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भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

Einladung zum Vortrag

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The Pioneers of Indian Dance who Placed it on the World Map

Vortrag

Donnerstag, 16. Juni 2016

18:30

Ort:

Seminarraum 1,
Institut für Südasiens-, Tibet- und
Buddhismuskunde,
Universitätscampus,
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2.7
1090 Wien

Classical Indian dance started making new strides from the 1930s, when **Rukmini Devi** established *Kalakshetra* in Chennai in 1936, **Uday Shankar** established the *Uday Shankar Culture Centre* at Almora in the Himalayas, Madame **Menaka** established *Nrityalayam* in Khandala, a hill station near Mumbai, and the poet **Vallathol Narayan Menon** established *Kerala Kala Mandalam* at Cheruthooruthy in Kerala in 1933. Gurudev **Rabindranath Tagore** had already established *Shantiniketan* in the 1920s and introduced Manipuri and Kathakali dances in his dance-dramas in 1930s.

Indian dance owes its renaissance to these pioneers. This illustrated talk (including film clips) will focus on the following dancers.

Uday Shankar (1900-1977) was born in Udaipur (Rajasthan). His father Shyam Shankar Sastri was a minister at the court of Jhalawar state and was a lawyer as well as a great Sanskrit scholar. Of his six children Uday Shankar was the eldest, and world-renowned sitar player Ravi Shankar the youngest. From childhood Uday Shankar had shown love for painting and theatre and used to act in children's plays and also dance. But he had no training in dance, except that he had seen female dancers performing Rajasthani dances and some Kathak dances at the royal court. He was sent to learn painting at the Royal College of Arts in London when his father was in London for some legal work. Uday Shankar eventually met the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova who asked him to join her ballet company in order to choreograph Hindu dances. His dance with Anna Pavlova in „Radha Krishna“ was a great success at Covent Garden, London, in 1923.

Ram Gopal was born in 1912 in Bangalore. His father was a Rajput lawyer and his mother a Burmese beauty. Ram Gopal met La Meri, a dancer from America who came to study Bharatanatyam in Bangalore. When she saw young and handsome Ram Gopal she invited him to join her company for a tour of South East Asia. Ram Gopal was later helped by a Polish journalist who took him to London. Ram returned to India and studied Bharatanatyam under the great Pandanallur Meenakshisunderam Pillai and Kathakali under Kunju Kurup in Kerala Kala Madalam. After that he formed his dance troupe and went to London and presented his classical Bharatanatyam and Kathakali dances winning laurels.