

Peterborough New Dance Presents:



# Arzoo Dance Theatre

Market Hall Theatre,  
Peterborough ON

September 26 & 27, 2003

## TEXTURES

Choreography Deepti Gupta  
 Visuals and sound Lester Alfonso  
 Dancers Kyla Kowalski, Melissa Kramer,  
 Jenna Morrison

The earth sighs.

## CLASSICAL KATHAK

### I. Dhruvad

a traditional Kathak piece honouring the divine couple  
 Shiva and Parvati.

### II. Tarana

Raga Malkaus - a celebration of rhythm and movement.

Choreography Guru Munna Shukla  
 Dancer Deepti Gupta  
 Music Based on original music compositions by  
 Dagar Brothers and Pandit Birju Maharaj

## I N T E R M I S S I O N

### FOR ARZOO DANCE THEATRE:

Administrator: Katie Brown, Dance Umbrella of Ontario.\*  
 Board of Directors: Gurpreet K. Chauhan, Dr. Anna Greenspan, Sharmini Peries, Heather Elton, Darlene Burke.  
 \*DUO is supported by The Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Government of Ontario, Cultural Career Council of Ontario and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

## RUBIES

Choreography Deepti Gupta  
 Video Lester Alfonso  
 Dancers Kyla Kowalski, Melissa Kramer,  
 Jenna Morrison, Deepti Gupta  
 Orissa Footage Robin Das  
 Music Guru Janmejy / Jeremy Greenspan  
 Vocals (live) Tammy Lin Foreman  
 Vocals (tape) Mandakini Goswami  
 Lighting Design Bradley A. Trenaman  
 Stage Manager Angola Murdoch  
 Costume Design Robin Das  
 Costume Construction Sarla Thukral, Deepti Gupta and  
 many wonderful hands.

*RUBIES* - inspired by the Goddess Lalita, "red as the rising sun, radiance of passion". Lalita is a Tantric goddess and embodiment of energy. The piece is inspired by descriptions of Lalita in the esoteric Sanskrit text *Lalita Sahsrnama*, The Thousand Names of Lalita.

The choreography explores feminine strength, beauty and divinity using Chhau, a martial dance style from the state of Orissa in eastern India. Chhau is traditionally practiced by male dancers. This choreography brings the technique onto the female body within the mythology of the Goddess Lalita whose strength and sensuality provide an ideal context for the use of this vibrant and earthy vocabulary. The choreography also extends traditional Chhau movements into contemporary dance, evolving the one out of the other.

*Rubies* is a celebration of the rising and flowing of life force, of energy and vitality. The intensity of inner awakening is experienced in intimate encounters with nature. These encounters, captured on video, create a visual narrative of the inner and outer landscapes of the spiritual journey including its fears, vulnerabilities and triumphs.

Finally, *Rubies* is also an acknowledgement and an example of global exchange and retribalization. It brings together elements from a remote tribal culture with the "urban tribal". It builds a creative link between dancers and artists in Canada with those in remote villages in India. This is a post-modern reality.

The creation of *Rubies* has been made possible by an Arts Fellowship from the Chalmers Foundation through of the Ontario Arts Council.

# Biographies

## **DEEPTI GUPTA, CHOREOGRAPHER:**

Deepti Gupta is a Toronto based dancer/choreographer and a world class exponent of Kathak, classical dance of North India. Recipient of 3 NAC commissions and a Banff Centre for the Arts Residency, her work is at the cutting edge of contemporary South Asian dance in the Diaspora. Her choreographies have been critically acclaimed in the *New York Times*, the *Village Voice* and *Dance Connection Magazine*. Gupta is a relentless experimentalist with a variety of theatrical interests. In 2002 Deepti was awarded a Dora Mavor Moore Award for Best Costume Design for Rasik Arts' production of *UMRAO*. She also received the *MyBindi.com* award for Outstanding Classical Dancer, the Chalmers Art Fellowship to create her new work *Rubies* and a humanitarian award from Manjari Sankuratri Memorial Foundation. Deepti's works have been performed in Canada, New York City, London and New Delhi in venues as varied as the Rivoli in Toronto to the Arlington Hotel in Maynooth, the NAC Theatre and the Great Hall of the National Gallery.

## **LESTER ALFONSO, VIDEO:**

Lester Alfonso came out of the York University Film and Creative Writing program in 1994 and has worked in Toronto, Montreal, New York City and London, UK as a videographer, editor, producer and director. He is known for experimental non-fiction films like the one minute episodes of the *Mixtape Chronicles*, as well as a series of documentary interstitials for the Nickleodeon network about the everyday lives of children in Malaysia. His recent personal film project, *Trying to be Some Kind of Hero* has been screened in Toronto, New York City, and earned him the award Best New Movie Maker at the Optic Nerve Film Festival in Peterborough. Most recently, his "films with live acts" (including *Techno-Bondage* and *Zero*) present live dance, musical and spoken-word performances linked to multiple video projections.

## **ROBIN DAS, COSTUME DESIGN:**

Award winning theatre director and designer Robin Das has been teaching at the National School of Drama, New Delhi for over 20 years. He has directed and designed over 60 theatre productions including Sanskrit Classics, contemporary Indian plays, Western classics and experimental theatre. He is acknowledged as one of the foremost designers of Indian theatre creating productions that blend ancient knowledge with contemporary elements, and moving smoothly from formal scripts to surreal movement scenarios.

## **BRADLEY A. TRENAMAN, LIGHTING DESIGN:**

Mr. Trenaman has designed lighting for The VIRSKY Ukrainian Dance Company's North American Tour, *Leslie Nielson as Clarence Darrow* at the Royal Alex, OMO

Dance Company, The National Ballet School, The Banff Centre, Menaka Thakkar Dance Company, Chimera Project, Chitralekha Dance Company, Janak Khendry Dance Company, *Chess the Musical* and *Wozzeck/Woyzeck* at The Bathurst Street Theatre. He has also lit such Canadian bands as Esthero, The Skydiggers, Dream Warriors and Punjabi by Nature. His company, Radiant Concepts Inc., provides projection media (custom gobos) and lighting consultation to clients throughout North America. Brad is a member of The Society of Television Lighting Directors, sits on the board of Associated Designers of Canada, and is a freelance writer with articles published by *Professional Lighting Magazine*.

## **ANGOLA MURDOCH, STAGE MANAGER:**

Angola is founder of Phenomenatrix Productions. Fader Monkey.

## **MELISSA ADELLA KRAMER, DANCER:**

Melissa Kramer studied 14 years of Ballet at the Victoria Carter London Dance Centre's professional programme, completing her Intermediate Exam with the Society of Russian Ballet. She furthered and expanded her studies in yoga, martial arts, street theatre and contemporary dance throughout Canada. She is an alumni of the School of Toronto Dance Theatre Summer Intensive (2001) and has also studied with Spirit Wind Internal Arts Society. She has been with Arzoo Dance Theatre since July 2001, and continues to perform her own works, both solo and group.

## **KYLA MAY KOWALSKI, DANCER:**

Kyla Kowalski is trained in modern dance, tap and African dance. She has trained in the Toronto Dance Theatre's professional programme, as well as with the Winnipeg Contemporary Dancers. Kyla teaches movement, dance and acrobatics to all ages. Her performance experience ranges from musical theatre to contemporary independent dance and has been with Arzoo Dance Theatre since 2001.

## **JENNA MORRISON, DANCER:**

Having begun her formal training in the Dance program at Canterbury High School in Ottawa, Jenna Morrison's career in dance was fostered by Peter Boneham at Le Groupe de la Place Royale. Her training led her to Montreal where she spent two years at LADMI. where she studied under Linda Rabin, Candice Loubert, Mark Boviin, Tassi Teekman, Peggy Baker & Christopher House. Currently she is a member of the Arzoo Dance Theatre. Ever since Jenna can remember, dance has been essential to her. As a dancer and a mover since birth, movement it-self has become the signifier of the vitality of Life. Life is a journey where emotion is set to provoke motion.

## ECSTATIC DANCE

with Barbara Dametto

Saturday, October 11  
Saturday, November 22  
Saturday, December 20  
2:30 - 4:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church,  
99 Brock St.  
\$8 per class



French Quarter Cookhouse

**PowerHouse**  
DIGITAL VIDEO

## THE NIGHT KITCHEN

Pizza Delivered  
Open Early  
To Late

229  
Hunter St. W.  
741-0300

## THE OLDE STONE

**BREWING COMPANY**  
BREW PUB & RESTAURANT

## Maggie's Garden

*Fresh Wholesome Fast Food*

135 Hunter St. West  
(between George and Water)  
Peterborough ON K9H 2K7

760-9719



Breakfast • Lunch  
Sandwich Trays



PETERBOROUGH NEW DANCE is an animator of contemporary dance and, under the banner Public Energy, related forms encompassing theatre, new music and interdisciplinary work. Since 1994 we have presented a mainstage series of dance companies and independent choreographers drawn from across Canada, commissioned new work in concert with other Canadian presenters on the CanDance Network, and supported the development of the local dance community by presenting performances by area artists and arranging specialized classes and workshops. Peterborough New Dance is a registered charity, #8948 1058 RR 0001. Tax deductible donations can be made on line at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org).

Office: 374 ½ George St. N  
Mailing: PO Box 2319 Peterborough, ON K9H 7Y8  
phone: 705.745.1788 fax: 705.755.0118  
[www.publicenergy.ca](http://www.publicenergy.ca)

Bill Kimball, Artistic Producer  
Kate Story, Program Coordinator  
Kerry Day, Graphic Design  
Powerhouse Digital Video, Video Services  
Max Price, Front of House  
Brian Mitolo, Technical Director

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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
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## ONGOING CLASSES WITH PND

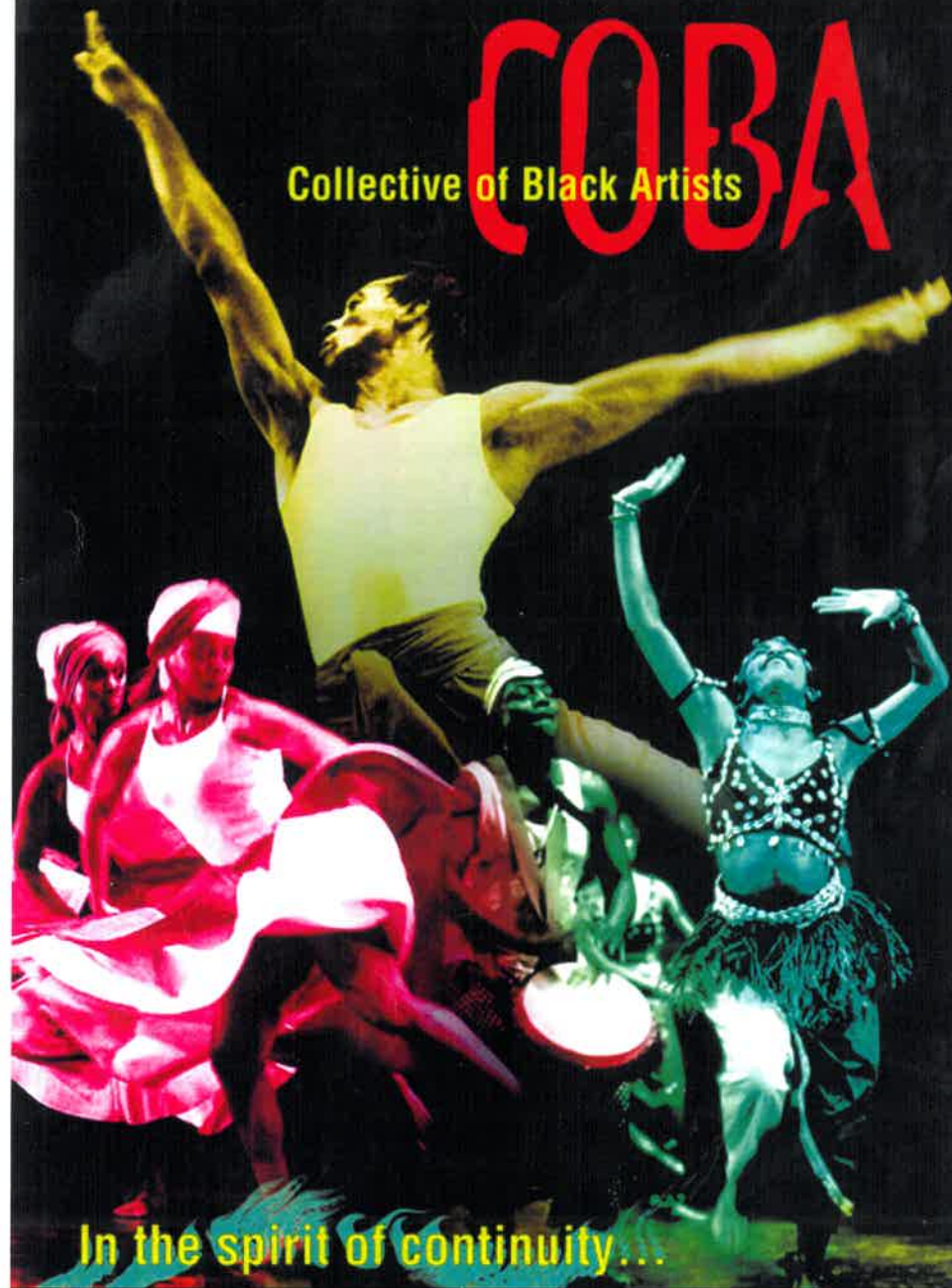
Wednesday evenings 5:30 - 7pm  
Elem/Int Modern with Anne Ryan  
Live music with Kirsten Addis  
St. John's Anglican Church, 99 Brock St.  
\$7 for one class, \$25 for five

Friday afternoons 1:00-2:30  
With a variety of teachers  
Trent University Athletic Complex Multi-Purpose Room  
FREE

Peterborough New Dance presents:

# COBA

Collective of Black Artists



In the spirit of continuity...

Friday, November 28, 8pm  
Showplace Performance Centre