



For Immediate Release
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Rangoli Foundation Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Indian, Classical Dance Performances, Aug. 28 & 29 Original Work – “Shivaya” – Premieres in Los Angeles & Thousand Oaks

Traditional Indian dances and the premiere of a new work by Rangoli Foundation and Rangoli Dance Company creator and choreographer Malathi Iyengar will be given Sat., Aug. 28, in Los Angeles and Sun., Aug. 29, in Thousand Oaks.

The performances, which celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Rangoli Foundation (www.rangoli.org), include Bharatanatyam dances (one of the oldest Indian classical dance forms), followed by Iyengar's new work, the 75-minute long, *Shivaya*. Also included is a specially commissioned Chhau dance, a traditional dance depicting nature and ecstatic, dancing peacocks. A reception will be held after each performance.

“To celebrate 25 years of producing and performing, we are presenting classics from our original repertoire, guest performances and exciting and compelling new choreographic works and music,” Iyengar said. “They portray Indian culture and stories in exhilarating classical and folk dances inspired by life in India.”

Iyengar created the nonprofit Rangoli Foundation in 1985 to present classical Indian music and dance performances. She founded the Rangoli Dance Company (RDC) seven years later after taking dance lessons beside her then, six-year-old daughter and going on to secure a master's degree in choreography from UCLA. The company has gone on to become a noted Los Angeles Indian dance company.

“*Shivaya: 25 Years of Creativity & Excellence*” – tickets \$20 to \$50 – will be presented:

- Sat. Aug. 28 – *Bharatanatyam* dances 5 p.m. and *Shivaya* 7 p.m. at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles.
Box office: 323-964-9766 / www.itsmyseat.com/DisplayEvent.html?sse=542002, www.ebonyrep.org
- Sun. Aug. 29 – *Bharatanatyam* dances 4 p.m. and *Shivaya* 6 p.m. at the Scherr Forum Theatre in the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks.
Box office: 805 449 2787 / www.toaks.org/cap/tickets/events/event.asp?eventID=1575, www.ticketmaster.com

Shivaya pays tribute to the five elements (Earth, Water, Fire, Air, & Space), sacred five syllables and the universe's sound, stillness and movement. Recorded music was composed and arranged by Indian musician Rajkumar Bharathi. *Chhau* dance was choreographed by Murali Mohan K., with music composed by D. Praveen Rao from India. The conclusion, *Rangoli Finale*, features a commissioned musical score by celebrated violinist Embar Kannan.

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The dance concert *Shivaya* will feature a unique artistic environment created by lighting designer Eileen Cooley, costume designer Lakshmi Iyengar and set designer Suresh Iyengar.

The *Bharatanatyam* showcase is accompanied by live music performed by violinist Krishna Kutty and musicians from India including Nandakumar U., Gurusurthy G., & Prakash Hegde, conducted by Iyengar.

The RDC dancers are accompanied by Indian dancers Renjith Babu, Krishna Chari, Murali Mohan K., Kirti Ramgopal, & Parshwanath Upadhye, and long-time Rangoli collaborators Ronald Burton and Navia Natarajan.

RDC dancers include: Sheila Aula, Alia Bartlett, Sanam Chalan, Shayan Chalan, Anjali Gopalan, Lakshmi Iyengar, Malathi Iyengar, Hema Iyer, Sumathi Nanguneri, Sandhya Rajan, Aarti Rao, Anisha Rao, Askhaya Sekhar, Chirag Sumathi, Dhruv Sumathi, Soumya Sundaresh & Nishitha Viswanathan.

“*Shivaya: 25 Years of Creativity & Excellence*” is supported in part by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

View video of Rangoli’s 25 years on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcpWU_RkWQk

For more information and donor tickets:
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