

Melange of dances enthral audience



Haleem Shaik, Maia Bouthors and Koka Vijayalakshmi share a lighter moment before their performance on Sunday. —

Staff Reporter

It's a tribute to the Indian and French classical dances, says the danseuses

GUNTUR: What happens when a French student, who has mastered ballerina and western contemporary dance forms, meets two Indian dancers well versed in Kuchipudi dance form? Well, the result is a seamless fusion of western and Indian classical dance forms, which breaks into a delightful 'Mélange of Dances' – a combination of Kuchipudi and French Contemporary Dances.

As the three dancers, Maia Bouthors, Koka Vijayalakshmi and Haleem Shaik performed on the serene precincts of Sri Venkateswara Swamy Devasthanam, the people of Guntur were treated to a memorable show, an exquisite blend of classical Indian and French dance forms.

The programme began with a welcome dance, followed by individual performances by Maia and Vijayalakshmi and then the symphony started. With the graceful and lithe movements of Ballerina dance combining effortlessly with the classical artistic expression displayed in Kuchipudi, the audiences were treated to a musical and dance extravaganza for over an hour.

The ferocity of Durga Matha performed by Vijayalakshmi was in contrast to the soulful depiction of Vivaldi Marie, mother of the Christ crying near the cross by Maia.

In a tête-à-tête with The Hindu earlier in the day, the trio shared their passion for dance and the exciting journey they had over the last three months performing the unique dance in various parts of the country.

"Art has no boundaries and the Kuchipudi dance has all the flexibility and freedom of choice to try various combinations. The 'Melange of Dance' is a tribute to both Indian and French classical dance," Ms. Vijayalakshmi, smiles as she settles down in a chair, flanked by Maia and Haleem, who take a break from the practice.

"The dances are so different yet they are bound by similar rules. If the ballerina is performed to the accompaniment of symphony, Kuchipudi has rhythm," Maia says brushing her tresses off her shoulder. Wearing a crushed black skirt and short shirt, she seemed to be enjoying every moment in India.