

India Herald

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Indo-American Association named among Houston Cultural Treasures

HOUSTON

Indo-American Association (IAA) proudly presents its 2024 Season celebrating three decades of performing arts and cultural dialogue.

For thirty years, IAA, a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization, has

worked relentlessly to promote Indian arts and culture in GreaterHouston as well as nationally. The organization is now recognized widely as a leader in the community, dedicated to the mission of furthering the art forms of India in North America.

Not only did IAA complete a fantastic season in 2023 that was loved and appreciated by its patrons and supporters, the organization is also ending the year on a high note having been designated a Houston Cultural Treasure by BIPOC Arts Network & Fund.

IAA was also proud to be invited to "Accept a Diwali Resolution from Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Lesley Briones" at the Commissioner's Court.

These accolades were followed by recognition and a celebratory dinner hosted by Consul General D.C. Manjunath and Mrs. Arpana Manjunath, which was attended by the IAA Board.

IAA's exciting 2024 Season includes a slew of diverse performances by exceptional artists that will take Houstonians on a captivating journey through song, dance and passionate storytelling.

IAA's Executive Director, Sheetal Bedi, says, "We are thrilled to announce our 2024 season, of carefully curated and immersive events. Your continued support will empower us to expand our efforts to reach new generations, and our fellow Houstonians of all faiths, colors and leaning."

The season kicks off on January 27, 2024, with a scintillating performance Ballimaaraan by the Piyush Mishra Project, which the Rolling Stone Magazine describes as "playful, thought-provoking and folk-fusion driven."

Subscribe to our new season at iaahouston.org



IAA board members with the Consul-General of India: Atul Bhatia, left, Alpana Loyalka, (rear), Mrs. Arpana Manjunath, Consul-General D.C. Manjunath, Sheetal Bedi, Veena Kaul, Radhika J. Day, Aparna Asthana, and Leela Krishnamurthi, far left.



Young and budding Bollywood dancers show their talent at the Moksh Community Arts' 15th Production Dil se Naach 2023, Chalti ka naam gaadi- Badhte Raho... at the Berry Center in Spring on Dec.2. See Story and pictures on page 8-9. Photo by NAVIN MEDIWALA.



May your home be filled with good vibes and an intensively positive aura as we celebrate the Diwali festival.

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Moksh Community Arts presents *Dil Se Naach*



Guest of Honor Cissy Segall Davis, right, Managing Director of Miller outdoor Theater, with Mahesh Mahubani, CEO of Moksh Community Arts. Photos by NAVIN MEDIWALA.

It's that festive time of the year, to herald a celebration of the arts. The sounds of excitement emanated from backstage, like a scene from the movie called life, where people of ages 5 to 65 all came together to share their joy of dance, a collective celebration in progress.

A very special year indeed, celebrating a decade of Naach and six decades of Mahesh Mahubani its artistic director.

Moksh Community Arts featured a cross culture of artists from diverse genres of performance art in Dil se Naach 2023, Chalti ka naam gaadi- Badhte Raho... on Dec. 2, at the Berry center, Spring, Texas

The Show opened to an exquisite acapella piece by Opera singer Jamila Piracci accompanied by three dancers from Naach Houston, played as angels, against a heavenly backdrop projected on a wide LED screen, transporting the audiences to a magical realm, created by master craftsman, The Artistic Director of Naach Houston Mahesh Mahubani, who also conceived choreographed and directed the 90 minute production.

This Project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The next performance was an exquisite fashion show, showcasing American gowns,

celebrating Style, Culture & fashion directed by Anil Rana from Haute Couture Fashions. Array of Latin beauties graced the stage as every outfit was a gem in itself.

This year Moksh was honoring Cissy Segall Davis, the managing Director of the miller outdoor theatre 2008- 2023, bringing world class entertainment free of cost to the audiences of Houston.

Mahesh introduced Cissy, "Cissy is my friend, mentor and guide, she has nurtured my creative process and helped me in the formation of Moksh Community Arts, and she is responsible for providing amazing opportunities to the students at Naach Houston giving them

a platform at the epic Miller Outdoor Theatre that celebrated 100 years, this year."

Her intro was followed by a short film, with the Mayor of Houston, Sylvester Turner paying tribute to Cissy and her achievements and priceless contribution to the field of performing arts.

After the film the dancers of Naach honored Cissy with a token of appreciation and Mahesh asked Cissy to say a few words. Cissy said to Mahesh "You have been a friend, and have been so proud to watch you develop,

to watch you soar, and see you put your heart and soul into nurturing local talent, and create amazing work"

Naach Houston and its dancers brought the house down with its infectious energy and mesmerizing performance, 90 mins of sheer dance and celebration.

The Audiences cheered, applauded, encouraged all the amazing performers, the show concluded with the curtain call celebrating every dancer in the show, lastly Mahesh Graced the stage for its final curtain call with the Adult performance

team, The Lighting, Sound and Visuals were designed and created By Mahesh Mahubani. The Photography was captured by ace Photographer Navin Mediwala capturing the soul of every dance in his captivating pictures.

Naach Houston classes re-opens for 2024 on Jan 8th, Enrollments for the classes is currently open at www.naach-houston.com

Photo collage by NAVIN MEDIWALA

