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Gauri Jog presents East Meets West

CHICAGO - On October 25, Gauri Jog, our renowned dancer, teacher and choreographer presented her newest creation East Meets West at Prairie Center for the Arts at Schaumburg. This dance drama depicted the story of an Indian lady Noopur whose passion is in rhythm and dance. Her career brings her to US. She loves her new job, but misses India immensely. Dancing helps her to adjust in her new home in the United States. She is introduced to Western culture and dance and learns to enjoy the fusion of western style dance with her own kathak dance style. She then realizes that dance is universal and just like love and laughter has no boundaries.

The program featured more than 60 dancers and was presented using six major dance forms around the world including



Deep Nritya - performed with lamps in hand, on head and feet on thali.

won "Modeling and More" championship. In the past we have seen her finest performances, Jhansi Ki Rani (2005) and Fire - Fiery Tale (2007). Based what we have seen she truly represents what happens when creativity, handwork and education comes together. As one member of the audience described

repeatedly received loud applause for their performance. Another group of children also performed Kathak dance based on 1950 song "Murli manohar". Dressed in green and colorful costumes, bejeweled with silver ornaments, the dancers with their flawless dance and teach with Master

from the program to remember was Kathak Yoga. This dance depicted importance of yoga in Kathak dance and displayed fascinating blend of rhythm and movement. Just as I was admiring its kaleidoscopic changes of pattern, I singled out two dancers moving with especial sweetness and sensuousness in different parts of the stage, only then to recognize them: Alisha Benawra and Isha Jog, among the company's most remarkable principal dancers. Alisha and Isha started the dance with an invitation, the hands extending elegantly out, like a maiden offering a platter. Then their hands turn in and rise up to the sun, spinning around each other like butterflies as they twist and turn in a whirlwind.

While its traditions are steeped in indigenous culture of teaching Kathak dance, the influence of

