A non-profit organization serving the visually disadvantaged, presents

The Slaying of the Demons

A dance ballet

3pm on Sunday, July 15, 2012
Littleton High School,
56 King St, Littleton, MA
Shuruthe Ananthakrishnan has been learning Bharathanatyam under Sujatha Meyyappan. She has performed for various fund raisers and charity events in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Shuruthe is a sophomore at Austin Preparatory School.

Niveda Baskaran has trained in Bharatanatyam for the past 7 years with Sapna Krishnan. She completed her Arangetram, in August 2009. She has competed in the annual Cleveland Thayagaraja Aradhana in 2011. Niveda will be a sophomore at Brandeis University this fall.

Sheethal Dwarkanath is a performer, teacher and founder of “Sowparnika School Of Dance” in Nashua, NH. She has her intense training in Bharatanatyam and Mohiniyattam from Smt. Shyamala Surendran (Dharani School Of Performing Arts).

Jeyanthi Ghatraju is a dancer, choreographer, teacher and Director of Natyajali based in Westford, MA. A software engineer by training, her mission is to perform for charity. Through Alagappa Performing Arts Academy she offers online diploma and degree programs in performing arts.

Shreya Hegde is a rising sophomore at Acton-Boxborough High School. She learned dance under Smt. Padma Rao and is now learning under Smt. Jeyanthi Ghatraju. Aside from dances, Shreya also enjoys playing tennis and volunteering.

Pavitra Krishnan is a performer and the director of Priya Dance Academy and learned dance under Late Smt.Komalavalli Mani. A software engineer by profession, she is also a choreographer, has won accolades in dance competitions and performed on Indian national TV.

Monica Manickam is a rising junior at Bellingham High School. She has been learning Bharathanatyam under Kanjani Saigal and completed her Arangetram in 2011. She has performed in the “World on Stage” in Connecticut and is on her school varsity volleyball team.

Gayatri Menon has been learning Bharatanatyam under Kanjani Saigal. She completed her Arangetram in August 2010. She also has a black belt in karate, which she has pursued for 9 years. Gayatri will be a sophomore at Babson College at Simmons’s Rock.

Sujatha Meyyappan, an accomplished dancer, is the founder and artistic director of Kalam Academy of Dance in Tyngsboro, MA. She has received many accolades for her vibrant dance performances which she pursues in addition to her profession in Engineering. She serves the local arts community as a Tyngsboro Council Member.

Nikita Minocha has been learning Bharatanatyam for eight years under Kanjani Saigal in Burlington, MA. A rising sophomore at Brooks School in North Andover, she is passionate about dance and also enjoys karate and singing.

Meyya Muthu is a junior at Bellingham High School and has been learning dance under Thenu Rajan. She also volunteers at Children’s Hospital in Boston. She is planning to complete her Arangetram in the coming year.

Nanjanita Nambiar daughter and student of Sapna Krishnan has been learning Bharathanatyam for 5 years now and has performed for various charity shows. She has performed in Dubai and Chennai.

Shilpa Narayan has been learning Bharatanatyam from Jeyanthi Ghatraju for over 4 years and has performed on various occasions for the Natyajali school of dance. She is a rising junior at Westford Academy. Aside from dance, she has a passion for Carnatic music.

Shwetha Niranjan has learned classical dance under the able tutelage of Guru Smt. Radha Sridhar. She has the honor of winning the Silver Medal in the All India Solo Dance Competition conducted in Delhi. Shwetha is a software engineer by profession.

Neha Parikh is a teacher, performer and choreographer who founded “Chidanbaran Nrityakala Academy” in 2005. With a Master’s in fine arts from Nalanda Institute where she also taught, Neha’s performances and choreographies have received rave reviews.

Nishaa Pillai will be a 7th grader this coming fall at Advanced Math and Science Academy, Marlborough, MA.
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**Slaying of the Demons**

**Choreography & Production**: Madurai R. Muralidharan

Madurai R. Muralidharan is a well known performing dancer, dance-guru, composer and musician, who has composed over 120 varnams, produced several dance dramas and dance music albums in all the 35 thalais, which is unparalleled in the field of Bharatanatyam

**Meet Our Young Dancers**

Amy John, Bhoomika Kumar, Devika Nair, Disha Surajiwale, Diti Pitre, Divya Arun, Gopika Nair, Hansika Vedavinayagam, Jayasrihri Kannan, Karthik Ramesh, Laya Ananthakrishnan, Madhumita Namjir, Merlin Joyce, Meenakshi Dwarska, Meghana Karthik, Prisha Girish, Priya Veluri, Sadvathy Senthil Kumar, Sanyuktha Gopinath, Susheeth Veluri Shefali Bakre, Shireen Bakre, Shivani Belambe, Solai Alagappan, Sreeman Gopinath, Sruthi Kurada, Sruthi Ramesh
Many Thanks for your contribution

Dipika & Amar Sawhney
Shiamin & Raj Melville
Uma Bhoopathy & Sridhar Sambandam
Pratibha & Pankaj Shah
Jay & Apsara
Dinesh Patel
Rakesh, Deval and Poonam Kandar

Vision Aid

What exactly do we do for the visually challenged?
The booming IT sector in India is providing jobs and livelihood to thousands in India, helping them live better lives. Vision-Aid’s founders wanted to provide the same opportunity to benefit from the IT boom, to the visually challenged poor. In order to provide IT job opportunities to them, the first step was to provide them with tools (like magnifying devices, software that would read out what was on the screen) and technology training (like teaching them how to use MS Office). In developed countries, both tools and training are readily available for people with low vision but in India these tools were prohibitively expensive and inaccessible to the ones who needed them most. That was the gap that Vision-Aid wanted to fill. To date, we have trained a few hundred people, provided assistive devices to another few hundred and have funded early intervention programs benefitting several hundred children.

The funds raised in the US are used to provide the tools and training:

- $25 will enable a blind student to get comprehensive training in Orientation and Mobility.
- $50 will provide a free electronic magnifier (Camra Mouse) developed by Vision Aid that can help low vision persons of any age and especially senior citizen, a means to read and write by projecting magnified text on their TV screens.
- $100 will provide a comprehensive low vision evaluation and a set of free optical assistive devices and an electronic magnifier to an adult or child with low vision.
- $150 will educate a blind or low vision person with a certificate course in Introduction to Computers.
- $500 will provide a 6 months comprehensive and individualized education for a vision impaired student, who has completed high school, and has basic knowledge of English, helping them to learn Touch Typing, MS Access, MS Office and competence in using the internet and email. This program leads to a Vision-Aid Diploma in Computer applications, and opens the door for jobs and higher education. Graduates are also provided need based aid to purchase a personal computer with assistive technology.
- $1000 will provide 12 months of comprehensive and individualized education for a person who has no prior English education. The program targets students from an underprivileged (often rural) background, with only elementary or middle school level education.
**Soora Samharam**

**Staying of the Demons**

Scene 1: The slayer of the demons is born
At a time when the world was terrorized by the rule of the Demon (Asura) King Soorapadam, Destiny willed that Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi would be united in wedlock to bring forth a Divine Child who would restore peace, happiness and harmony. With the birth and the presence of the child... and the wisdom and valor of a hero came Muruga, the Lord to slay the demons and bless mankind.

Scene 2: The arrogant king of asuras, Soorapadam holds court
The King of the Asuras, Soorapadam, was a merciless tyrant. His limitless arrogance arose from a false assurance that he was invincible. With all, he had received a boon preventing his death by any existing deity or man. Thinking himself invincible, he set out to control heaven and earth, to torment the mortal and immortal.

Scene 3: The devas seek Brahma's help
Brahma, resting upon His lotus seat, was paid court by the Devas, beseeching Him to stop the terrorizing assaults of Soorapadam. “I can do nothing,” replied Brahma. “Only a child born to Lord Shiva and Parvathi, daughter of the Hima- layas, can stop the Demon King... but Shiva remains an ascetic doing penance and has no interest in marriage. Seek the help of Manmatha (Cupid), whose lotus-tipped arrows can awaken love in Shiva’s heart.”

Scene 4: Manmatha and Rathi travel to the Himalayas on a mission to awaken love in Shiva
Manmatha, accompanied by his wife Rathi, traveled to Mt. Kailash, high in the Himalayas, where Shiva was deeply immersed in his meditation. Manmatha’s arrow struck its target, but instead of awakening love, the arrow awakened only Shiva’s anger that someone had dared disturb His tranquility. Opening His third eye Shiva reduced Manmatha to a pile of ashes. Realizing that Brahma and Vishnu were behind this plot to hasten his marriage, Shiva restored Manmatha to life and wed Parvathi with great pomp and circumstance. From this union would come forth the six-headed, twelve-armed savior, Lord Muruga, originating as six sparks from Shiva’s third eye.

Scene 5: The six sparks give rise to six beautiful girls
The six sparks are carried by Agni and Ganga to a reed forest, where they take the form of six beautiful infants. They are discovered by the Kaarthigai maidens, who with great affection raise the children into fine youths. Goddess Parvathi then joins the six boys together, forming one Lord Muruga, with the wisdom of His six heads, and the strength of His twelve arms.

Scene 6: Naraasa creates competition between the brothers
Sage Narada, a great devotee of Vishnu but also the mischievous maker of the heavens, came to visit Mt. Kailash, where Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi now resided with their two sons, the elephant-headed Lord Ganesh and the youthful Lord Muruga. Narada brought with him the graha planet—the fruit of wisdom, and advised Shiva to give it whole to one of His sons. Unable to decide upon which son to bestow the fruit, Shiva devised a challenge: the fruit would go to the one who first circled the world. Lord Muruga, confident of victory, set off immediately on his vehicle, the peacock. Ganesh did not rush off, but said instead, “The whole world is contained within my divine parents,” and proceeded to walk around them. Shiva and Parvathi gave the fruit to Him. When Muruga returned, He felt cheated of His reward. Discarding all His decorations, He ran away to the Pushkarini hills.

Scene 7: Pranava Manthram
The youthful handsonde Muruga challenged Lord Brahma, the Lord of Creation to explain the meaning of the primordial sound, “Om.” When Brahma was unable to reply, Muruga imprisoned Him, saying Brahma was unfit to perform creation without this fundamental knowledge. Shiva came to Brahma’s rescue. Free of any ego, Shiva requested Lord Muruga to explain the meaning of “Om” to Him. To Shiva’s utter astonishment, Muruga explained the meaning of OM with the expertise of an ascetic, thus making the father become his own son’s disciple.

Scene 8: Muruga receives his spear
Parvathi deemed that Her son was now ready to take on Soorapadam and the other Asuras in battle. She presented him with the spear or “Vél” an emblem of her own Shakti, or strength.

Scene 9: The battle begins
With the aid of Lord Muruga, the Devas went to battle against the Asuras. Realizing that his boon did not protect him from Lord Muruga, a cowardly Soorapadam disguised himself as a tree. Clever Muruga was not fooled, and split the tree in half with His vel. Accepting his defeat, Soorapadam pleads to Muruga for a new life, repenting his past shortcomings. The ever merciful Muruga then turns half of the tree into a peacock, and the other half into a rooster. Soorapadam absolved himself of his sins by forevermore being in the service of Lord Muruga.

Scene 10: Murugan woos Valli
Now a young man, both wise and victorious, Murugan fell in love with Valli, the daughter of a mountain chieftain and a devotee of Lord Muruga. Taking the form of a hunter, Murugan persistently tries to woo her.
Experience India Cuisine at its most sensual! Our aromatic and flavorful dishes are artfully created to present you with a colorful, tasty and multi-textured dining experience.

India is a mélange of many different peoples and cultures that have come together over the years and evolved into a vibrant culture that is unique. Indian cuisine draws its variety and strengths from all these different cultures and culinary influences and is characterized by its sophisticated use of spices and herbs to enhance and bring out flavor.

Bollywood, the world of Indian films and music, creates an extraordinary audio-visual sensory experience that has captured the hearts of audiences everywhere.

At Bollywood Café, we create a culinary experience to similarly capture your hearts, leave you with a taste that lingers and has you coming back for more!

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