

**Lata Pada's Sampradaya Dance Creations and
Sampradaya Dance Academy
Celebrate 25 years!
2015 Season Announced**

TORONTO (April 8, 2015) –**Sampradaya** proudly announced its **25th anniversary season** today at a special launch event at its **Sampradaya Theatre** in Mississauga featuring founder and Artistic Director **Lata Pada** who welcomed the audience along with **Dr. Lalitha Shankar**, Sampradaya Dance Creations Board Chair and **Savita Junnarkar**, Sampradaya Dance Academy Board Member.

Guest speakers included **Anu Vittal**, Executive Director of the Mississauga Arts Council and **Dinesh Sachdev**, Founder/Executive Director of FILMI Toronto. As well, a 25th anniversary congratulatory video greeting was shown from acclaimed actor **Kabir Bedi**, who starred in Sampradaya's production of *TAJ* at Luminato in 2011 and again throughout its Canadian tour in 2013.

For a quarter century, accomplished dancer and choreographer Lata Pada has steered professional dance company **Sampradaya Dance Creations** – alongside **Sampradaya Dance Academy** – to reimagine and nurture the rich tradition of bharatanatyam, a classical South Asian dance form. In June of 2012, Sampradaya expanded its studio space in Mississauga to include a theatre, a significant milestone for the company, that has become a community hub for South Asian arts.

For its twenty-fifth anniversary season, **Sampradaya Dance Creations** announced a year packed with several unique events, two of which take place during South Asian Heritage Month in May, including its mainstage season event at Harbourfront Centre's Fleck Dance Theatre, *nirantara – beyond space and time*. Other highlights include a **performance honouring India's Prime Minister** in April at Ricoh Coliseum; the third annual **Children's Film Festival** at Sampradaya Theatre in partnership with FILMI in May; *Beyond Borders*, a three-day national dance symposium in July in Mississauga; planning for a tour of *nirantara* to India for next season and more. More events are outlined below.

In conjunction with Sampradaya Dance Creations, **Sampradaya Dance Academy** also celebrates its **25th anniversary**. Sampradaya proudly announced that the Academy is in the process of creating an agreement with York University's Dance Program for the 2016-2017 academic year that will see graduates from Sampradaya's Professional Training in bharatanatyam program access credits towards their undergraduate degree in the dance program at York. This is an exciting and unprecedented development for South Asian dance in Canada. Sampradaya Dance Academy also presents its annual student recital *One World, Our World* on **June 14** at Lester B. Pearson Theatre in Brampton.

Sampradaya's creative works bridge the vibrant continuum of traditional and contemporary dance. Successfully forging a far-reaching path of artistic excellence, the company is recognized for its inter-cultural collaborations and productions that reflect the diversity of a contemporary world. For tickets and information for all events, visit www.sampradaya.ca

More details and highlights for the 25th Anniversary Season are outlined below.

SAMPRADAYA DANCE CREATIONS – 25th Anniversary Season:

April 15 – Sampradaya Dance Creations has been invited to perform in a showcase **honouring the visit of India's Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi**, at Ricoh Coliseum in Toronto.

April 17 - Sampradaya's Board of Directors in partnership with An Affair With Art hosts **Kreative Kaleidoscopes**, an elegant evening of creativity, cocktails and canapés. This fundraising event for Sampradaya Dance Creations' 25th anniversary year takes place at 7pm at Sampradaya Theatre and features a wide-ranging collection of contemporary works from such artists as Dr. Lalitha Shankar, M.F. Husain, Jamini Roy, Jatin Das, Thota Vaikuntham and S.H. Raza on offer.

May 3 - In partnership with FILMI, Sampradaya presents the **Children's Film Festival** at Sampradaya Theatre – the third annual presentation of this family-friendly festival dedicated to showcasing excellence in South Asian films and artists. The festival curates a series of short films, from animations to documentaries, that speak to children and youth across all cultures and ages.

May 21-23 - For its mainstage 25th anniversary event, Sampradaya presents *nirantara – beyond space and time* at Harbourfront Centre's Fleck Dance Theatre. Visually and aurally compelling, Lata Pada's bharatanatyam-based work explores worlds known and unknown, where space and time are interwoven into a continuum, perpetual and elusive. *nirantara* features a stunning dance ensemble performing to live music composed and performed by the acclaimed versatile pianist Anil Srinivasan and the superbly talented Carnatic vocalist Sikkil Gurucharan (both from India) along with Aruna Narayan Kalle, the reputable Toronto-based sarangi artist.

July 24-26 - Sampradaya presents a three-day national dance symposium, *Beyond Borders*, at Sampradaya Theatre and Meadowvale Theatre in Mississauga, ON. The symposium will focus on new opportunities for a new generation of artists working in South Asian dance across Canada. The event includes panel sessions, workshops and dancefilm screenings as well as a showcase featuring emerging and mid-career artists and a performance by international soloist Malavika Sarukkai (India). This landmark event also honours Lata Pada's mentor and teacher, Guru K. Kalyanasundaram.

November - Sampradaya presents *Horizon Series*, a performance series for talented emerging artists trained in various classical South Asian artforms at Sampradaya Theatre. Dates and artists TBC.

December 2015 - January 2016 – A significant highlight of its 25th Anniversary, Sampradaya is planning to tour *nirantara – beyond space and time* to five cities in India.

SAMPRADAYA DANCE ACADEMY – 25th Anniversary:

In conjunction with Sampradaya Dance Creations, **Sampradaya Dance Academy** also celebrates its **25th anniversary**. Under the direction of Lata Pada, the Sampradaya Dance Academy is a premiere dance training institution recognized internationally for its excellence in bharatanatyam training.

During its 25th anniversary year, Sampradaya Dance Academy significantly adds to the esteem in which it is held with an unprecedented milestone for South Asian dance in Canada. The Academy is entering the process of creating an Articulated Agreement with York University's Dance Program which will be launched in the 2016-2017 academic year. This agreement will acknowledge the Professional Training in bharatanatyam and graduates from our program will access credits towards their Undergraduate Degree in Dance at York. This is truly a validation of Sampradaya Dance Academy's excellence in its *bharatanatyam* training. Sampradaya Dance Academy will also present its annual recital *One World, Our World* on **June 14** at Lester B. Pearson Theatre in Brampton.

For tickets and information for all events, visit www.sampradaya.ca.

BACKGROUND

Lata Pada:

Lata Pada is the Founder and Artistic Director of **Sampradaya Dance Creations**, an award winning company at the forefront of South Asian dance in Canada. She also founded the **Sampradaya Dance Academy**, Canada's premiere *bharatanatyam* training organization. Lata Pada is a 2010 recipient of the Order of Canada and has the distinction of being the first South Asian artist to receive this honour. She has also received the 2011 Pravasi Bharatiya Saman from the President of India for her outstanding contribution to the arts of India in Canada. She has also received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and has been inducted into the inaugural Legend's Row of the City of Mississauga. Ms. Pada holds a Masters in Dance from York University and is an Adjunct Professor in the Graduate Program of Dance at York University. She has received the 2012 Chalmers Foundation Senior Fellowship from the Ontario Arts Council to research the performance traditions of the Ramayana in Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia.

Sampradaya Dance Creations:

Sampradaya Dance Creations is a professional dance company rooted in the rich tradition bharatanatyam, a classical South Asian dance form. Founded in 1990 by Artistic Director **Lata Pada**, accomplished dancer and choreographer, the Company's creative works attempts to bridge the vibrant continuum of traditional and contemporary dance. Sampradaya has successfully forged a path of artistic excellence that today enjoys a far-reaching presence. The Company is recognized for its inter-cultural collaborations and dance productions that reflect the vibrant diversity of a contemporary world.

Sampradaya drew the attention of the dance community with *Revealed By Fire* (2000), a deeply powerful piece that *NOW Magazine* named as one of the top performances of the decade. In 2011, Sampradaya created *TAJ* (commissioned by the Luminato Festival), the most ambitious, large-scale production for the company to date – a dance-theatre show which starred leading international actors Kabir Bedi and Lisa Ray. The production subsequently travelled across Canada to seven cities (Mississauga, Kingston, Sault Ste. Marie, Gatineau, Markham, Edmonton and Banff). In 2012, Sampradaya presented *Alchemy*, comprising three works – *Bridges*, *Rising* and *Stealth* – in one evening choreographed and performed by various artists (garnering two Dora nominations and one win). A leader in South Asian dance development, the company has also introduced important initiatives such as DanceIntense (2009-2011) and ChoreoIntense (2012) that have nurtured and supported the development of future professional dancers. The Company has maintained a strong national and international profile through its tours. It has grown over the years into an active and vibrant organization leading the development of South Asian dance in Canada.

Sampradaya Dance Academy:

Established in 1990, **Sampradaya Dance Academy** is a premiere dance training institution recognized for its excellence in the training of bharatanatyam technique, repertoire and rhythm theory. Under the direction of Lata Pada, the Academy is the first South Asian dance institution in North America to be affiliated with ISTD (Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing) in England, an international dance examination organization, and prepares students for several levels of the ISTD examinations. The Academy is recognized and supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage as an important national training institution with a professional training program that incorporates vocational training for dancers. The Academy prepares dancers for their *arangetrams* – full-length solo graduation recitals performed with a music ensemble. After the completion of their *arangetrams*, graduates are admitted into the Apprentice Training program leading to the professional performance activities of the dance company, Sampradaya Dance Creations. The Academy's senior students perform regularly in community events and participate in arts education workshops. The Academy also maintains a resource library and documentation centre with a large collection of books, audio and video material of India's performing and visual arts.

Sampradaya Theatre:

In June of 2012, Sampradaya launched **Sampradaya Theatre** (located in the Sampradaya complex at 3250 Ridgeway Drive, Unit #4 in Mississauga) with generous project support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Department of Canadian Heritage, as well as a number of private sector donors. A community hub for South Asian arts, the multi-purpose studio and theatre space with retractable seating for 93 offers a warm and intimate setting. Equipped with professional quality and thoughtfully designed lighting and sound infrastructure this new space proudly boasts the potential to be transformed from a lecture space into a stunning performance space. This facility expansion has allowed the Company to move forward with programming its own performance series for emerging artists which has been named the Horizon Series. Sampradaya has also continued to bring in international artists from around the world through its Kalangan Series – A World of South Asian Arts program. The facility is also rentable for those in the community looking for a space for an event – film screenings, theatre performances and dance graduations have taken place there. The space provides the opportunity to bring together the community to celebrate arts and culture and truly become a hub for South Asian arts.