

A closer look at Ranjana Warier, the creative soul behind the "From Bharatanatyam to Bollywood"

Published on May 9, 2013 by Valerie Nahmad Schimel in Miami

By Original Noise

Entertainer. Educator. Facilitator. Innovator. The embodiment of power who can fight social injustice.

This is Indian Dance, a heroine who takes an audience through a journey from her divine origin to present day.

This is also in some ways Ranjana Warier, the creative soul behind the "From Bharatanatyam to Bollywood — The Journey of Indian Dance" presentation on May 5 at the Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University.

Ranjana Warier was introduced to Indian classical dances at the age of 6. She has been an active performer/choreographer at several charity events in United States, and her efforts to educate children on culture and history using dance as a medium have received wide recognition.

Sunday's presentation, a part of Asian Heritage Month, was a one-hour discussion of the history of Indian dance, using the character "Indian Dance" to portray the origins and evolution of the art form. The colorful presentation educated the audience on ancient and modern Indian Dances, customs and cultures.

"A number of years ago, we had a lively, exciting Bollywood-themed event with wonderful community participation. This is the first time bringing Indian dance to our audience since that event," said Kimberli Kidd, Adult Services Librarian II at Nova Southeastern University. "We are celebrating Asian Pacific cultures in May. Dance is an attractive medium to highlight culture."

Ranjana dedicates herself to this culture by immersing herself in the dancing and the sharing of the art form.

Indian dance styles require proper training and years of practice to master and perform. These art forms are not often performed in the United States, due to the lack of experts in the field and time and budget commitments. Blending the multiple styles, still keeping the individual characteristics intact, for a theatrical performance is rarely done. Ranjana's work project takes it a step further by bringing the expression of heritage to non-traditional space like a library.

"Ranjana has been working tirelessly to bring this event to our library," Kidd said.

And this is only the precursor. Save the date for Ranjana's next big effort (thanks to a grant from Knight Foundation), when renowned classical dance teachers of Florida and their senior students will bring the classic fairy tale Sleeping Beauty to life through original choreography, colorful costumes, and unique music. The show "Anvita" will facilitate cross-cultural understanding using the medium of dance. Mark your calendars for Aug. 31 and Sept. 1; it's not to be missed.

Ranjana can be reached via email at: info@erhythms.net.



SEARCH KNIGHTARTS.ORG

Enter search keyword

COMMUNITIES

- [Akron](#)
- [Charlotte](#)
- [Detroit](#)
- [Macon](#)
- [Miami](#)
- [Philadelphia](#)
- [San José and Silicon Valley](#)
- [St. Paul](#)

GET E-MAIL UPDATES

* Email

Please see our [Privacy Policy](#)

SNAPSHOTS



JOURNEY "Bharatanatyam to Bollywood: The Journey of Indian Dance" featured the history, evolution and current state of Indian dance during a presentation and lecture at Nova Southeastern University Alvin Sherman Library in Davie. Below, Christina Kallikaki is among the performers. SEE PHOTOS/MAGNAN MASTIN

COLORFUL TRADITION



The dancers included, above, Nandini Verma, as well as, at right, Christina Kallikaki, Maria Joseph and Janet Davis.



DAVIE/COOPER CITY GAZETTE Wednesday, May 15, 2013 7

Coverage from the Davie Cooper City Gazette

The Gazette

Serving Davie and Cooper City

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013 • VOL. 6 NO. 7

HISTORY OF DANCE IN INDIA

DANCE LESSONS
Nova Southeastern University's Alvin Sherman Library organized a "Bharatanatyam to Bollywood: The Journey of Indian Dance" lecture and demonstration of the history, evolution and current state of Indian dance. Right, Beasy Maniathypampal dances during the event. SEE PHOTOS/MAGNAN MASTIN



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 11

Davie voters approve charter changes, decline to pay school officers

HEATHER CARNEY SUN SENTINEL

Residents said they don't want to increase taxes to place a school resource officer in all of the town's schools, according to election results.

The nonbinding straw ballot question on school resource officers was the last question on the town's mail-in ballot election. About 3,000 people voted.

"A lot of parents came to us right after Sandy Hook; they came and talked to us about how important it was to get school resource officers, so we figured we'd ask them," said council member Susan Starkey. "Clearly, our parents didn't come out to vote."

The town council said that, if a majority of the town voted to pay for a Davie police officer, it would consider raising property taxes to place an officer in each elementary, middle and high school.

Because residents voted not to increase property taxes to pay for

the officer, the town said it will consider assigning one police officer to multiple schools or parking a police car in front of the school to deter crime. Starkey said the town will also talk with the Broward County School Board about paying for the officers.

Voters approved the 12 other questions that amended the town's charter, including when town elections are conducted and how many years council members serve.

Residents voted to extend terms on the council from three years to four years and to eliminate staggered elections so that the entire council will be elected in November. Under the current charter, all town officials are elected in March.

The town council said that moving all elections to November saves the town

continues on 5

Coverage from the Davie Cooper City Gazette