

SRUTI

The India Music and Dance Society
Proudly Presents

SANGHAMITRA

a dance drama
by
the Dhananjayans
& their Bharatha Kalanjali troupe



Date : Saturday, 23 October, 1993 Time : 7:00 PM
Place : Germantown Academy, Arts Center, Morris & Joshua Roads,
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Admission - Donors : \$100.00 * (TWO Complimentary Seats in the Center Sections of the first four rows)
General : Members \$12.00 Students \$8.00 Non-Members \$15.00

For tickets and more information, please contact :

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* Donations may be partially tax deductible. Non-profit Organization tax ID # : 23-2454367

Sanghamitra illustrates the Buddhist theme surrounding the life of one of the greatest emperors of India, *Asoka*. *Asoka Vardhana* ascended the *Mauryan* throne in 273 B.C., and found himself ruler of a vaster empire than that of any Indian monarch before him. Upon returning victoriously from the *Kalinga* war, *Asoka* presents his daughter *Meghaverini* with the blood-stained jewels brought from the war scene. *Meghaverini* rejects them and makes *Asoka* realize his faults. Moved to remorse, *Asoka* embraces Buddhism and begins to propagate the Buddhist message to distant lands. He gifts away all his wealth and possessions. He becomes a *Mahaadhaayaka* (the great giver) when he gives away his own daughter *Meghaverini*, who is given the name *Sanghamitra* and joins the Buddhist order.

The author of *Sanghamitra* is Professor V. Subramanian, a distinguished scholar based in Canada. The production of *Sanghamitra* is **unique** in several different ways. Besides being based on a historical story, it also conveys the message of Buddhist teachings. The theme apart, the very dance production merits special attention, because it is presented in the form of a full-scale drama, unlike thematic presentations. The **Dhananjayans** continuously draw upon their extensive knowledge of both the South Indian classical dance styles, *Bharathanatyam* and *Kathakali*. They have combined both these classical forms to choreograph beautiful dance productions highlighting the technical intricacy and sophistication of *Bharathanatyam* and the theatrically exciting rhythm and dramatic expressiveness of *Kathakali*.

Dhananjayans, founders of *Bharathakalanjali* Academy of Dance in Madras, are perhaps the most widely acclaimed dance couple in India. Their early training was under the legendary Rukmini Devi Arundel at *Kalakshetra*, Madras and under *Guru Chandu Panicker*. They are a rare combination of excellence in performance, choreography and teaching. Their innovative creativity has allowed a larger cross-section of audiences around the world to appreciate the wonders of Indian Classical Dance, while preserving its traditions. To this end, they have collaborated with the world renowned sitarist *Pandit Ravi Shankar* in producing *Ghanashyam*, commissioned by the Birmingham Touring Opera House of England. More recently, they collaborated with Jacques d'Amboise in New York City to choreograph a lavish multi-cultural ballet, *Chakra*. They transformed Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* into a *Bharathanatyam* ballet for the Academy of Indian Dance in London.

Bharatha Kalanjali, an academy of Indian classical dance and music, is considered one of the finest professional performing arts companies in India. The artists are all highly qualified and talented dancers and musicians. Their productions vary from the traditional to the modern. Their repertoire of dance productions is impressive, highlighted by such productions as *Radha Madhavam*, *Sri Valli*, *Ramanatakam*, *Sanghamitra*, *Aikya Bharatham*, *Siva Sakthi Vel*, *Ghanashyam*, *Nandanar Charithram*, *Chandalika* and *Adventures of Mowgly* to name just a few. It is rapidly becoming the institution that is training the future stars of the classical Indian dance scene.

Directions to Germantown Academy Arts Center

1. From Ben Franklin Bridge take **I-676 West** to **I-76 West** (Schuylkyl Expwy West). Follow directions in 3.
2. From Walt Whitman Bridge follow **I-76W**. Follow directions in 3.
3. From **I-76** (Schuylkyl Expressway) exit onto **I-476 North** (Blue Route North). Follow directions in 5.
4. From Delaware take **I-95 North** to exit 7 onto Blue Route (**I-476**) North. Follow directions in 5.
5. From Blue Route North take exit to **Penna Tpk East**. After the toll booths take **I-276 East**. Follow directions in 7.
6. From **NJ Tpk** Take exit **6** onto **Penna Tpk (I-276 West)**. Follow directions in 7.
7. From **Penna Tpk (I-276)** take exit 26. After the toll booths drive straight (you will merge with **Pennsylvania Ave**) past two (2) traffic lights. At the **third** traffic light (which is a T-junction with **Bethlehem pke**) turn left on Bethlehem pke. On Bethlehem Pke go over a **narrow bridge** and turn right immediately onto **Lafayette Road**. Within a few yards, turn right again onto **Morris road**. **Germantown Academy** is on your left. Drive 200 yards and take the **second drive way**.

For Emergencies: Lobby Phone (215) 646-9786