

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2005

Contact: Malathi Iyengar 818 788 6860

msiyengar@yahoo.com

Rangoli Foundation presents “Enduring Traditions”

A mixed bill featuring Bharatanatyam (classical dance of India) and Folk Dances of India takes place on Sunday, July 31, 2005 @ 4:00 pm.

Lakshmi Iyengar, disciple and daughter of Rangoli Foundation artistic director **Malathi Iyengar**, presents a solo Bharatanatyam performance. Also part of the evening are folk traditions of India, choreographed by **Murali Mohan** and performed by **Rangoli Dance Company** and **guest artists from India**. The two-part presentation, titled ***Enduring Traditions***, takes place on **Sunday, July 31 at 4 pm** at the **Barnsdall Gallery Theatre** in Hollywood

Enduring Traditions starts out with traditional work based on the Pandanallur-Tanjore technique of Bharatanatyam choreographed by Malathi Iyengar. The evening features additional works choreographed, taught, and conducted by Lakshmi Iyengar as part of the Master Teacher-Student Apprenticeship project administered by the Alliance for California Traditional Artists.

“This is an opportunity to see the next generation of young Bharatanatyam dancers who are pursuing one of the most profound art forms of the world today,” says Malathi Iyengar.

The second part of the evening consists of authentic folk dances of India taught by master artist Murali Mohan Kalvakalva (India) and performed by Rangoli Dance Company. The folk dances presented are learned in workshops taught by Murali Mohan as a part of the International Collaborations Initiative of Inter Arts program, administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Also presenting are international workshop artists **Ranjith Babu** and **Gurumurthy**, who have taught traditional art forms of movement and music to the participants.

Lakshmi Iyengar, disciple of Malathi Iyengar (Los Angeles) and Guru Narmada (Bangalore, India), has performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada and India. As a lead dancer for Rangoli Dance Company, she has performed in all major productions and choreographic works. In 2004 Lakshmi was chosen to study rare compositions and train as a dance conductor under the guidance of Malathi Iyengar as a part of the ACTA Master Teacher-Apprentice Program. Lakshmi has been nominated for two Lester Horton Dance Awards for outstanding achievement in Performance (‘Gati-Pragati’ and ‘Sarasijanabha Varnam’).

Malathi Iyengar, originally from Bangalore, India, is a Los Angeles-based choreographer, dancer, writer, visual artist, and artistic director of the Rangoli Foundation for Art & Culture, which celebrates its 20th Anniversary this June at the Madrid Theatre. She studied the vintage ‘Pandanallur’ ‘Tanjore’ style of ‘Bharatanatyam’ from Guru Narmada of Bangalore, who is a disciple of the late legendary Kittappa Pillai, descendant of the Tanjore, and choreography and improvisation under the mentorship of Marion Scott. As a result of her submission to the arts

and willingness to take artistic challenges, Malathi is recognized as a visionary in the arts community. She is a recipient of several prestigious awards and distinctions for her choreographic works, Rangoli Dance Company performances, and Rangoli Foundation productions, including a Brody Fellowship for Performing Arts; Alma Hawkins Award for Excellence in Choreography; and National Endowment of the Arts for Creation and Presentation. Recently, Malathi was chosen as a Master Artist of Bharatanatyam dance by the Alliance for California Traditional Artists. She is also the author of 'Dance & Devotion' published by Rangoli Foundation. Her critically acclaimed choreographic works include 'Punyakoti' (2004), 'Tulasi' (2004), 'Sacred Geometry' (2002), 'Love Lyrics' (2001), 'Ramayana' (2000), and Mustard Seeds (1996). Malathi regularly teaches classical Indian dance (Bharatanatyam), production and presentation seminars, and Intercultural dance theater.

K. Murali Mohan, a talented Kathak dancer, is a disciple of the celebrated legendary teachers, Dharamshi Shah and Kumudini Lakhia. Murali has performed, choreographed and taught Kathak and folk dances of India extensively throughout India, Europe, Canada, and the U.S., and is the co artistic director of Nadam Academy of Music and Dance, Bangalore. His vibrant and authentic works have won awards and accolades in many competitions and festivals. Murali, a sponsored artist of Rangoli Foundation since 1999, has taught the rich folk traditions including 'Koli', 'Garba', 'Raas', 'Ghumar', 'Tippani', 'Ghado Ne Supdi' and several other dances.

Enduring Traditions takes place on **Sunday, July 31 at 4:00 pm**. Tickets are **\$15** with advance purchase (www.bgttickets.com) and **\$18** at the door. **\$12** tickets are available directly from Rangoli by e-mailing msiyengar@yahoo.com. The **Barnsdall Gallery Theatre** is located at **4800 Hollywood Blvd** in Hollywood. Call **(866) 881-8399** or go to www.bgttickets.com.

THE FACTS

- What:** *Enduring Traditions* is a two-part program of Bharatanatyam (classical dance of India) performed by Lakshmi Iyengar and folk traditions of India performed by Rangoli Dance Company and guest artists from India.
- Who:** Presented by Rangoli Foundation
Featuring Lakshmi Iyengar, Malathi Iyengar & Rangoli Dance Company
Dancers from India: K. Murali Mohan, Ranjith Babu, & Neewin Hershall.
Musicians: Malathi Iyengar (Conductor), S. R. Veeraraghavan (Vocal),
Gurumurthy (Percussion), A. P. Sarvotham (Flute), & Shankar S. (Violin)
- When:** **Sunday, July 31, 2005. 4:00 pm**
- Where:** **Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, 4800 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood, CA 90027.**
- How:** **(866) 881.8399** or www.bgttickets.com
- Prices:** \$15 (advance purchase) and \$18 (at door)
\$12 tickets available by e-mailing msiyengar@yahoo.com.
- Parking:** Free parking on site
- Website:** www.rangoli.org

This project is partly supported by Alliance for California Traditional Artists Apprenticeship Program & Inter Arts Grant Program / Initiative for International Collaborations / Los Angeles County Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, & Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission (2005 - 2007). BGT is a facility of the City of LA Cultural Affairs Department.