

SRUTI – The India Music and Dance Society

in collaboration with

Montgomery County Community College presents:

The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

www.Nrityagram.org

Date: Saturday, March 27 2010 at 8 P.M.

Venue: Montgomery County Community College Science Center Theater, 340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA

Online Booking: Reserved Seating Tickets \$20, \$25, \$35 at <http://sruti.tix.com>

Students and Senior citizens with valid ID receive \$5 off on their ticket

Sruti Core Members receive \$10 off on their ticket

Discounts may be redeemed at box office for tickets bought online

Information: www.sruti.org, rajivenkate@yahoo.com

or contact: Venkat Kilambi at 610-631-2291, Raji Venkatesan at 610-630-1878



"One of the most luminous dance events of the year! They performed with a burnished grace, a selfless concentration, and a depth that reflected their intensive training"(The New York Times)

Photo Courtesy Nan Melville

PRATIMA: REFLECTION

The internationally acclaimed Nrityagram Dance Ensemble from Southern India will present Pratima: Reflection. This is an evening-length work choreographed in the classical lyrical dance style of Odissi by Surupa Sen, the Artistic Director of Nrityagram Dance Village. Odissi is characterized by fluidity of the upper torso and grace in gestures and wristwork juxtaposed with firm footwork. In addition to the "plie" position that is commonly observed in a number of the dance forms of India, Odissi incorporates the "tribhangi" wherein three deflections of the body are used- at the neck, the upper torso and the hip. This characteristic formation of the body lends a particular grace to the performance of the dance form. In addition, Odissi has the distinction of preserving the elevations and jumps (utplavanas) described in the Natya Sastra, the ancient Indian treatise on Dramaturgy.

ENSEMBLE MEMBER PROFILES

SURUPA SEN (Artistic Director, choreographer, soloist) was the first student at Nrityagram, where she began her Odissi training with the late body language genius and architect of Odissi, Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra. She also studied with Protima Gauri, founder of Nrityagram, and *Abhinaya* with Smt. Kalanidhi Narayanan.



As a child she studied Bharatanatyam, to which she attributes her pre-occupation with form and line. Attracted to choreography from her first exposure to western makers of dance, she participated in the International Choreographer's Residency at the American Dance Festival in 2000, thanks to a grant from the Asian Cultural Council.

Surupa has performed in solo recital and ensemble all over India, North America, Europe, the Middle East and the Far-East.

Pratima: Reflection is an evening-length work that explores the relationship between the dancer and her dance as she seeks to find an image of herself through the essential truths – of Creation,

Contemplation, Separation and the Duality of the human spirit.



BIJAYINI SATPATHY (Director of Odissi gurukul, soloist) joined the Orissa Dance Academy in Bhubaneswar at the age of 7, where she trained for 13 years under the tutelage of Guru Kanduri Charan Behera, Guru Pagal Swain, Bichitrananda Swain & Aruna Mohanty.

An insatiable thirst for knowledge led her to Nrityagram in 1993 where she flourished under the guidance of Protima Gauri, and through her collaboration with Surupa Sen.

Bijayini has performed alone, and with the ensemble, all over the world and has received national and international recognition including the 2003 *Mahari Award* given to the best Odissi dancer of the year and the *Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2007* given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi to the best in performing arts in India.

PAVITHRA REDDY (dancer) came as part of the outreach programme in 1990, from a village near Nrityagram. She has learned Odissi under the tutelage of Surupa Sen and Bijayini Satpathy and been a part of the ensemble since 1993. She had her solo debut in 2003 & now teaches dance in our village and city outreach programme.

RASMI RAJ (dancer) studied at Orissa Dance Academy in Bhubaneswar for 5 years before she came to Nrityagram for advanced training. Here, she has learned with Surupa Sen and Bijayini Satpathy. Rasmi has been with Nrityagram for six years and is the youngest dancer in the ensemble.

MANASI TRIPATHY (dancer) is from Srujan dance academy in Bhubaneswar, where she trained for 11 years before coming to Nrityagram. Now she trains under Surupa Sen and Bijayini Satpathy. She is the newest dancer in the ensemble.

LYNNE FERNANDEZ (lighting director, Executive Director Nrityagram) has been with Nrityagram since 1993. Among the first practicing light professionals in India, she has worked as actress and light designer with leading directors like Barry John, Joy Michael, Ranjit Kapoor, and Lillete Dubey. Her work in theater has also been featured internationally – at the Edinburgh Fringe festival, the Westend (London) and off-Broadway, New York.

Photos Courtesy: Sonia Manchanda