

the  
rangoli dance company  
along with  
artists from india  
presents



# patanjali

legends of yoga and dance

Rangoli Foundation for Art & Culture  
14748 Morrison Street, Sherman Oaks, Ca 91403  
Tel: 818 788 6860 / Fax 818 990 9279 / E Mail: malathisiyengar@gmail.com  
**Artistic Director – Malathi Iyengar**

For Immediate Release  
May 8, 2007  
Contact: Malathi Iyengar  
malathisiyengar@gmail.com or 818 788 6860

The Rangoli Dance Company along with artists from India presents  
**Patanjali: Legends of Yoga and Dance**  
**Saturday, September 8, 2007. 6:30 P.M.**, Barnsdall Gallery Theatre in Hollywood, Ca.  
**Sunday, September 9, 2007. 4:00 P.M.**, Scherr Forum Theatre, Countrywide Performing Arts Center,  
Thousand Oaks, Ca.

Known for presenting Los Angeles audiences with rarely seen traditions of India, southern California's Rangoli Dance Company joins an impressive cast of core and guest artists from India to feature its newest creation, Patanjali: Legends of Yoga and Dance.

The performance features choreography by Malathi Iyengar, Yoga by Shiva Rea Bailey, Ranjith Babu ( India) and Ashley Albrand, and dancers from India including Neewin Hershall and Murali Mohan Kalvakalva. Rangoli Dance Company members include: Ronald Burton, Lakshmi Iyengar, Hema Iyer, Mary Khetani, Shaheen Sheik, Soumya Sundaresh and guest artist, Navia Natarajan.

Dr. Christopher Key Chapple, Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University, will open the program with a pre performance introduction in order to acquaint the audiences with the philosophy, history, and the movement of Yoga and dance.

Music composition and arrangement is by Rajkumar Bharathi from India and Lighting design is by multiple award winning artist, Eileen Cooley. Costume design is by Lakshmi Iyengar and set design is by Suresh Iyengar.

Historians say that Patanjali lived around two thousand years ago in India. According to legend, he is none other than Aadishehsa, the cosmic serpent on which the Hindu lord Vishnu reclines. Endowed with a body that is half human and half serpent, Patanjali became an ardent devotee of Lord Shiva. With Shiva's blessings and command, Patanjali is said to have written three important works; a commentary on Panini's Sanskrit grammar called the 'ma-hAbhAShya', a work on the ancient Indian system of medicine, 'Ayurveda', and the work he is most well known for, the 'Yoga Sutras,' on the practical and philosophical aspects of Yoga. Though Yoga existed much before Patanjali's time, he documented what had until that time been handed down by means of oral tradition from master to pupil.

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Patanjali, a thematic dance concert, explores the unique and powerful relationship between Yoga and dance. The evening features popular legends related to Patanjali, the cosmic dance of Shiva, and the holy city of Chidambaram in India. The legends say that Yoga, classical dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, and martial arts like Kalari evolved from Lord Shiva's cosmic dance of bliss. The physical exercises practiced by Lord Shiva and other divine beings were systematized to form the foundation of present day Yoga by the great sage Patanjali. Yoga, meaning integration or union, combines ancient spiritual practices with mind-body techniques that originated in India. Dance is Yoga and Yoga is respected as a science, an art form, and a philosophy of life.

The performance addresses the following issues: Where and how did this great spiritual discipline of Yoga originate? What and who inspired Patanjali to write a commentary on Yoga that has become such a phenomenal culture practiced by so many all over the world. It is said to have been gleaned from Creation itself. But who was Patanjali?

Rangoli Foundation for Art & Culture was established in 1985 by artistic director, Malathi Iyengar to realize a creative vision of presenting visual and performing arts of India. The foundation is committed to developing cultural awareness and inter-cultural dialogue through the artistic expressions of dance, music, theater and visual arts. The foundation frequently brings renowned tradition bearers, dancers and musicians from India to the United States, often for the first time to work with company artists. Rangoli Dance Company, a highly recognized group of exquisite artists was formed by Malathi Iyengar in 1992. Iyengar's visions have led her to continuously emphasize and embrace the participation of multi-disciplinary artists from diverse cultural backgrounds in her company productions. Consisting of high caliber core and guest artists, the company has given invigorating performances throughout the United States, Canada, and India.

For more information, visit [www.rangoli.org](http://www.rangoli.org)

**Saturday, September 8, 2007**

**Introduction – 6:30 P.M.**

**Performance – 7:00 P.M.**

Barnsdall Gallery Theatre

4800 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, Ca 90027

Tickets:

\$20 (plus service fee) at the Box Office or Online [www.bggtickets.com](http://www.bggtickets.com)

\$15 (Groups of 10 more)

\$20 Adv (to be paid prior to the show) - Contact [malathisiyengar@gmail.com](mailto:malathisiyengar@gmail.com)

**Sunday, September 9, 2007**

**Introduction – 4:00 P.M.**

**Performance - 4:30 P.M.**

Countrywide Performing Arts Center. Scherr Forum Theatre, Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza

2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd. , Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

Ticket Master: (805) 583-8700 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

Tickets:

\$20 (plus service fee) at the Box Office or Online

\$15 (Groups of 10 more)

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***This project is supported in part by the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.***

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**THE FACTS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 8, 2007

Contact: Malathi Iyengar  
818 788 6860 / malathisiyengar@gmail.com

**WHAT:**

Rangoli Dance Company along with dancers from India and yoga masters presents

**Patanjali: Legends of Yoga and Dance**

*(Two Shows Only!!!)*

**WHO :**

Choreography & Artistic Direction – Malathi Iyengar  
Yoga Masters – Shiva Rea Bailey, Ranjith Babu and Ashley Albrand  
Additional Choreography – Lakshmi Iyengar & Murali Mohan Kalvakalva  
Music – Rajkumar Bharathi

Pre Performance Introduction

Dr Christopher Key Chapple (Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology,  
Loyola Marymount University, Ca, USA)

Lighting Design – Eileen Cooley  
Costume Design – Lakshmi Iyengar  
Set Design – Suresh Iyengar

**WHEN, WHERE & HOW**

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