

Captivating 'Fire' by Gauri and her troupe

MADHU PATEL
India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Gauri Jog, renowned dancer and choreographer from Chicago area, staged the fourth in-house dance drama production last week at Prairie Center for the Arts at Schaumburg. More than 450 people witnessing "Fire - the Fiery Tale" show were greatly impressed by artistic performances from dancers.

After the successful production of Queen of Jhansi in 2005, this time Gauri Jog selected a completely in-

novative topic to show the evolution and importance of fire: Agni an intense element of nature.

The first part of the program was dedicated to the basic steps and form of the classical dance style of Kathak. Gauri Jog's students showed series of combinations of typical foot movements and hand gestures. The girls then went on to perform a Thumri. The dance described the onset of spring and all the joy and colors it brings.

Gauri Jog then went on to perform Tarana. Tarana is a vocal style in Indian music that is usually

sung in a fast tempo using syllables such as na, ta, re, da, odani, etc, sounds which have their roots in the Pakhawaj drum and Kathak Dance repertoire. The emphasis here is on producing rhythmic patterns using the syllables. The resulting music is very appealing and most suitable for Kathak. It is a perfect complement for the intricate footwork of Kathak. Gauri received a big applause for her fast spins performed on bare knees.

The girls then performed Bollywood medley - the fun infused Bollywood dancing set to



Girls performing dance of the birds

film music! The cutest lot of 4 to 6 years old girls performed the "dance of the birds".

The second half of the program was dedicated entirely to an element of nature - fire.

The song, Dol Dol Saagar ki Leheren, described the joyous rolling of the ocean waves, beauty and tenderness of a charming spring day and the majestic mountain scenery. The item entitled "Elements of Nature" was performed based on a shloka (or verse) from the Atharva Veda describing our beautiful earth and the five elements.

The various dance items including "Discovery of Fire" and "Flame Dance" described the discovery, evolution and importance of fire in our life. Gauri Jog's senior students Alisha Benawra, Radhika Akolkar and Isha Jog and others were very successful in depicting how fire has fascinated people for thousands of years and how fire plays a big role in our lives. The

sions and body movements. They also performed "dance of Enlightenment" based on the verses of the Rig Veda in which the purifying aspect of fire was portrayed.

The dance drama ended with a



Tarana from Gauri Jog and co artist

fusion between Gauri Jog and Shalakra Kulkarni on the song of Krishna Ni Begane Baaro depicting the universal values, religious tolerance and consideration for each

VOICE OF INDIANS WORLDWIDE

India Post

www.indiapost.com

NEW YORK • WASHINGTON D.C. • CHICAGO • ATLANTA • CALIFORNIA VOL 12, No. 656 March 23, 2007 50¢ Periodical Postage

thousands of years and how fire plays a big role in our lives. The dance of the "Eternal Flame" was presented as fusion between Kathak performed by Gauri Jog and Bharatnatyam performed by Shalakha Kulkarni. The audience was mesmerized by their expres-

the universal values, religious tolerance and consideration for each other. This last dance left a positive note in the minds of people about our need to unify all human kind.

Gauri Jog has been teaching Indian Classical dancing in Chicago area for the last seven years.