



To Celebrate International Women's Week

SHRUTI FOUNDATION

presents

PANKH: Flights of Freedom

A performance by
Dancer Geeta Chandran

and

The "SHE" Award

*Saluting Her Endeavour for
Outstanding Service
to Society and Humanity*

Tuesday, 1 March 2011, 7 p.m.

Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi

RSVP: SF Coordinator - shrutifoundation.info@gmail.com

Phone: 011 26252532, +919958781912



Photo by Robyn Beeche

It is ironic that the right to personhood continues to challenge the women's movement in South Asia. Emphasizing women's right to identity, dancer Geeta Chandran in this performance presents new narratives that bring alive the dilemmas of reaching personhood.

Presented through traditional lyrics, contemporary poems and even an inspirational short story (by Marathi author Asha Bage) PANKH, according to the dancer, attempts to challenge social mores that repeatedly attempt to confine women to an identity of VERBS. "Her" inner desire to become a NOUN, becomes the recurring leitmotif of PANKH.

Star dancer and celebrity performer **Geeta Chandran** has imprinted classical Bharatanatyam with her own unique dance persona, which she says came from her intense and terrific training over decades. Her ability to merge the learning from different Gurus and make the dance her own statement is something that is applauded both by serious rasikas of classical dance and the admiring public. Geeta has achieved this by expanding the classical repertoire of her dance and bringing to it new forms of musical, poetic and rhythmic richness.

Her contemporary insights into the potential of performance as an agent of societal change has led her to evolve a serious body of work that spotlights the artist as a change-maker working at the vortex of society. This dance activism has won her equal praise, and Geeta is well-known for her association with philanthropic causes, and she has presented innumerable performances to raise funds for worthy social causes. She is most especially identified with gender issues, and her dance addresses a vast range of gender-related issues from female feticide, marriage and dowry, women and war, women in communal situations and women as victims of human trafficking and terrorism.

But beyond Bharatanatyam and Carnatic music Geeta is celebrated for her diverse accomplishments in the fields of television, video and film, theatre, choreography, dance education, dance activism and dance-issue journalism.

Founder-President of Natya-Vriksha, an organization devoted to promoting Bharatanatyam, Geeta Chandran is also Artistic Director of the Natya Vriksha Dance Company, known for the high aesthetic quality of its group presentations.

A widely respected role model for the young generation, Geeta is on the Board of reputed educational institutions of India, both schools and colleges, and of prestigious Government panels and Boards. She engages in the widest range of dance-related activities: performing, teaching, conducting, singing, collaborating, organizing, writing and speaking to new youth audiences.

Geeta has authored a book **SO MANY JOURNEYS**, an intensely personal collection of her writings narrating her engagement with Bharatanatyam (Published by Niyogi Books, India).

In recognition of her vast and varied contribution to Bharatanatyam, Geeta was awarded the prestigious national award -- the Padma Shri -- in 2007 by the President of India Bharat Ratna Shri Abdul Kalam.

SHRUTI FOUNDATION (SF) is a non-profit organization, registered under Sections 12A and 80G of the income tax act, and works towards human empowerment and sustainable development. It is concerned about the state of education, gender issues and health care in India and other parts of the world, which often lacked inclusiveness and holism in their perspectives. The facets of SF's action are Research, Experimentation, Education and Application of knowledge for training of aptitudes, faculties and skills. The foundation initiatives and projects seek to revisit and re-orient educational and developmental paradigms through modern in order to empower underprivileged women and youth, address socio-economic and gender issues, encourage cultural connectivity, multi-levelled environmental care and wellness, global peace, as well as providing relief to the poor and empowering women and other disadvantaged sections of society help reduce inequalities and poverty, and encourage sustainable human development for a resurgent world society.

Key Initiatives of Shruti Foundation

- **WE-ASC Movement for Education:** An initiative to facilitate change in Education pedagogy and educational contents and systems.
- **Bachpan Bonding Global Partnership Project:** The international child-to-child global exchange programme.
- **Shakti to Shakti:** Women's empowerment program – **World, Women and Wellness**, a project for wellness skills training and economic empowerment. This program is being launched in various countries for women from disadvantaged groups.
- **Sutra-** The Shruti Foundation quarterly research journal for education, psychology, traditional sciences and systems, health and consciousness.
- **Shruti Foundation International Lecture Series:** Facilitating knowledge and awareness on holistic ways of Knowledge and empowerment
- **NEIV-** The New Enterprising Indigenous Vision initiative for education, empowerment, health and sustainable development.
- **Nada Healing Workshops:** Indic sciences of vibration for purification, healing and self empowerment.
- **Shuddham:** The Health and Safe Environment project.
- **Shrutinada Films:** An audio-visual initiative which researches and creates documentary films and other audio visual materials focused on empowerment and sustainable development.
- **Course Development:** Courses, Curriculums, faculty training and workshops on traditional knowledge Systems.

Shruti Foundation is now launching its operative branches in South Africa and other parts of the world in 2011-2012.

Contact: shrutifoundation.info@gmail.com

Phone: Main office: 011-26252532, 011-26259209

Event manager: Sanjay Goel : +91 9958781912

For contributions:

Through Cheque/demand draft- in favour of "Shruti Foundation"

Online information and contributions: - www.shrutifoundation.org