

Chennai Times

PEOPLE

Potter casts his spell on city celebs
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WINE & DINE

This is one rocking experience!
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BACKBEAT

Katrina loves chilling out in London
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ART MUSIC THEATRE

In perfect sync

Srinidhi Raghavan and Sahasra Sambamoorthy from USA are presenting *Her Story*, a thematic bharatanatyam duet. After presenting the dance on more than a dozen stages the world over, the duo is presenting its first show in India at Chennai.

What's Hot gets talking to Srinidhi Raghavan....

THE THEME

Her Story is a unique bharatanatyam duet on four women from Indian mythology. It portrays the lives of Kaikeyi, Devaki, Kannagi and Andal. It recounts the pivotal moments in the lives of these women.

WHY THE INTEREST IN MYTHOLOGY AND KAIKEYI ESPECIALLY...

While growing up abroad, we were constantly told stories about these women and it created an impression in our minds. Here, we are exploring how these characters have transformed their worlds through their ability to love unconditionally. History has judged these protagonists — condemning, glorifying and questioning them for their actions. We are reinterpreting these conventional perceptions and portraying these epic personalities as women who were willing to challenge the world for those they loved. The love that Kaikeyi had for her son

made her challenge the world and not many have tried to portray her through dance.

HOW IS IT TO DO A DUET IN BHARATANATYAM

It's challenging as well as exciting. While one of us plays the role of the protagonist, the other enacts all the other characters connected to the theme. While I will be doing Kaikeyi and Devaki, Sahasra will be portraying Andal and Kannagi. Both of us complement each other well and allow the other character to build and blossom. It helps to enhance the theme.

ON THE COMPONENTS OF THE SHOW

While we will start with a *Pushpanjali*, the main item has four pieces, depicting the four women. The *Jaavali* and *Padam* go with the main theme. There are a lot of jathis. The show will conclude with a *Thillana*. Both *Pushpanjali* and *Thillana* are not exactly related to the theme, but are woven around it as both offer tribute to goddesses. The lyrics are in

Tamil. Sanskrit slokas too are used. However, the monologues are in English as the production is meant for a global audience. The presentation will be rooted in tradition and not much of contemporary techniques will be used, except for lighting. Some simple props will be used to differentiate between the characters.

The duo, graduates from Columbia University, will present *Her Story* on July 18 at 6.30 pm at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore under the auspices of the Kartik Fine Arts.

SINDHU
VIJAYAKUMAR



music

Dasyam Swathi Nrithyotsavam, Anantha Padmanabha Swami Temple, Adyar, from July 19 till 25, Daily 5.30 pm

Gopika Varma, ace mohiniattam dancer, has been conducting an annual dance event, the Swathi Nrithyotsavam, under the auspices of her mohiniattam school Dasyam in remembrance of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal for the past five years. This year, the programme will start on July 19 and will go on till 25. The programme will feature various dance forms and provide a common platform for dancers to showcase their talents. They will perform dances based on the various musical compositions of the Maharaja Swathi Thirunal.

July 19, 5.30 pm
Pallavi Sriram will present a dance performance-



music

Thyagaraja Krithis, Thyagaraja Vidwath Samajam, Mylapore, July 18, 6.30 pm

PV Parameswaran, with his rich and resonant voice, will enthrall the audience by singing Thyagaraja krithis.

Carnatic Vocal Concert, VDS Arts Academy, Nungambakkam, July 18, 6 pm

VB Bhavna, a class X student of SBOA School and Junior College, Anna Nagar, will present a Carnatic vocal concert.



Ninaikaadha Neramillai, Bharat Kalachar, T Nagar, July 19, 6.30 pm
Deepika V, a disciple of Sudha Raganathan, will

SATHYAM Cinemas INOX ANNA KAMALA Cinemas MINI MOTCHAM GOPIKRISHNA BHARATH

KASI ARADHANA MAYAJAAL Kovambedu ROHINI Ambattur RAKKI Cromptet VETRI Kollathur GANGA Complex