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Romani Week at Coventry University

Lanchester Gallery

April 30, 2015

“OPRE ROMA”-Roma Rising

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Title of Piece: ABHANG "Vrindavani Venu" (Bharathanatyam Style)

Performer: Lakshmi Srinivansan

Music: Raga- Bhimplas, Tala – Adi, Composer - Bhanu Dasa, Language – Marathi

Bharathanatyam is a form of Indian classical dance that originated in the temples of Tamil Nadu (Southern part of India). This dance form is the product of various 19th- and 20th-century reconstructions of Sadir, the art of temple dancers called Devadasis. The name Bharatanatyam is a simple derivation from the four most important aspects of dance (in Sanskrit). These are Bhava meaning emotion, Raaga meaning music or melody, Tala meaning rhythm and Natyam meaning Dance. Thus Bharatanatyam is the dance that encompasses music, rhythm and expressional dance or Abhinaya. Bharata Natyam is known for its grace, purity, tenderness, expression and sculptural poses. Lord Shiva is considered the God of this dance form. Today, it is one of the most popular and widely performed dance styles and is practiced by male and female dancers all over the world. The salient features of Bharatanatyam are movements conceived in space mostly either along straight lines or triangles. In terms of geometrical designs, the dancer appears to weave a series of triangles besides several geometrical patterns.

Title of Piece: “Amor Gitano”- originally performed by Alejandro Fernandez and Beyonce

Performed By: Silviya Vasileva

Title of Piece: Farruca

Choreographed By: Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros

Performed By: Barefoot Flamenco Company

Dancers: Natasha Adomako, Melissa Ingles, Trish Martin, Ella Tighe and Viktorija Vinogradova

Title of Piece: Original Piece composed and performed by: David Smith

Note: The songs that I have written are based on Romanian and Slovak folklore.

Title of Piece: “Duen de Casa”

Choreographed and Performed By: Trish Martin

Music: “El Tronco Negro del Faraon”-Manuel Agujetas and “Nuevo Dia”- Lole y Manuel

Note: My piece will be an improvised solo inspired by the Romani Gypsy proverb “you cannot walk straight when the road bends”. My research includes looking at the communities and lifestyle of the Romani people as they struggle against the 'straight way' of conventional life around them. As an improvised piece, I endeavour to embody my research as a reflection of the emotional, physical and psychological state of the Romani people as they appreciate and thrive on the bending road.

Title of Piece: “Sevillanas” Folk Dance

Arranged By: Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros

Performed By: Barefoot Flamenco Company

Dancers: Natasha Adomako, Melissa Ingles, Trish Martin, Ella Tighe and Viktorija Vinogradova

12 count Rhythms Explained By Barefoot Flamenco Class

-INTERMISSION-

Title of Piece: Sojourn

Performer: Natasha Adomako

Music: 'He Lives in you' by Lebo M in Lion King 2: Simba's Pride Soundtrack

Title of Piece: Time to Remember

Performers: Izabella L₁ szay and David Smith

Music: Cand se lasa seara peste Bucuresti (When night is falling over Bucharest)

Title of Piece: Original Piece composed and performed by: David Smith

Note: The songs that I have written are based on Romanian and Slovak folklore.

Title of Piece: “Strivings between me and the other world”

Choreographed and Performed By: Trish Martin

Note: This piece attempts to explore W.E.B. Du Bois' writings of double consciousness and his struggle to synthesize an integrated self out of two conflicting identities; one formed by the individual and the other through a racial lens.

Title of Piece: “This Woman”

Arranged By: Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros

Performed By: Georgia Smith

Note: This Piece is a spoken word original poem called “This Woman” with a Musical Acapella accompaniment, The song is called “Lost & Found” By Lianne La Hava's and performed by myself. The Poem talks about stereotypes and the process of over coming them, self appreciation, integrity and I hope it expresses confidence and a sincere expression of truth . My work was hugely inspired by the research I undertook about the Romany community. As a member of a minority group myself, I feel that we too are widely unrepresented, and I wanted to create awareness and understanding through the democracy and the beauty of Spoken Word.

-3 minute set up break-

Title of Piece: The Apple of my Green Eyes Duration

Director and writer: Irene Sanchez.

Performer: Maria Caballero.

Music: Josh Woods and Ian Todd.

Lighting technician: Ethan Flynn.

Synopsis: The Apple of my Green Eye is an experimental performance piece based on Federico Garcia Lorca's love for Salvador Dali; an exploration of his poetry mixed with Flamenco music and the Gypsy culture from the South of Spain. With the use of organic materials and representative colours of Lorca's universe we aim to embrace the audience and take them into a journey along his passion and feelings. We will give voice and body to this eternal soul that will always remain within us.

Title of Piece: “Tangos” Flamenco Piece

Arranged By: Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros

Performed By: Barefoot Flamenco Company

Dancers: Natasha Adomako, Melissa Ingles, Trish Martin, Ella Tighe and Viktorija Vinogradova

Finale- everyone welcome to take part!!

BIOS:

N a t a s h a

Natasha first discovered her love for dancing between the ages of 6 and 7 leading her to perform in two pantomimes (2003,2004) in the Broadway Theatre with the ‘DnB’ Dance school, South East London. After a leaving the school to focus on academia, she revived her dancing passion at the age of 14 by joining her secondary school's dance team thus leading her to win the award for Runner-up Dancer of the Year in 2009. She continued her love for dancing by studying Dance for GCSE and A Level thus leading her to continue to study ‘Dance Making and Performance’ in Coventry University recently finishing her first year. Her first year was an eventful one, participating in the Conflict Festival in Birmingham (2014), in the Youth Dance Easter Course with Rambert Dance Company (2014) and performed in a Music student's final year piece, ‘The ‘70s Show’. She appreciates different styles of Dance particularly Contemporary, African and has recently found a new love for Flamenco. Taking it to a higher level gives her confidence that she can achieve great things in the future in this field.

A d o m a k o :

Maria Caballero:

Born in 1994 in Valencia (Spain), Maria Caballero graduated from high school and bachelor at the age of 18. Right after it, she started studying in the Superior School of Theatre (E.S.A.D) of Valencia, in the acting course. Maria has worked in several plays and short movies throughout all her career as an actress. Some of the plays are ‘The bold singer’, ‘The public’, ‘Los Figurantes’, ‘Romeo and Juliet’, ‘A Midsummer night's Dream’, ‘IDA: Or the difficulty of Writing an Original Play’, ‘The Crystal's Zoo’...As well as acting for the camera in ‘Rutina’, ‘The Last Clouds’, ‘The Decision’, ‘The bipolar’ and many others. She's been trained in Classical Dance and Contemporary for some years in Maria Alcala School of Dance, Maria Carbonell Danza and KT Studios. Currently,

she is studying a year abroad with ERASMUS scholarship at Coventry University joining the Theatre and Professional Practice course. Here she is working as an actress two Third Year Final Projects and a class production of the Pied Piper.

Leszay Izabella:

Born in Romania in 1987 on the day of music. At 2 years old she moved to Budapest, Hungary and at 19 moved back Bucharest to study Photography and video art. There she made different exhibitions, among the most important was "Sacrificium" which opened at the Cultural Institute of Hungary in 2012 which was about Hungarians in Transylvania and those that are still fighting for their rights, for those communist party values stolen from them in then 1950's. Another exhibition opened in Paris, France in 2009, and in Ancona, Italy she opened a photography exhibition. Since 2007 Izabella has created different performances and has also performed at the Iasi International Performance Festival in 2014. In 2012 she performed at the first french performance in Bucharest which opened at the French Cultural Institute. She is currently a student at Coventry University in Theatre and Professional Practice and is a pioneer of multiculturalism and LGBT rights.

Patricia Martin:

Patricia primarily completed her Higher National Diploma in Dance through Worcester University, which led to her joining a physical theatre company, PointZero in their performance of 'RECYCLE' in Oxford (2012) and Basel, Switzerland (2013). She has since received a First Class BA Honours in Dance Making and Performance from Coventry University where she was invited to perform and volunteer for their 2014 Summer Dancing Festival. During this time, she attended weekly flamenco classes leading to a performance at 'Conflict Festival' (2014) and a Symposium hosted by C-DaRE (2014). Patricia has additionally performed in churches globally including; the Christian festival 'Grapevine' (2011), hosting 10,000 people; 'David's Camp' (2014) held in Germany; and various locations across the United States.

Irene Sanchez:

Irene Sanchez, born in 1993 in Madrid (Spain) is a fourth year student of a double degree in Performing Arts and Media Studies at Universidad Europea de Madrid. At the age of 12, she moved for two years to London to learn English. There, she found out her real passion: be a theatre director

Irene started her career in theatre working as an assistant director for Tamzin Townsend for the 'IX Buero Vallejo Young Theatre Awards' Gala that took place in Teatro Maria Guerrero (Madrid, Spain). After, she worked as a lighting assistant for Baraka Teatro and created and directed her own theatre play 'Poesia en Vispera de Año Nuevo'.

In her third year of University, Irene obtained a scholarship to study a semester abroad at Santa Fe University of Art and Design (Santa Fe, NM - USA) that she could extend for two more semesters. There, she worked as a lighting assistant for 'The Spirit of Uganda' and 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses' and as an assistant stage manager for 'The Den of Theives'. She has also worked as an assistant director and stage manager for the 'Audio Revolution Showcase 2013' produced by Youth Media Project, continuing her work with them as a digital storytelling educator and media production. She is currently studying with ERASMUS scholarship at Coventry University where she joined the Theatre and Professional Practice course. Here, she is working as an actress for a class production of the Pied Piper and as a stage manager for a Third Year Final Project.

David Smith:

David was born in 1994 in Solihull (England) and was educated in the south of England (Oxfordshire). He started playing classical guitar at the age of 6 and progressed from there to become well versed in many styles such as blues, jazz and finger-style. David, at the age of 15, started his career playing for various musical and shows throughout the South of England and the Midlands. These include 'Jesus Christ Superstar' 'Billy Elliot' and 'Return to the forbidden planet'. This then developed this into performing with many different groups and shows which is still continuing. He also has been performing on stage and on camera in acting roles to supplement the performances as well. Currently, David is a music performance student at Coventry university as well as carrying on playing in many groups and for many different shows. He is currently playing in an acoustic duo called the 'Elusive Lions' who are well established in the Coventry and West Midlands area and have done many performances for the university and for many groups linked with the uni. He is very much looking forward to this opportunity as it has allowed him to combine many genres of music in his set as well as integrating the Romani gypsy culture with his own.

Georgia Louise Smith:

My full name is Georgia Louise Smith and I was born in the Winter of January 1994. I grew up in Hertfordshire until I was five years old, before uprooting to Milton Keynes where I began my formal education. After finishing A Levels, moving to Coventry, when I was accepted to study Theatre and professional Practice at Coventry

University. Although I was born in the UK, my dual heritage is from the West Indies and through travelling there frequently, I fell in love with the culture of the islands. As a Theatre student, my passion was to perform, however during the course of the year I've arrived at the idea that I'd love to incorporate Writing and Directing into my Career. As a new Artist, I find my style deeply influenced by spoken word and poetic rhythm, and Caribbean Charisma. In the future I aspire to have my own Theatre Company, touring schools and encouraging other artists in collaborative work.

Silviya Vasileva:

I am a first year Music Performance student and a singer. My mother noticed my passion and eagerness for music at a very young age and decided that I should start having singing lessons. Since then music has always been part of my life. I took up the piano at the age of 10 and recently started playing the guitar, as well. I have visited many festivals and singing competitions and have performed on various stages. I could not imagine my life without music so I decided to keep that flame and study music at uni.

Evening directed by Rosamaria E. Kostic Cisneros who is a Dance Historian and Critic, Roma Scholar, Flamenco Historian and Peace Activist who graduated from the UW-Madison Dance Program and went on to complete her Master's in Dance History and Criticism from UNM-Albuquerque. Rosamaria is a professional dancer, choreographer and qualified teacher, who has lived and danced in various parts of the world and collaborated with many Flamenco greats and other leaders in the Dance field. She has taught throughout Europe and the US at places like UW-Madison, UIUC, Boston Conservatory, Brown University and at various other places in Germany, Spain and Turkey. She is a dance writer who makes regular contributions to Bachtrack Magazine and Flamenco News while also dancing with Protein Dance Co. Rosamaria is involved in various EU funded projects which aims to make education accessible to vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities. She believes that dance and music are great equalisers and can be used to engage and change society, resulting in a more peaceful world.

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