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### Review

#### Gauri Jog presents East Meets West

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November 12, 2008

On October 25, Gauri Jog, 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 to her new home in the United States. She is introduced to Western culture and dance and learns to enjoy the fusion of western styles of 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 Kathak, Mexican, Flamenco, Belly dance, Lavni and Folk dance.

There are people who simply have a lot of energy, and the India-born choreographer Gauri Jog is clearly one of them. Since setting up her dance school in Chicago area in 2000, she and her students are performing all over USA with their high energy content driven materials. Recently Gauri Jog also performed at Cities of America pageant in Florida and won 'Modeling and More' championship. In the past we have seen her finest performances, Jhansi Ki Rani (2005) and Fire - Fiery Tale (2007). Based on what we have seen, she truly represents what happens when creativity, handwork and education comes together. As one member of the audience described, "her show is guaranteed not only to lift your spirits, but to stir up the rhythmic pulses deep within your soul."

Kathak, a North Indian classical dance form, emphasizes powerful, stamping footwork matched to the complex rhythmic cycles of classical Indian music. But it also demands the nuanced skills of abhinaya, the multitude of facial expressions and finely honed gestures that allow the practitioner to incarnate multiple personalities or creatures in time-honored tales from the great Indian epics like the Mahabharata. Gauri perfected her Kathak dance and teaching techniques at Nagpur, India, where she trained intensively to dance and teach with guru Madan Pande. Her fluid and well-rounded approach to this art form gives her the ability to express herself with creative, original, versatile, and graceful movements.



