



Ministry of  
Arts & Multiculturalism

presents

# *NAPA Fest*

A season of productions at the  
National Academy for the Performing Arts

# *Nache East Indian Dance Festival*









# ***Nache*** ***East Indian Dance*** ***Festival***

## **THE CAST - (in order of appearance)**

Prem Jyoti Dance Academy  
Nrityanjali Theatre  
Susan Mohip Dance Company  
Rachel Lee featuring Unique Styles  
Sri Devi Dance Group  
Indira Mahatoor Dance Company  
Malick Indian Dancers  
Amritam Shakti Dance Group  
Nirvana Dance Group  
Natraj Dance Group

Categories of Dance -

1. Classical
2. Folk
3. Bollywood/Contemporary Indian



# PROGRAMME

## ACT 1

1. National Anthem
2. Opening Remarks

Master of Ceremonies  
Aria Ramdeo

## CLASSICAL

3. Poorvanangam (Kuchipudi)
4. Ganga Tarang (Odissi)
5. Pushpunjali (Bharat Natyam)
6. Basanta Pallavi (Orissi)
7. Tarana (Kathak)
8. Tarangam

Prem Jyoti Dance Academy

Nrityanjali Theatre

Prem Jyoti Dance Academy

Nrityanjali Theatre

Susan Mohip Dance Company

Karen Dass  
Prem Jyoti Dance Academy

## NARRATION IN DANCE 1

Rachel Lee

## FOLK

9. Romal
10. Stick Dance
11. Folk
12. Contemporary Classical

Susan Mohip Dance Company

Sri Devi Dance Group

Susan Mohip Dance Company

Indira Mahatoor Dance Company

## NARRATION IN DANCE 2

Rachel Lee

# INTERVAL

## ACT 2

### ABOUT THE BOLLYWOOD/CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ORCHESTRA

- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Om Shanti Om (Film Dance) | Malick Indian Dancers              |
| 2. Sar Se Sanke Gayee        | Amritam Shakti Dance Group         |
| 3. Jai Ho                    | Nirvana Dance Group                |
| 4. Billu Bayunkar            | Natraj Dance Group (Sunday)        |
| 5. Inner Peach (The Call)    | Rachel Lee featuring Unique Styles |
| 6. Mehindi (Wedding Dance)   | Malick Indian Dancer               |
| 7. Mother Trinbago           | Amritam Shakti Dance Group         |
| 8. Chutney Dance             | Natraj Dance Group (Sunday)        |
| 9. Khan Pera Dhotiya         | Nirvana Dance Group                |





## ***The Prem Jyoti Dance Academy***

Mr. Rajesh Seenath founded this Academy in 1981. A self sponsored school, Prem Jyoti has worked to promote the development of classical dance here in Trinidad and Tobago and abroad. It is the only institution in the Caribbean that teaches the South Indian classical dance form of "Kuchipudi". As a classical form of dance, drama and music, Kuchipudi enjoys a unique place among the Indian classical dance idioms. While it shares elements with Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi is racy and sprightly, bright and lively. The dancers display pulsating and dramatic leaps and turns with bold and sensuous eye movements.

Rajesh has touched the lives of many through his Academy and his efforts in the area of culture on the whole. He is a well respected authority in the field of dance and has been invited to judge the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition, the Sanskritic Sangam High School Dance Competition as well as the La reine Rive Queen Competition- among many others. He is a renowned choreographer having orchestrated performances at Carifesta, the Ms.Universe Pageant, several presentations by Carnival bands and Mastana Bahar. He continues to aid in the development of dance in Trinidad and Tobago through his immense knowledge, talent and contributions to the youth of our nation.



## ***Nrityanjali Theatre***

The Nrityanjali Theatre of Indian Classical Dance, was founded in 1977 by the Balkaransinghs ( Sat and Mandira) and has produced numerous ballets and stage productions. Mandira Balkaransingh is now the Artistic Director of the Nrityanjali Theatre, Institute for the Arts and Culture. It has travelled extensively throughout the Caribbean, USA and the UK. The theatre is noted for staging productions at the highest professional level and has always won accolades for its work. To date, over forty full length stage performances have been produced by the institute. Nrityanjali was recognized by an Act of Parliament in 1994 as a nonprofit organisation. They have also been recognised for their efforts by being awarded the Hummingbird Medal (Gold) for its contribution to the culture of Trinidad and Tobago.





## ***Susan Mohip Dance Company***

The career of this well-established dancer began at the tender age of three when she began to dance. At six, her unusual dancing techniques won her a place in the finals of an adult talent competition. She then went on to become the youngest person to establish a school for dance in Trinidad and Tobago. She is the cofounder of 'The Sangeet Mahavidayala Dance Company'. A woman of many talents, Susan went on to launch a successful career as a vocalist in 2002.

'Baby Susan' as she is fondly called, has become a name synonymous with dance both in Trinidad and Tobago as well as in the wider Caribbean. She has trained extensively in India, Canada, New York, Suriname and Guyana and has participated in many compositions choreographed both by her guru and Pundit Birju Maharaj. Susan is the current director of her dance company, re-establishing herself as one of our nation's leading dance pioneers and contributing immeasurably to dance in Trinidad and Tobago.

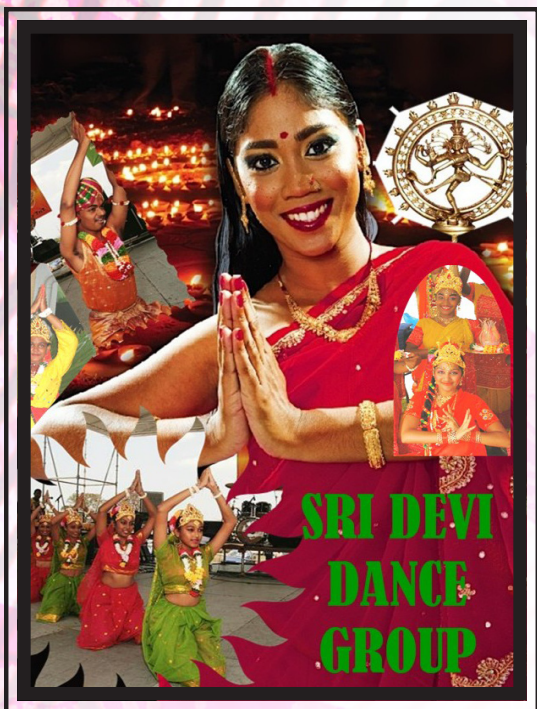


## ***Rachel Lee featuring Unique Styles***

Rachel Lee has been dancing for the past twenty nine years. She has studied under well renowned tutors such as Mr. Rajesh Seenath (Kuchipudi) and Mr. Predeep Shankar (Kathak). In 1995 - 1996 She attended the Alvin Ailey American Dance centre in New York where she studied, Tap, jazz, ballet, Modern and Pilates. With this wealth of knowledge, Rachel has now been choreographing for the past fourteen years. She is in the process of combining what she considers to be our local genres with what she has been taught internationally in developing her own technique, something unique, something that says, Trinidad.

Unique Styles has been in existence for four years and is led by Anika Olivell. Creatively dynamic, Unique Styles dances in the hip-hop style having been featured in the 2010 Digicell Ad Campaign and Dance Against Crime 2010.





## Sri Devi Dance Group

The group has been in existence for over 20 years and have performed locally for functions at the PM House, the Miss universe pageant and for the 5th Summit just to name a few. Regionally and internationally, they have been featured in Guyana, Suriname, Barbados, St. Kitts, Washington State, New York, Miami, Canada and India. The group not only performs in the Indian dance style but is also versed in African, Ballroom, Disco, Soca, and Hip Hop dance. The Sri Devi Dance Group is also very community oriented.

Some of the annual events hosted for the benefit of the community are: Dance Camps, Divali Functions and a Children Christmas Concert. The leader and teacher of this group is Mrs. Reshma Ria Soodeen Bachan, who is also an adjudicator for programs like the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition, Sanskritik Sangam, SANFEST, Secondary School's Dance Competition and the B Mobile Dance Off. She is the holder of Certificates in Indian Folk dance, Kuchipudi, Bharata Natyam, Ballroom and Latin dance, Kung Fu, Chinese Cooking and Catering. Ria was awarded within the space of a year, three dance scholarships in three different parts of the world: one in Canada for Modern Dance, one in India to pursue the study of Indian Classical Dance 'BHARATANATYAM' and one here in Trinidad at U.W.I. for studying Dance and Dance Education. Ria has also done choreography for CARIFESTA, Dimanche Gras, and Real Colours offering her immense talents for the enjoyment of many.



## Indira Mahatoo Dance Company

Indira Mahatoo began her career in dance as a student of Rajkumar Krishna Persad in the 1970's, a time when female performers were not prevalent in this arena of entertainment. Dance came naturally to Indira as she quickly grasped the various styles much to the delight of her tutors. Based on her rapid progress, it was suggested that she begin teaching and in 1974 established the Indira Mahatoo Dance Group. Over her many years as head of this prestigious organisation, her expertise has been sought continuously in the field of culture.

She has judged the Prime Minister's Best Village Competition, the Chutney Soca Monarch and Mastana Bahar. Indira Mahatoo has also been recognised for her diligence in the field of dance. Her accolades include the Humming Bird Medal Silver in 1998 and recognition as an Icon in 2002 by the government of Trinidad and Tobago at the 40th Anniversary of Independence Celebrations.





## Malick Indian Dancers

This group was founded by Keeshan and Sema Seenath in 1990. Garnering great success in the world of arts and culture, the Malick Indian Dancers have qualified for the finals of Mastana Bahar on many occasions, placing 2nd both in 2008 and 2009. They have also won the Best Village Spiritual Competition for dance. These Dancers have represented our nation in Switzerland at the Swiss Music Festival and in Germany for the 2006 World Cup. They were also invited to perform at the Ms.Universe Pageant.

Keeshan, who started dancing when he would take his sister to dance classes, has been dancing for the last 26years. His legacy not only extends to his four daughters who have all been trained in dance, but also to his three granddaughters, the youngest being sixteen months old. Both he and his daughter Varsha, who has been dancing since she was three, choreograph pieces for their group and others specializing in 'fusion'. Fusion melds aspects of many cultures within the same dance creating truly unique and exciting work.



## Amritam Shakti Dance Company

This group was founded by Mr.Vishal Pooran on the 8th of April 2008. Members of the group range are between the ages of six and thirty-three years old. Their achievements include being the only East Indian dance troupe to perform at the Fifth Summit of The Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009, placing first in the 2008 Mastana Bahar competition, and being the first East Indian group to perform in the 2009 Tobago Heritage Festival.

The group is led by Mr.Pooran who is a teacher at the Academic College for Excellence in Couva. He has been dancing for the past thirteen years and has been choreographing for the past nine.

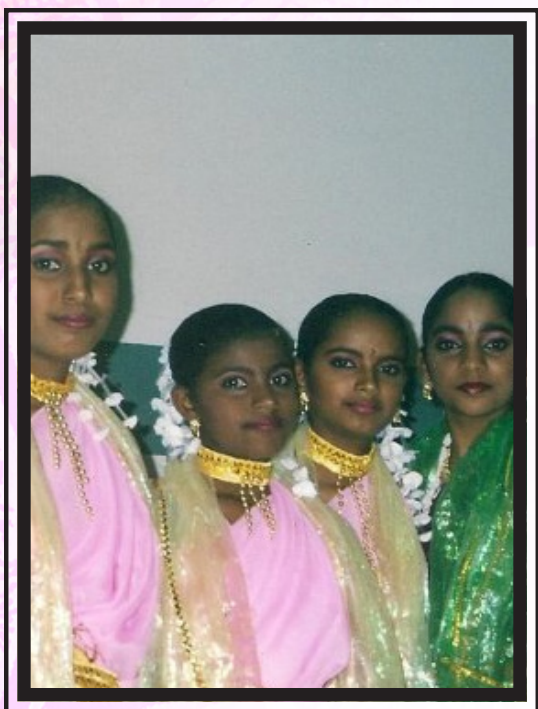




## ***Nirvana Dance Group***

Nirvana was created by Sophia Mustapha and is known as one of the top dance group in Trinidad n Tobago and is also recognized worldwide.

Nirvana performs various dance styles such as Film, Devotional, Classical, Chutney, Soca, Latin and Hip Hop dance. Classes are conducted in both Central and South Trinidad and perform for all types of occasions.



## ***The Kiss Baking Company Limited Natraj Dance Group***

The Kiss Baking Company Limited Natraj Dance Group was founded twenty-six (26) years ago by the late Surin Hart. Under his tutelage, this group managed to reach the finals in the Cultural Pageant on more than a few occasions. He further continued to build their name in the Mastana Bahar Competition.

After his death in 1993 his sister Vidivartee Hart Rambaran took over as tutor/choreographer of this multi-talented group. Their manager is Mr. Jewan Rambaran. This dance group has gone on to win the finals in Mastana Bahar in 2002 and this year, their younger members have placed 6th in the recently concluded Children of Mastana. Over the years this group has toured America and the Caribbean.

Their dance style includes folk, chutney, Soca-influence, Latin-influence and they have also been known to throw in a bit of scanting, break dancing and even rock n roll. They perform for all occasions and their choreographies which consist of both male and female dancers, have been known to leave lasting appeal on a wide range of people in this cosmopolitan island.



# Pan and Angostura

Trinidad and  
Tobago's gifts  
to the world



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## Schedule of Events

### El Cerro Del Aripo

Saturday June 19th | Sunday June 20th

### Pop Meets Steel

Music from Pan in the 21st Century

Saturday June 26th | Sunday June 27th

### Tobago Heritage Festival Highlights

Saturday July 3rd

### Highlights of the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition

Saturday July 10th | Sunday July 11th

### Celebrating our Calypso Monarchs 1939-1980 T&T History through the eyes of Calypso

Saturday July 17th | Sunday July 18th

# Blue WATERS