

ELLISON-WHITE BUREAU

Presents

UDAY SHAN KAR

and His HINDU BALLET and MUSICIANS

Saturday, February 26, 1938 — 8:30 P. M.
PORTLAND PUBLIC AUDITORIUM
Season 1937-38 -:- Ninth Attraction

Musical Composition and Direction by
VISHNUDASS SHIRALI

Program

1. MUSICAL PROLOGUE (Raga Bahar).....Ensemble
2. SNANUM.....Simkie, Zohra and Uzra
Three young girls who, while gathering flowers, are troubled by bees; and when they go bathing are suddenly frightened by the sound of approaching footsteps.
3. INDRA.....Uday Shan Kar
According to Vedic tradition, Indra is the God of the Heaven, the Stars, the Clouds, the Thunder, Lightning and Rains. As god supreme, he is here represented in the act of initiating the lesser gods in the perfect art of the dance.
4. HUNTER'S TRAGEDY.....Madhavan
A hunter comes into the forest, searching for prey to appease his hunger, but instead discerns a tiger far away, and, frightened, hides behind a tree. Then the hunter perceives a deer jumping across the forest. He takes the bow from his back and prepares to shoot, stretching the string and pointing the arrow at his prey. Placing his foot on an ant-hill for support, he is fatally bitten by a snake and falls dead.
5. MUSICAL INTERLUDE.....Vishnudass Shirali
(Raga-Adana) (Tabla Taranga)
6. ASTRA PUJA.....Uday Shan Kar and Simkie
Sword games in the north of India, when the arms are worshipped and women place the sign of victory on the foreheads of men.
7. VILASA.....Uday Shan Kar and Zohra
Dance evoking the eternal play of love, desire and abandonment.
8. MOHINI.....Simkie
Mohini, the most beautiful of the Apsaras (celestial dancers), was sent by Brahma to seduce and distract the king Rukmangada from his austerities. While Rukmangada is at the hunt, Mohini enters the forest and dances to captivate the heart of the king.
9. KARTIKEYYA.....Uday Shan Kar
The handsome and heroic son of Shiva, born at the prayer of the gods to command the army of Suras (gods) and slay the demon Taraka, comes to make obeisance to his parents and the other gods, and obtains their blessing before going to fight the demon. Kartikeyya then summons his chariot and rides at the head of his army to the region where Taraka dwells. Finding no one there he roars out his challenge in insulting and derogatory terms. With confidence born of strength and a smile of scorn he awaits the coming of Taraka.
10. MUSICAL INTERLUDE.....Dulal Sen
(Raga-Kaphi) (Sarode Solo)
11. HARVEST DANCE.....
Uday Shan Kar, Simkie, Zohra, Uzra,
Madhavan, Rabindra, Sisir Sovan, Nagen Dey
Boys and girls rejoice in song and dance after the harvest, recalling the sowing, reaping, threshing, husking, sifting, loading and transporting of rice. Suddenly, one of the boys, possessed of an evil spirit, falls unconscious. The young people, terrified, summon a witch doctor who succeeds in exorcising the evil spirit, and when the boy is revived, all resume their merry-making.
12. TANDAVA NRITTYA.....Uday Shan Kar, Simkie, Zohra, Uzra, Madhavan
A dance of archaic character. The "Mudras" (symbolic gestures) are used, instead of words, to express the ideas and emotions.

STORY OF THE DANCE

The drama opens with the chorus lauding Shiva and his divine wife, Sati. Shiva is the God of Creation and Destruction. His dance creates and destroys the universe. Sati, who symbolizes Conjugal Fidelity, dies of the grief she suffered when her father mortally offended Shiva. Shiva, in deep affliction, retires into solitude and falls into a state of meditation, so that all creation is at a standstill.

But Sati, through her profound devotion, succeeds in being reborn and returns to Parvati, who symbolizes the Earth, and as such she desires that creation continue. Every day she approaches Shiva and tries to rouse him. Meanwhile the earth has been threatened by Gajasura, the elephant-demon. One day, encountering Parvati and seeing her young and beautiful, he decides to abduct her. He displays his power and strength before her. Parvati, frightened, repulses him, but when he is about to carry her off by force, she throws herself at the feet of Shiva, imploring his aid. Shiva awakes and the earth trembles as he challenges Gajasura. With divine weapons they fight; they hurl at each other the five elements: the Winds, the Lightning, the forces of the Earth, the Atmosphere and of the Sky. Shiva employs even the serpents of his arms which, in the air, seem to transform themselves into a mortal wind. Parvati, who also represents the Reservoir of Energy, stands valiantly by, reinforcing her divine mate with invincible weapons. Finally Shiva, taking the club given him by Vishnu, kills Gajasura and, stripping the hide off the demon, dances an ecstatic dance of triumph with Parvati. Then he dances the world and its movement, and he dances his admiration for Parvati. But, having delivered the earth of its evil forces, he shows his determination to return to his meditation and to his thoughts of Sati. Parvati, desolate, begins her penance that she may find eternal grace in the eyes of Shiva.

Explanatory brochures on Hindu music and rhythm and illustrated souvenir programs are on sale in the lobby. . . . Shan Kar and his musicians make Victor records. . . . Exclusive management for the Shan Kar Ballet: Hurok Attractions. . . . Booking direction: NBC Artists Service, New York.

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