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Dance sans barriers

By Mithra Suresh



Imagine the French dancing ballet to Kuchipudi music. This was what happened at 'Melange of Dances', held at Alliance Francaise. Performed by Maia Bouthors, Koka Vijayalakshmi, Haleem Shaik, the idea behind the show was to also promote racial and religious tolerance. The show began with a welcome dance by Kuchipudi dancers Haleem and Vijayalakshmi.

The dancers said that their first half represented classical themes, such as the latter's solo performance depicting Goddess Durga. Maia's solo followed soon after, the theme being religious and about Mary crying for Christ following His crucifixion.

The second part of the show highlighted not a fusion but a melange with both schools of dance borrowing styles from Kuchipudi and Ballet to create a new, vigorous form where they were mimicking each others' steps without changing the basic movements.

While the Kuchipudi dancers were in their traditional attire, Maia wanted to emphasise that it was not traditional Ballet that she performed. "Since I wanted to integrate Kuchipudi into my steps, I chose contemporary Ballet where the movements are not so rigid and do not need the pointe shoes. So I can dance barefoot."

She also explained that the show was meant to also highlight that dance is meant to be fun, and not restricted by rules. Vijayalakshmi added, "And that is why we have three dancers of three different religions."

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