this occasion, we are organising a special event dedicated to dance," said director of Goethe Institute, Max Mueller Bhavan, Michael Flucht.

The main attraction of the festival will be performance, 'Dance Expressions' by Astad Deboo, internationally acclaimed and renowned choreographer and dancer. He will also conduct a workshop for upcoming dancers at Sudarshan Hall at Maharashtra Cultural Centre on Thursday. Hrishikesh Pawar, a dancer who has attained training at Palacca School, Dresden, Germany is also participating. His group will perform on Friday. Pawar said the dancers trained by him will perform on the occasion. He said a cultural exchange programme in coordination with Palacca School is also on the cards in the future. The entry for the screenings and open air performances is free and on first-come basis.



Also see After hrs p19

A file photo of Astad Deboo.

DANCE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

April 28 and 29

Film screenings at NFAI 6 pm onwards

April 29

Dance workshop by Astad Deboo at Sudarshan Hall, Maharashtra Cultural Centre from 2 pm onwards

April 30

Dance performances by Astad Deboo and Hrishikesh Pawar's dance group at Max Mueller Bhavan at 7 pm

DANCE GROUP BEING FORMED

A dance group is being formed by Max Mueller Bhavan in 2011/12 to mark the 60th anniversary of Indo-German relations. Students who are learning German are invited to apply mid-June onwards at Max Mueller Bhavan. For details visit www.goethe.de/pune

‘प्रयत्न’ नृत्य-चित्रपट महोत्सवाचे उद्घाटन

अद्भुत आस्ताद देबू....

पुणे | दि. २७ (प्रतिनिधी)

स्टेजवर फक्त एक पांढरा पडदा, त्याच्यावर सोडलेला दिव्याचा एक झोत. त्याच्या समोरच्या चित्रोळ्या मोकळ्या जागीत मुद्राभिन्न आणि देवबोनी यांच्या साहाय्या रंगलेला एकाच खेळ. 'अद्भुत' या एकाच शब्दाचे वर्णन करता येईल, असा एक जबरदस्त पर्यवेक्षण आज आस्ताद देबू यांच्या नृत्यात पुणेकरांना अनुभववायला मिळाला. मिमित होते मॅक्समुलर भवन आयोजित 'प्रयत्न' या नृत्य आणि चित्रपट महोत्सवाच्या उद्घाटनावर.

या महोत्सवाच्या औपचारिक उद्घाटनानंतर पद्मश्री आस्ताद देबू यांचा नजरबंदी करणारा नृत्याचा कार्यक्रम सादर झाला. आधुनिक नृत्यात वारसून आलेल्या मोठी उंची गाढलेल्या या कलाकाराची कलेवरची निष्ठा, मेहनत आणि हुकूम नाव

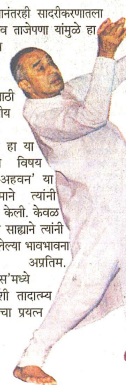
मिळवल्यानंतरही सादरीकरणातला आनंद व साजेसा वांछुळे हा कार्यक्रम

प्रेक्षकांसमोरी सूरवात केली. केवळ पंजाबी साहाने त्यांनी पेश केलेल्या भावभावना केवळ आश्चर्य.

'एडलेस' भवे निरमाणी तादाव्य पावत्याचा प्रयत्न होता.

या वेळच्या मुद्राभिन्न खरोखरच लाजवाब होता. 'असेंति' या तिसऱ्या भागात हिरव्या, जोषण्या, निळ्या, केशरी पडद्यांच्या पारंपरीय रंगांनी सादर केलेले नृत्य अक्षरः नेत्रदीपक आणि या सागळ्या कार्यक्रमावरच कळस चढवणारे होते. कथक-कथकली शैलीच्या मिश्रणात स्वतःची दृष्टी, विचार, मेहनत आणि नावीन्य यात समावेश करून प्रस्तुत केलेले हे नृत्य गणजे बहुरंग प्रतियेचा उत्तम नमुना होता. आनल्या मनात आणि आठवणीत बरोबर घेऊन जावा, असाच हा अनुभव होता.

त्याआधी 'प्रयत्न' २०१२' या मॅक्समुलर भवनार्फे आयोजित नृत्य आणि चित्रपट महोत्सवाचे उद्घाटन करण्यात आले. या वेळी



'मॅक्समुलर भवन आयोजित' 'प्रयत्न' चे उद्घाटन करताना मायकल फ्लुच, उमा डोग्रा आणि प्रशांत पाठरावे.

जेव्हा कथक नृत्यांना उमा डोग्रा, मॅक्समुलर भवनचे संचालक मायकल फ्लुच, अलायन्स फॉर दी पुणेचे संचालक लुक रिचर्ड, जर्मन चित्रपटनिर्माते कोनराड हिर्स आणि राष्ट्रीय चित्रपट संग्रहालयाचे संचालक प्रशांत पाठरावे उपस्थित होते. नृत्य आणि नृत्यावर आधारित चित्रपटांची माहिती, कात्रणे आणि छायाचित्रे यांच्या प्रदर्शनाचेही या वेळी उद्घाटन करण्यात आले. या वेळी आस्ताद देबू यांचा 'प्रेक्षण वाडडोज' आणि जेव्हा कलाकार पं. दुर्गालाल आणि त्यांच्या शिष्या उमा डोग्रा यांच्यावरील 'निर्वाण धू डान्स' हे माहितीपट दाखवण्यात आले.