

INDIAN DANCE SCHOOL STAGES KRISHNA LEELA

BY A STAFF WRITER

The Indian Dance School started by Gauri Jog staged a dance drama, Krishna Leela, at Prairie Center for the Arts in Schaumburg, Illinois On Friday, March 21.

The concept of the sold-out program was to depict various stories from Lord Krishna's remarkable life such as Makhan Chori, Kaliya Mardan, Draupadi Vastraharan and Gita Upadesh.

Then there were a series of dances to depict the stories from the life of Lord Krishna. In the first dance, the dancers described good qualities of lord Krishna and how handsome he looks.

The nimble-footed artists also depicted naughty pranks of Lord Krishna as a child and a teaser of Gopis in Vrindavan.

The dances also depicted other stories from Krishna's life such as Hori, Makhanchori, Kaliya Mardan, Draupadi Vastraharan.

There are more than 20 pairs of mother and daughter learning dance together at Indian Dance School and they presented very energetic, graceful Garba, Kathak Dandia and Mother Daughter dance.



Promoting the Indian culture through dance

The centerpiece of the program was Gita Upadesh performed by Gauri Jog and her students depicting the Lord Krishna's advice to Arjuna at the battlefield. The song of the Gita is exemplified in Yada Yada hi Dharmasya. Gnanir Bhavati Bharat.

Responding to Arjuna's confusion and moral dilemma, this Kathak dance very well depicted how Lord Krishna explains to Arjuna

his duties as a warrior and prince.

"Dance is an integral part of our culture and it is a great way for Indian youth in America to stay connected with their roots," said Gauri Jog at the event.

The program not only entertained and educated many who attended the Indian Dance School event for the first time but also showed the creative potential of Gauri Jog

who has been practicing Kathak for the past 35 years.

In order to raise awareness of Indian culture in the US and promote education through the arts, Gauri Jog formed Indian Dance School 15 years ago and has now developed it as a reputable non-profit dance institute in Chicago area offering classes in Indian Classical dance, Bollywood and Yoga.

The group has staged more than 230 shows since 1999 including much-admired dance dramas such as Kathak Yatra, Shakuntala, Queen of Jhansi, Fire the Fiery tale, East meets West, Ramayana among others.

"From dancing at countless multicultural shows to performing in Daley Plaza downtown for the mayor of Chicago, to presenting a piece at the 2016 Chicago Olympic Bid, the group was challenged and introduced to a wide variety of exciting venues to perform every year", a senior student of Gauri Jog said.

Gauri Jog also teaches Kathak online to large number of students even from India and several other countries. Her website <http://www.gaurijog.com> has invaluable information about this dance style and includes all the research she has done for the last 30 years.