

Hindu Dancers Come Up With Some Surprises

By LOUIS R. GUZZO

Arts and Entertainment Editor, The Times

Before the end of the month, the inscrutable East should be considerably less so to this World's Fair city...

The first, the Uday Shankar Hindu Dancers and Musicians, opened a week's engagement last night at the Opera House.

The fascinating program included a few surprises. One expected and saw intricate movement steeped in tradition and strange to Western eyes...

Most of the revelations came with Shankar's opening selection, called "Khada" or "Food," in which the entire company participated.

WITH MAXIMUM subtlety and imagination, Shankar created "Khada" as a pungent commentary on the conflict between the old world and the new.

It is perhaps typical of Indian philosophy that he chose to end his conflict with a compromise acceptable to both sides.

In "Khada," a happy farm village interrupts its work to listen to a city-educated young man, who proposes the construction of a factory.

In time, the villagers become slaves to their new "civilization." They are automatons, and the manner in which they so represent themselves is uproariously clever.

When the workers eventually revolt, the factory is abandoned. Soon, with the blessings of the Headman and Shankar's new bride, the villagers recognize some mechanization can be a good thing...

The compromise is characterized ingeniously with a tractor imitated by men, even to the hum of the motor.

As a sidelight, it is significant to note that one of the dance steps executed by the men as automatons looked like the grandfather of the American twist.

TWO OTHER STORY DANCES were offered by the Shankar company, one a profoundly romantic tale of lovers misunderstood by villagers...

The second, "The Great Renunciation," provided a luminous example of the Hindu's ability to describe momentous events in incisive but restrained gesture.

Shankar himself displayed his unparalleled art in "Indra," a traditional sketch in which the Supreme Being gives the gods a lesson in the dance.

The eye disbelieves, but it is no illusion. Shankar is speaking terms with every muscle and nerve.

Equally distinctive were Amala Shankar in a depiction of the soul of woman professing love for the Lord of the Heavens and Meena Nandi and Kabita Bakshi in a frolicking dance with imaginary bouncing balls.

To the Western eye, Hindu dance and the cryptic language of the fingers and hands might be labeled pantomime, rather than dance.

Pulitzer Winner



PLAYHOUSE READING: Theodore Roethke, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and poet in residence at the University of Washington, will read from his works...

Brown to Have One-Man Show

A one-man show of recent paintings, drawings and other works by Gordon S. Brown will open with a preview Sunday afternoon and evening at the Woodside Gallery.

The preview will be from 3 o'clock to 9. The show will continue at the gallery through November 1.

A Radio KVI & N.W. Releasing Event On Stage Moore TONIGHT 8:30 P.M.

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Film Series Will Open At Library Tonight

A series of complimentary film programs will open this evening at the Seattle Public Library.

The films to be shown in the series are recent additions to the library's collection of more than 1,000 short subjects.

Each of the weekly programs will be shown twice, at 8 o'clock Wednesday evenings and again at 12:10 Thursday afternoons.

THE SHOWINGS this evening and tomorrow will include three films, "The Gray Trout," "A Date With British Columbia" and "Alleg Monorail."

Next week, "Animals of the Ice Ages," "Cascade Mountains" and "The Fossil Story" will be shown on Wednesday and Thursday.

The October 17 and 18 program will feature "The Philippines Today," "The Totem Pole Across the Ocean" and "The Dutch Way."

ON OCTOBER 24 and 25, "The Dropout" and "The Boeing Challenge to Education" will be shown.

Final films in this month's series will be "Copper: The Oldest Modern Metal" and "Farewell, Pony," on October 31 and November 1.

Admission to each program is complimentary. The films may be borrowed by library-card holders with adequate projection equipment.

Admission to the concert is free. Beethoven's Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano and Brahms' Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Cello will be featured on the program.

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Program Announced For Cornish School Concert

Three contemporary sonatas and a Schumann piano quartet will be offered at a concert at 8:30 o'clock Saturday evening at the Cornish Theater.

Instrumentalists at the complimentary program will be members of the school's music faculty.

Lockrem Johnson, pianist and director of the music department, and William Bailey will offer Copland's Sonata for Violin and Piano.

Johnson, with Norma Durst, viola, will play Bloch's "Suite Hebraique" for Viola and Piano, and Johnson and Don Bushell will offer Shostakovich's Sonata for Cello and Piano.

The four together will play Schumann's Quartet in E Flat, Opus 47.

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Water Color Exhibition To Open at Frye Museum

An exhibition of 50 paintings from the American Water Color Society's 95th annual show will open October 14 at the Frye Museum.

The traveling exhibition features paintings that won awards in the society's New York competition. The show will remain at the museum through November 4.

Presently on display are exhibitions of contemporary and classic oil paintings and contemporary water colors, many of which are by Northwest artists.

These shows will remain at the museum through October 12. Hours are from 10 to 5 o'clock Monday through Saturday and from noon to 6 Sundays.

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