



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 22, 2009

### GODS, DEMONS AND YOGIS

*Music, Dance and Wisdom*

8:00 pm Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – ArtSpring Theatre on SaltSpring Island

VANCOUVER – With its script and myth adaptation by Anusha Fernando in collaboration with Adrienne Wong, **GODS, DEMONS & YOGIS** brings together some of Vancouver's finest talent in a unique interdisciplinary performance blending the Indian classical dance of Anusha Fernando with storytelling, martial arts and live music.

"Needless to say, we have been thrilled by the enthusiastic response to this piece's contemporary treatment of traditional material," says Anusha Fernando, Artistic Director of the Shakti Dance Society. This remount of **GODS, DEMONS & YOGIS** includes storytelling by Colleen Lanki, martial arts by Kelly Maclean, and music performed by Neelamjit Dhillon (Tabla, Sitar, Flute), Stefan Cihelka (Tabla and other percussion), David Tsabar (Dhrupad Vocals), and Kalpana Prasad (North Indian Classical Vocal).

Set against the backdrop of three ancient stories from the Indian tradition-- the Churning of the Ocean, the Birth of Ganga, and the Creation of Devi-- **GODS, DEMONS & YOGIS** reflects on what real power is by exploring the unique character of the yogi in Indian thought. The three stories describe the gods and demons in their perpetual struggle for supremacy. Although they each gain power momentarily, their victories never last and inevitably lead to more suffering. The gods and demons live in contrast to the yogi who, by giving up all things, is invincible and at peace. These stories ask the question: What makes the Yogi different? Although ancient tales set in a foreign land, they contain valuable insights into our contemporary situation.

**GODS, DEMONS & YOGIS** has been presented numerous times in Vancouver, as well as on the Sunshine Coast. It was also made into a Radio Play by CBC. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the BC Arts Council, which allows us to share this work with other communities in British Columbia.

Tickets are \$20 each, and are available through the ArtSpring Theatre, by phone (250) 537-2102 or toll free 1-866-537-2102, or online at [www.artspring.ca](http://www.artspring.ca).

The Shakti Dance Society promotes the ancient Classical Indian Dance form of **Bharata Natyam** through performance, production, and teaching, with an emphasis on innovation within tradition. For more information, visit our website [www.shaktidancesociety.com](http://www.shaktidancesociety.com) or follow us on Facebook.

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