

Presented By

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REPORT

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RATH YATRA

Holi Mahotsav 2011



Holi Mahotsav the grand festival of friendship and harmony celebrates culture, colours and folk and fun. This day is specially chosen to forgive 'foes' and forget old differences to become friends again. People from all castes and religions come together to enjoy the spirit of Holi. It heralds the arrival of spring and new harvest. In India during Holi days one can see colours of joy everywhere. People rub 'gulal' and 'abeer' on each others' faces and cheer up saying, "bura na maano Holi hai".

Just thinking of Holi Mahotsav fills our heart with extreme joy and happiness. Holi Mahotsav the grand festival of friendship and harmony celebrates culture, colours and folk and fun. Holi heralds the arrival of spring and new harvest. The festival has an ancient origin and celebrates the triumph of 'good' over 'bad'. The colourful festival bridges the social gap and renews sweet relationships among people and the communities. The colourful festival of Holi is celebrated on Phalgun Purnima which comes in February end or early March. Phalgun arrives with the promise of warm days and new life. Spring is the season of rejuvenation and rebirth. The earth discards its winter gloom and begins to blossom again. As if to mark this change, Holi flings colour into Indian landscape and invites the celebration of life. The colourful festival bridges the social gap and renews sweet relationships. On this day, people hug and wish each other 'Happy Holi'.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia has been celebrating this festival of colours and culture in Sydney for the past 8 years. In the 9th year of this festival we decided to celebrate Holi in Australia in a most prominent location constantly visited by people from every community. Our obvious choice was Darling Harbour where flow of people never stops and we wanted it to be free for everyone to join in the festivities. This year we are celebrating Holi Mahotsav over two days of festivities at Tumbalong Park. Visitors could enjoy the performances and the delicious Indian vegetarian food stalls and craft stalls in Tumbalong Park. The stalls during the Holi Mahotsav pep up the festival adding variety to the event.

The festivities of two days started on Saturday 19th of March. It was celebrated with spiritual extravaganza, the highlight being Rath Yatra (the journey of the hand-pulled Chariot of Lord Jagannātha) through the busy streets of Sydney, culminating into Darling harbour and staying at Tumbalong Park, courtesy of ISKCON Sydney our partner in peace and spirituality. ISKCON also provided the Holi Fire to celebrate the exorcism of evil and the conquest of good. And of course there were many dances and musical performances, which entertained the public.





Nevertheless the many rain and showers we had to take on Saturday, the beautiful music and spectacles offered by many groups kept the audience grooving and filled our hearts with the contagious Indian and other musical beats. We want to say thank you to the following groups that joined us in Holi Mahotsav and offered some wonderful spectacles which entertained all the persons present at Tumbalong Park on Saturday: Edo and Jo Kirtan Group, M.K.U.D Ilinden, Debapriya Adhikary & Samanwaya Sarkar, Indian Dance Center, Nandini Krishna, Kurbat The Band, MKF, Bukhuchuluun, Wadaiko Rindo, Tokyo Love-In and Bollywood Downunder. Other groups that would have joined us on Saturday evening, but were cancelled due to the heavy rain fall and safety reasons are Platinum Dholis together with Tantra Nights, Lost in Kansas, Chaitra Ravishankar, Element V and Sher Domination. Several of the groups were guest artists especially welcomed from India. These were Padamshri Bharatnatyam dancer Nandini Krishna, courtesy Priyadarshini Academy and internationally renowned Debapriya and Samanavaya.

In honour with Harmony Day, celebrated around Australia on 21 March, Holi Mahotsav 2011 dedicated Saturday to Harmony day with international performances. Holi Mahotsav is a place of abundance, forgiveness, neutrality, and wisdom, a perfect environment for music to live and grow. Holi Mahotsav morphed itself on Saturday into a one day international music extravaganza.

Sunday was planned to be a long day of cultural highlights with all sorts of dances from India and other cultures, musical bands, fashion show. Nearly two hundred artists would join us in presenting this marvel. And of course the special attraction of playing with colours – for everyone who wishes to participate. Unfortunately Darling Harbour decided to cancel the Sunday programme due to the bad weather forecasts for that day. Also the stage was full of water and the slippery surface made it dangerous for the groups to perform. We were not the only affected event that day; also St. Patrick's parade in Hyde Park was cancelled. Also the Carnival of Cultures, scheduled for Sunday 20 March at Ashfield Park, was cancelled.

Following groups deserve our gratitude. They were all set to participate in the festivities on Sunday; unfortunately this programme was cancelled by Darling Harbour Authority because of safety reasons due to the heavy rain. Kurbat The Band, Nrityaniketan School of Dance, Budding Blossoms, Shaheedi Faujan Gatka Akhara, Dance Oolites Blurb, Aziff Tribal Belly Dancers, Tari Nusantara, SWASTIK, Nupur, Bollywood Spice by Mango Dance, Tribal Warriors, Hindi School, Gurjot Singh, Geetanjali School of Dance and Performing Arts, Gopi Parikh, Youva Australia, Priya Dewan Bollywood Dance Group, Nandini Krishna, Karen McPhillips Highland Dancing, GSI Australia, Prabhu Osoniqs Rhythm-In, Folk & Fun and Vishwaas Productions.





Holi Mahotsav welcomed this year also several interesting exhibitions. There was the “Seeds of Hope” Exhibition, presented by SGI and the Earth Charter International. The “Seeds of Hope” exhibition stresses our interconnectedness with the rest of the community of life and the need to broaden our sphere of compassion and concern. It encourages viewers to overcome feelings of powerlessness and highlights the fact that a single individual can initiate positive change. It also introduces the positive vision for sustainable living expressed in the Earth Charter, and gives examples of eight individuals and groups who have successfully taken action for change, from Africa to the Arctic and Eastern Europe.

A second exhibition was “Anzak Art Exhibition” presented by Matt Anzak, Texas. Matt Anzak’s artwork ranges from figure and landscape to nonobjective abstraction, and explores a variety of media, technique, and subject matter. In addition to exhibiting his art, Matt Anzak likes to create a space where people can be creative, forming an interactive installation that progressed over the weekend. He wanted to stimulate open creativity. His idea is when people have the opportunity to be creative; they learn to better understand the importance of art. Matt’s work is regularly exhibited throughout the South Western United States, France, and Italy.

We can not forget to mention The White Ribbon Foundation, present this year at Holi Mahotsav. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia decided to join hands with them through their separate public benevolent institution Bhavan Cares.

The White Ribbon Foundation helps women in need and stands up for their safety. Their White Ribbon Campaign is the only national violence prevention campaign, and it is unique in that it focuses on raising awareness to prevent violence against women among Australian men and boys. The campaign calls for men across Australia to speak out and to take part in the My Oath campaign. Men swear never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women. During Holi Mahotsav, Bhavan Cares was represented by a stall with the intention to raise money in context of supporting the community members in need. Bhavan Cares will commence their year long campaign for raising funds for the White Ribbon Foundation starting with Holi Mahotsav 2011. This way, the White Ribbon Foundation can collect money to help these women in need and can proceed in organising their needful awareness campaigns.

This year, Holi Mahotsav was also the stage of presenting the essay prize for the yearly Dr K.M. Munshi Essay Competition “The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi Today”, which is organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The Competition is open for the students of the Universities across Australia. Various prizes are given for the winners of the Essay Competition. The winners of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan’s 2010 Essay Competition “The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi Today” are Madeline Shearer, University of Melbourne, who won the First Prize, a ticket to Mumbai, India. Second prize was won by Katerina Jerecic of La Trobe University, who received a portable computer. In addition, both of them received a Bhavans medal.



Performances 19 March



Edo and Jo Kirtan Group

Group Coordinator: Prabhu S. Acharya

Edo and Jo are Kirtan enchanters and singer/songwriters. Devotees of Sri Sakthi Amma, Edo and Jo spend six months a year in India at Sri Narayani Peedam (Sripuram), doing seva, music and yoga. Together they are leading Kirtan and Nada Yoga Nidra: Blissful Sound Relaxation at various yoga schools and retreats in Australia, Asia and India. They have started a touring initiative (Gift of Life) in support of Narayani Peedam's Arogya program to provide heart surgeries for children in India born with congenital heart defects. They also work as music therapists for people with special needs, incorporating chanting as a healing modality.



Yoga in Daily Life Society

Yoga in Daily Life Society is a non-profit humanitarian organisation. The Society's activities are aimed at maintaining its Humanitarian Projects & Consultative Status at the UN as well as to serve mankind by fostering health, world peace, humanitarian aid, human rights, protection of the environment and all creatures, tolerance, respect and freedom among religions, cultures and nations.



M.K.U.D. Ilinden - Macedonian Cultural and Artistic Ass Ilinden

Group Coordinator: Sasko Vasilevski

M.K.U.D. Ilinden Cultural and Artistic Association, a vibrant dancing club presenting Macedonian Dance has performed in a vast number of functions and dance competitions in Australia and Europe, since its inception 45 years ago. The Group 'Ilinden' is a young dynamic dance ensemble that exhibits Macedonian culture, tradition and folklore through song and dance.

M.K.U.D. Ilinden Cultural and Artistic Association will perform five acts in continuation of approximately 3-4 minutes each. The whole performance is called "Macedonian Oro" and comprises five traditional and artistic stiles of dancing that has been utilised in Macedonia for centuries. The dances are from three regions of Macedonia—Vardar, Egej and Prin and each one represents unique dance stiles endemic to the area.

Dance names: Kalajdzisko – Lazarenki – Na Megdan – Egejsko – Sopska Petorka.



Debapriya Adhikary – Samanwaya Sarkar

Debapriya and Samanwaya, disciples of the legendary and the Queen of Pura-bang Gayaki Padmabhusan Girja Devi, have made it possible to present their duet in a different way where Debapriya is a vocalist and Samanwaya plays Sitar. In the 'Jugalbandi' of this couple there belongs a common composition based on an Indian Raga where they improvise complementing each other's style and presentation. They are presenting this age old traditional North Indian Classical music with a different approach, like a unique conversation-between Vocal and Sitar blending Dhrupad, Khayal and Tantrakari styles. Debapriya Adhikary (Vocal) and Samanwaya Sarkar (Sitar) are amongst the most excellent young musicians of India.



Indian Dance Center - Poornima Sharma

The Indian Dance Centre is a Sydney based cultural organisation established by Shri Raghavan Nair in 1987 for the purpose of preserving Indian culture and heritage, and in order to promote Indian dance in Australia.

1. Swagatam: Poornima, Sanushka, Urvashi, Ravi, Deepak, Akshara, Mankeerat, Bhim, Rakhi, Kavitha & Kartik.
2. Punjabi Item: Anil, Kamal, Sandeep & Jatinder.
3. Sajda: Poornima, Ravi, Kartik, Mankeerat, Kavitha & Rakhi.
- 4 Punjabi Item: Anil, Kamal, Jatinder & Sandeep.
5. Dholna: Poornima, Deepak, Ravi, Sanushka, Urvashi, Rakhi, Mankeerat, Kavitha & Akshara.



Nandini Krishna

She is an empanelled artiste of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). A recipient of the Government of India's Department of Culture scholarship in Bharata Natyam, Nandini has presented her performances in major national centres across the country. Nandini has a versatile background in teaching, performing, as arts administrator and freelance journalist. Nandini's Bharata Natyam sequence has been featured in the award winning and Cannes entry, Japanese feature film 'Fukai Kawa' and for the Unesco world heritage sites series of Elephanta, Ellora.



Kurbat The Band - Nikhil

Kurbat is a new rock and fusion band based in Sydney. Kurbat believes that music is life and aims to paint the colours of love, passion and life using the brush of music. Kurbat means to change the world through unity and togetherness. We are all one. With experience in jazz, pop, rock, western and Indian classical, Kurbat hopes to spread the message of love and music by truly engaging with its audiences.

Band members: Bharan - Guitar and Vocals, Will - Keyboard and Vocals, Vaake - Bass guitar, Giri - Drums, Rahul - Lead Guitar, Nikhil - Keyboard and Vocals.



Kirtan and Sacrifice Ceremony - ISKCON

MKF - Mahmood Khan

World music Artist Mahmood Khan performs with his 12 member band MKF. Khan is known for his work with Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and for being the first singer/song writer from the Indian subcontinent to score a number one ARIA hit with his song 'Like the River', recorded Live at the Sydney Opera House. Mahmood Khan fuses elements of Qawali, Gypsy, Funk and Folk.



Yoga in Daily Life Society

Bukhuchuluun - Himalayan Throat Singer & Horse Fiddle

Bukhu began practising the ancient art of Khoomei (overtone throat singing) at the age of 15. The sound of Khoomei is generated by manipulating the resonance of air pushed from the lungs, travelling past the vocal fold and lips to produce a melody. Bukhu has been playing the Morin Khuur (horse-head fiddle) for over 14 years. It is considered a central symbol of the Mongolian nation. Producing a sound described as expansive and unrestrained, both soulful and haunting, like a wild horse neighing, or a breeze across the grasslands.



Wadaiko Rindo – Koji & Akiko

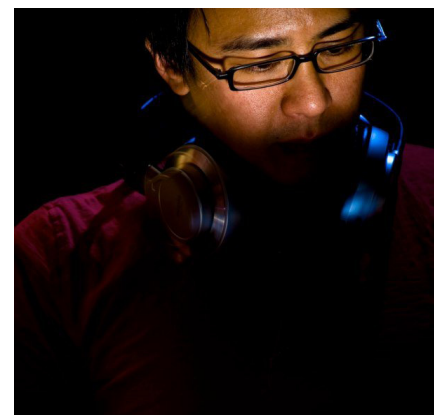
Japanese Taiko Drums

Wadaiko Rindo - Sydney is a Japanese drumming group consisting Koji & Akiko. They have performed at various festivals and events such as the Japan Festivals in Sydney & Melbourne, Fringe Festival and other events.



Tokyo Love-In : featuring Yama Sarshar Tabla player

Also featured is Sydney based duo 'Tokyo Love-In featuring Yama Sarshar' created by Mike Chin, an extraordinary musician and producer with a natural tendency and a gift to fuse sounds of the world. Yama Sarshar is without a doubt the most brilliant and thoughtful Tabla player to emerge out of Australia.



Platinum Dholis, Tantra Nights, Zora Randhawa and Bollywood Downunder

**Group coordinator Platinum Dholis: Avtar Bansal
Kish Giananey (Dj)**

Platinum Dholis are Sydney's newest fusion bhangra team, we are what one would get when you combine passion, we specialize in a fusion style of bhangra allowing the audience to escape the real world to one of vibrant colours and beat.

Performers Platinum Dholis: Vikram Grewal, Tanu Singh, Rupri Hothi, Rej Singh, Manu Gill, Kish Giananey and Zora Randhawa



In 2010 Tantra Nights had joined forces with one of Sydney's finest DJ's Kish and nationally known dhol group "Platinum Dholis". With this venture, we have become "Tantra Nights" in which we will try and produce a new level to the Indian Nightlife scene in Sydney /Australia with quality venues, music, atmosphere and entertainment.

Zora Randhawa pioneer singer has teamed up with the FAMOUS dj/producer Dr Zeus and is preparing for his hit debut single later this year.

Group coordinator **Bollywood Downunder: Shezly Mahendra**

Bollywood Downunder will take you on a colourful, vibrant, visual journey as you experience and be entertained by the variety of dance styles that come from all the corners of the great land of India. Shake your shoulders to the mesmerizing dhol beats of bhangra, be enchanted by the semi classical display or just simply bounce your hips away at the cheeky, sexy Bollywood numbers!

Performers Bollywood Downunder: Shezly Mahendra, Sky Bailey, Raj Sharma, Claudia Solomons, Priya Vengurlekar, Shikta Dey, Nadira De Silva

Lost in Kansas

"Lost in Kansas" is an upcoming sister Rock Pop trio, consisting of Grace, Naomi and Esther. The gorgeous blend of their three part harmony transmits a unique rich sound reminiscent of Wilson Philips. Naomi, one of the sisters, also sings backups for Mahmood Khan.

Chaitra Ravishankar

Chaitra, a singer from New Zealand and trained in both Carnatic and Hindustani classical music has performed in over 150 shows across New Zealand. During her career she was awarded the "Golden Voice of New-Zealand" award in 2000 and received an "Appreciation" award in 2008 presented by Former Prime Minister of NZ on behalf of GOPIO. Chaitra was chosen for audition for SaReGaMaPa 2010 in Mumbai and was one of the 50 finalists in the Mumbai auditions. At Holi Mahotsav, her first concert in Sydney, she will be singing 3-4 Bollywood songs by two of her favorite singers Shreya Ghoshal & Asha Bhonsle.

Element V - Mandeep Singh

Element V performs Bollywood and English songs. The band formed over 2 years ago and since then has accumulated a lot of performance experience in front of large audiences. Their most recent performance was at Castle Hill Show Grounds for Cultural Night 2010 and Sydney Olympic Park during the India Australia Fair 2010.

Group members: Mandeep Singh, Arjun: Lead singer + rhythm guitar, Prathamesh: Keys + backing vocals, Shankar: Bass + backing vocals, Prabhajan: Drums



Sher Domination - Bhangra Group

Sher Domination - the Punjabi heroes of Sydney, are a Bhangra troupe from Western Sydney. Sher Domination brings their Punjabi roots and fuse them with their Australian upbringing. The team consists of nine young men **including** Manbir Singh, Simran Thiara, Tarun Dhillon, Sunny Dhillon Gagan Birdi, Karan Sandhu, Vijay Sandhu, Alex Mavi and Avneet Bual. Performing to bring colour to this Holi festival is the combination of Simran, Tarun, Sunny, Gagan, Vijay and Avneet. 'Sher' translates to 'Lion' and the essence of any Punjabi is personifying the soul and attitude of a Lion.



Performances 20 March (Planned but could not be carried)

Kurbat The Band - Nikhil

Kurbat is a new rock and fusion band based in Sydney. Kurbat believes that music is life and aims to paint the colours of love, passion and life using the brush of music. Kurbat means to change the world through unity and togetherness. We are all one. With experience in jazz, pop, rock, western and Indian classical, Kurbat hopes to spread the message of love and music by truly engaging with its audiences.

Band members: Bharan - Guitar and Vocals, Will - Keyboard and Vocals, Vaake - Bass guitar, Giri - Drums, Rahul - Lead Guitar, Nikhil - Keyboard and Vocals.



Nrityaniketan School of Dance – Neeta Sura

Nrityaniketan School of Dance, started 18 years back by Mrs Neeta Sura and currently being run at Wattle Grove Community centre, teaches Bharatnatyam dance on the traditional Carnatic music and Hindustani music besides an occasional folk dance taught on Bollywood music, re-choreographed with either folk or Bharatnatyam steps. Today, girls will present Bollywood song "Barso Re Megha Megha", which describes rain fall, friends enjoying the rain and farmers harvesting the crop. It is re-choreographed with folk style steps.

Participants: Ellora Shirodkar, Janvi Umrigar, Jessica Purthi, Ratnal Chandurkar, Ravina Mane, Roma Kore, Shweta Ram, Thanmaya Nevada.



Budding Blossoms – Bhavna Parmar

Budding Blossoms is going to perform a Bollywood medley. The performers are Tamanna Sapra, Megha Parmar and Dipna Parmar. The songs they will be performing are Ji le from the movie Luck, Naina miley from the movie Robot and Twist from the movie Love Aaj Kal. The Group their first similar public performance last year at Diwali Mela. The girls have been training and have performed in Bharatnatyam, Hip-Hop and Jazz for past 3-4 years. For Bollywood Medley, they choreographed their steps and the mums groomed / polished it. The kids aged between 10-13 years are hard working and already training enthusiastically to perform this year.



Yoga in Daily Life Society

Yoga in Daily Life Society is a non-profit humanitarian organisation. The Society's activities are aimed at maintaining its Humanitarian Projects & Consultative Status at the UN as well as to serve mankind by fostering health, world peace, humanitarian aid, human rights, protection of the environment and all creatures, tolerance, respect and freedom among religions, cultures and nations.



Shaheedi Faujan Gatka Akhara – Preetraj Singh

Shaheedi Faujan Gatka Akhara is a not for profit community organisation which helps bring children and young adults together to learn the Sikh martial art called Gatka. Alongside this, we also try and encourage everyone to build on their spirituality. In itself, Gatka is a martial arts system which utilizes the mental and the physical abilities in enabling an individual to have the skills to defend others and prevent injustice. Since the times of Guru Gobind Singh (early 1700s) – the tenth Guru of the Sikhs, Sikhs get together on the days following the Holi festival to display their fighting prowess and bravery. This has been referred to as 'Holla Mahalla' and continues on to this day.



Dance Oolites Blurb - Sydney Community Foundation

The Dance Oolites is an organisation in the Nepean area providing an opportunity for children and young adults with varying disabilities to be involved in a rewarding, meaningful and inclusive dance group.



Aziff Tribal Belly Dancers - Sandy Burrow

Director: Sandy Burrow

Aziff and Sawat Tribal belly dancers, directed by Sandy Burrow, dance an exciting fusion of Arabic, Indian, North African and Flamenco, fused with contemporary dance. Renowned for their vibrant energy and dynamic choreography, their brilliant costumes come mainly from Rajasthan.

They are 9 dancers and will perform 6 dances incorporating an exciting mix of Tribal belly dance and modern fusion dance using veils, fans and swords.

Performers: Athena Karberis, Bec Slade, Karen Kelly, Katie Storm, Margaret Bussetil, Ruza Ladyani, Sharrie Hannan, Sue Kennedy and Sandy Burrow.



Tari Nusantara - Sisca Hunt

Sisca Hunt will perform the Tari Nusantara, an Indonesian dance, together with her dance partner Nyoman. Chendrawasih is the male and female peacock birds playing in the paradise of Bali Indonesia.



SWASTIK

Swastik Institute of Music & Dance is a Sydney based fine arts temple designed especially to introduce and promote Indian Classical Music and Dance. Although Swastik endeavors in bringing Classical music and dance like Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Odissi and Hindustani Music as an essential part of life, they also specialize in choreographing and teaching Bollywood, Folk and other major classical, semi-classical, modern and regional Indian music & dance forms. Two dances will be performed during Holi Mahotsav, both by ten girls. The first group performs on a Holi Song with Rajasthani dresses and intricate traditional Rajasthani jewellery. The second group performs "Fanna Mix", a dance on a Bollywood mixer of three songs: Chalka re, Fanna Etc.



Nupur – Jinnie De

Nupur Dance Group was founded in the year 1994 and since then the group never looked back moving from strength to strength. Now it is the most popular Indian dance group in Sydney. The last big achievement was their excellent performance alongside A.R. Rahman in Sydney in 2010. Recently the group visited Shanghai and previously performed in many International shows in India, Germany and other places in Europe. Recently they took part in The Australian Dance Festival with other International Group. Dance 1: Junita Mushenko, Jackie, Anika, Preeya, Vani - Dance 2 (kids): Suhani, Mahika, Sanatani, Vanshini, Mahima, Ritu - Dance 3: Sharmila, Aditi, Shilvana, Auntora, Upasna, Aneet, Ashley - Dance 4: Aneesha Ramani - Dance 5: Jinnie De, Jerestene, Vani, Akhila Pooja, Nivi, Roopa.



Bollywood Spice by Mango Dance – Vivienne Cabraja

Bollywood Spice will perform half an hour of Bollywood dances, coordinated by Farah Shah. She is a multi-talented International Choreographer / Performer / Dancer / Instructor who has choreographed for "So You Think You Can Dance" Australia. She was the Official Choreographer for the Australian MTV Awards 2008 and much more.



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's 2010 Dr K.M. Munshi Essay Competition:

The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi Today

Madeline Shearer, University of Melbourne won the First Prize in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's 2010 Dr K.M. Munshi Essay Competition, The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi Today. Second prize was won by Katerina Jerecic of La Trobe University.



Tribal Warriors

The Tribal Warrior Association is a non-profit community organisation initiated and directed by Aboriginal people with Aboriginal Elders.

SMOKING CEREMONY

Smoking ceremonies are conducted by Aboriginal people with specialized cultural knowledge. The ceremony aims to cleanse the space in which the ceremony takes place. Given the significant nature of the ceremony, smoking ceremonies are usually only performed at major events. Smoking ceremonies by Uncle Max begin with lighting twigs and leaves in a wooden Coolamon made from a gutted tree. As the smoke and flames grow, he waves the flame with leaves causing smoke, he walks around blessing the area and setting up good spirits for the event and ridding the negative energies.

CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

Consisting of 3 internationally acclaimed Indigenous performers from various parts of Australia, the show will consist of traditional Aboriginal dance and music. The songs and dances are performed using didgeridoo, clapsticks and traditional songman and include welcome dance, animal and spirit dances and others respecting other cultures and Mother Earth. **Uncle Max Eulo** is one of Australia's most well known Aboriginal personalities and elders. He performs regularly blessing the grounds they dance on with his smoking ceremony. **Terry Olsen** is an Aboriginal performer from Armidale in Northern NSW. **Ryka Satrick** is multi-talented young Indigenous performer; already a maestro in the art of didgeridoo playing, having started performing from the age of seven. **Beatrice Sailor** is a talented young Torres Strait Islander (full blood) who is singer/songwriter and dancer, born on Thursday Island



Hindi School – Mala Mehta

Performers are students of the Indo-Aust Bal Bharathi Vidyalaya-Hindi School, a non-profit body, run completely by volunteers and dedicated to the teaching of Hindi. The first dance item is called Odissi (Orissi) and is one of the eight classical dance forms of India. This item is performed by Ms Anahita Surya and choreographed by her Guru Deepak Roy who is disciple of the renowned master and a legend Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra. Kathak, the second dance item, is yet another classical dance form of India. This item is performed by Ms Muskan Nanchahal and choreographed by her Guru Ruchi Sanghi in the Benaras Gharana Style. Muskan will perform a Ganesh Vandana “Gana Gana Ganapati” The third item will be a medley of two short Song Remixes “Oh Girl you're mine” “Bahara” & “Chaan ke Muhala” choreographed by Ms Akshita Mohan IABBV Hindi School Bollywood Seniors. The performers are Aastha Kapur and Deepti Virmani.



Gurjot Singh

Gurjot Singh is Sydney's very popular singer and musician, who has done many live stage shows. He has served Australia and World with never heard live radio shows with Indian Link radio in year 2009-2010. Recently started working as a music composer for an animation movie, “Life in Sundarbans” in Australia. Says Gurjot Singh: “Always choose good between good and bad.”



Geetanjali School of Dance and Performing Arts - Sharmila

Sharmila Maitro is a passionate teacher who runs this school from her home in Baulkham Hills where she teaches Indian Contemporary Dance. Her students perform at various festivals, occasions & venues which provide them a perfect platform to learn dance imbibing Indian values.

The first dance is “**Kashmiri Folk dance**”, a vibrant folk music and dance – celebrating a festivity of India as the flora and fauna change from season to season. We all like taking part in Festivals of Joy – and this item interestingly brings you to that mood of merry making.
Performers: Shivangi Bhattacharya, Uktha Budithi, Arkita Chowdhury, Debolina and Ritika Chowdhury, Ria Danwer and Anosua Roy.

The second dance is called “**Ocean of Joy**”. This dance is about universal Sri Krishna, May we have our mind without fear so that we can hold our head high. May our mind become free from all false notions about our own place in the Universe so that we can help who is less fortunate than us.”
Performers: Eesha Chitale, Alisha DasGupta, Shuchi Gupta, Medha Gupta, Ragini Sood, Promi Saha and Vidhushi Sharma.

Third dance is a solo dance item by **Neer Sengupta** on Michael Jackson’s Music. Next are two **Bengali dances**. Music and dance are part and parcel of the life of Bengali people.

Performers: Shivangi Bhattacharya, Uktha Budithi, Arkita Chowdhury, Ria Danwer, Anosua Roy, Debolina and Ritika Chowdhury. The last dance is performed by Promi Saha. In between is a “Medley” (Taste of Bollywood), performed by Promi Saha. These young children are praying: “Oh Lord of Universe formed by Eesha Chitale, Alisha DasGupta, Shuchi Gupta, Medha Gupta, Ragini Sood, Promi Saha and Vidhushi Sharma.

Gopi Parikh

Gopi Parikh, a Kuchipudi dancer / performer has done Arangetral in Kuchipudi and advance course in kuchipudi. Dance is my passion. Gopi Parikh has been performing on the stage for the last 15 years in India as well as in Australia. In 2010 there was a performance of classical dance with Soorya group in Seymour theatre, Sydney, and also semi classical dance with night of angel group Sydney.

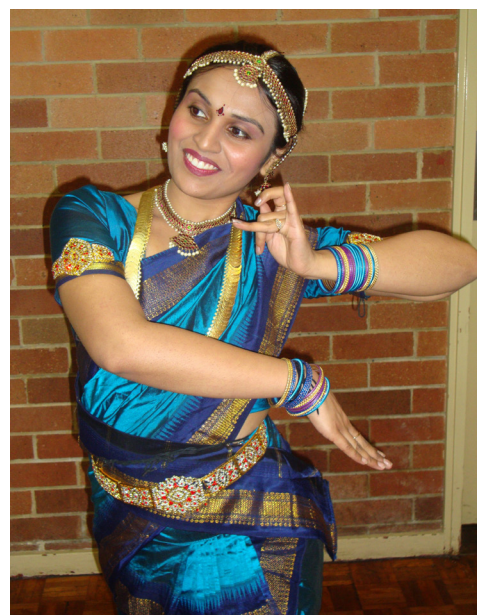
Youva Australia

Director: Neha Madaan

Youva Australia is an organization involving music, dance, personal and academic development. The organization was initiated in November 2009 and has been recognized in significant fields and events for a vast range of talents. The Youva team believes that it is essential for this generation to be equipped with the fundamental skills and aspirations at an early age to develop into confident and responsible young adults.

Performances:

- 1 - Kajra Re performed by Vidhi & Usma
- 2 - Bollywood Fusion performed by Diya, Vibha, Amisha, Vidhi & Usma



Priya Dewan Bollywood Dance Group

Priya Dewan Bollywood Dance group has been operating since 2005. The girls who participate range from age 7 - 15. They have performed at a number of events such Burwood Spring Festival, Diwali Festival and Friendship Day Fair. For the last 4 years they have performed at the Holi Mahotsav and have loved being part of this wonderful event.

Priya Dewan Bollywood Dance Group will perform 2 Bollywood performances - fusion of eastern and western dance moves to the latest bollywood movie songs and 1 classical Kathak dance performance
Participants: Nikita, Sonali, Shivani, Priyanka, Nidisha, Shivani, Saachi, Shivani, Nitya.

Nandini Krishna

Nandini Krishna is the senior disciple of Late Kalaimamani Guru Sri T.K. Mahalingam Pillai, former Director of the reputed Sri Rajarajeswari Bharata Natya Mandir, Mumbai, presenting Bharata Natyam dance.

Karen McPhillips Highland Dancing

Group Coordinator: Karen Mc Philips

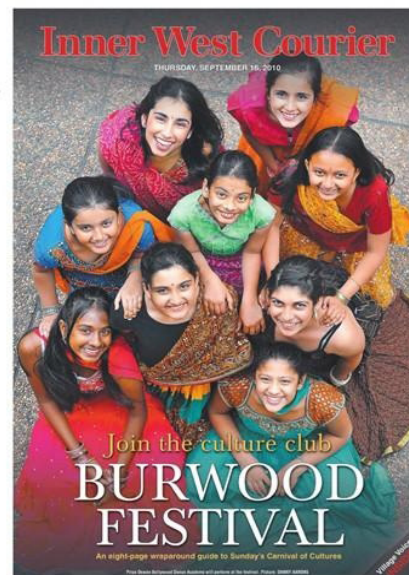
Karen McPhillips Highland Dancing train recreational and professional dancers in Traditional Scottish Highland Dancing and perform at various formal and informal events. Highland dancing originated in Scotland but is now danced competitively throughout the world.
Performers: Emily Car, Lauren Caunter, Emily Maguire, Brooke.

Yoga in Daily Life Society

SGI Australia - Liz Bowen – Edouardo Santoni

SGI Australia promotes peace, cultural and educational activities based on the philosophy of Buddhist humanism. The Blue Sky Choir is a volunteer community choir of people with all ages and ethnically diverse backgrounds welcome to participate and the Jazz and accompanying are both professional musicians and artists who love to play music to inspire hope and encourage the human spirit.

The song for this performance is a new arrangement from John Lennon's classic 'Imagine'.



Prabhu OSONIQS Rhythm-In

On this musical mystical journey, you will find yourself enchanted by ethereal melodious overtones and hypnotic vibration of Prabhu's HANG music, energetic and tranquil Tabla rhythm of Nila Hagglund and heartfelt beats of Jiva Berry's Mridanga. Prabhu OSONIQS feels that HANG's melodic tones can take you to the deepest silence of your soul, like diving deep into an ocean. At the same time hypnotic rhythms can take you on a journey of your heartbeat where you can ride the waves in free abandon and bliss. HANG is a new handcrafted instrument from Switzerland, invented in 2000. Prabhu has been journeying and sharing HANG music since 2007. His evoking compositions and entrancing instrument have touched many many hearts around the globe. **Performers:** HANG: Prabhu OSONIQS, Tabla: Nila Hagglund, Mridanga: Jiva Berry



Folk and Fun - Raj Sarai

Folk 'n' Fun Entertainment Group one of the famous bhangra group in sydney and the choreographer is RAJU SARAI. This group are entertaining people for since many years in sdney they performed in many culture programmes, movie (The water), parliament house (diwali festival), Holi Festival any many more. In fact, they performed in bollywood movies as well like sang de basanti, jab bhi met, and many more in punjabi movies. **Performers:** Raju Sarai - Harpreet Happy - Tajinder Singh - Harry - Inderpal singh - Harpreet nikku

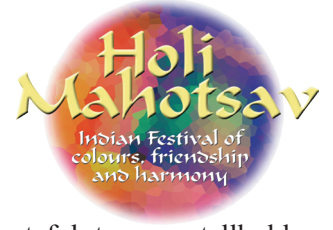
Vishwaas Productions - Dinesh Ramanan

Founded in 2008, Vishwaas Productions (VP) is the creative and philanthropic arm of Vishwaas, the Hindu society of the University of New South Wales and was a branch of the UNSW Vishwaas. The aim is to produce unique, bold and theatrically captivating stage productions on an annual basis by bringing together members of all backgrounds. All funds raised from the events are forwarded to charitable causes back home in India. In 2009 we brought to stage the life of the great Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi: The Power of One. The production won numerous awards, the Bhavan's Cultural Awards including Best Group Performance. **Performers:** Chiranth Wodeyar (Guitar), Gana Aruneswaran (Bulbutharan), Liam Holley (Bazooki), Sujatha Natarajan (Tabla), Shweta Natarajan (Keyboard), Sabinesh Pottekkatt (Vocals), Indu Annabattula (Vocals), Kavitha Nambiar (Vocals), Pranish Rai (Guitar).



Acknowledgement

Chairman Gambhir Watts



Just thinking of Holi Mahotsav fills our heart with extreme joy and happiness. This day is specially chosen to forgive 'foes' and forget old differences to become friends again. People from all castes and religions come together to enjoy the spirit of Holi. In India during Holi days, one can see colours of joy everywhere.

This year again we organised the celebrations of Holi Mahotsav over two days of festivities at Tumbalong Park. Visitors could enjoy the performances and the delicious Indian vegetarian food stalls and craft stalls in Tumbalong Park. The stalls during the Holi Mahotsav pepped up the festival adding variety to the event.

The Holi Mahotsav festivities of two days starting on Saturday, 19 March was celebrated with spiritual extravaganza, the highlight being Rath Yatra, courtesy of ISKCON Sydney our partner in peace and spirituality. Yoga demonstrations were provided by Yoga in Daily Life, another of our partners in peace. And of course there were dances and musical performances. Sunday was supposed to be a long day of cultural highlights with all sorts of dances from India and other cultures, musical bands, fashion show. Nearly two hundred artists had joined us in presenting this marvel. But due to the devil of the weather the Sunday program had to be cancelled.

We are indeed immensely grateful to all those who have travelled with us in past nine years in turning Holi Mahotsav the grand Indian festival of harmony and friendship into a mainstream Australian festival of harmony today. Australian community has made Holi part of its evolving cultural calendar. Our special thanks are due to Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, India Tourism Sydney and ISKCON Sydney who agreed to and encouraged our plans for Holi Mahotsav in 2003 and have remained with us since then. The Premier of New South Wales has been supporting Holi Mahotsav since 2005 with grants from the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW. We are grateful to City of Sydney and City Central Command of NSW Police who have greatly supported our Street Procession / Rath Yatra every year since 2005. Our sincere thanks and gratitude are due to them.

Lebara Mobile joined us again this year as a major sponsor. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Lebara Mobile. State Bank of India-Sydney joined us again with their sumptuous support for which we are grateful to them.

We are indeed immensely grateful to our stallholders who are an integral part of our festival: Stay Cool Tropical SNO, Yoga in Daily Life, Fairy Floss Circular Event, Taza Tandoori, Annapoorna Restaurant, Taj Indian Sweets & Restaurant, Cuisine Catering Concepts, Taj Mahal Tandoori, Sugar Cane Juice, Sydney Community Foundation - Community Giving, 2011 Census, UAE Exchange, Central Equity Limited, Vision Asia, Bharat Matrimony, SAARC TV, Indian Link, KONNECTV, Desi Kangaroos, Spirituality Books and Saileen Fashions.

We are grateful to our media supporters Desi Kangaroo, The Indian, Indus Age, Indian Link, The Indian Down Under, Punjab Times, Masala Newline, Kerala Times, Hindi Gaurav, Navtarang, Nepalese Times, Radio Dhanak, Sur Sangam and the Epoch Times, a Chinese newspaper who joined us in making this 2011 festival even brighter and diverse.

Holi Mahotsav was the culmination of efforts and selfless untiring support of over 400 artists from a large number of dance academies and cultural groups. We bow before and salute them with humility and greatest gratitude. Our gratitude is due to the wonderful masters of ceremonies Soiam and Sophil Chandrara, Divya Dhingra, Dyasmin Sandhu, Nitisha Tripathi Shezley Mahendra, and Vijay Jogia.

Bhoji Watts and Manju Chand have been managing the stage and production supported by other graceful ladies every year since inception. Without these wonderful ladies the Holi Mahotsav could not have happened. We salute them too with humility and gratitude and pride.

We are thankful to our dedicated staff Karen Brabant, Priscila M Molina, Victoria Korshunova, Karan Shrestha, Mrinal Rambhojan, Parveen Dahiya, Gautam Sehgal, Bushra Kazi, and numerous volunteers.

Our special gratitude to Nadini Krishna and eminent Bharatnatyam artist and exponent who came from India to participate in Holi Mahotsav and to the multitalented visual artist Matt Anzak who came all the way from Texas, USA with his painting exhibition 'Moksha' and colour painting competition for the children at Holi Mahotsav.

Finally we are grateful to Scott Eager, Brenden Burke, Alex Boyce, Graham and other staff from Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority for their valuable contribution in hosting this festival.

And we are immensely grateful to the audience, public at large who join us every year in tens of thousands for making our Holi Mahotsav a grand success and thus making it a truly mainstream Australian festival. Our special thanks to them this year for standing with us in our difficult time.

Gambhir Watts,
Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia



PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

**HOLI MAHOTSAV 2011
FESTIVAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND HARMONY**

As a firm friend of the Indian community, I am delighted to be able to present my best wishes on the occasion of the 2011 Holi Mahotsav festival.

For the past eight years, this important festival has showcased the ancient and beautiful traditions of traditional Vedic Indian culture, serving also to celebrate the multicultural values that are so central to Australia's identity.

Last year about 180,000 people enjoyed the spectacle of Holi Mahotsav, bringing many cultures together in a spirit of friendship and respect.

I am confident that this year's festival will be even more popular, and I wish the organisers every success.

On this occasion, I also honour the important work of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia in promoting a wider awareness of Indian culture, fostering spiritual awareness, and serving the cause of harmony, peace and dialogue.

Through such values, our community can only grow in tolerance and understanding as we continue the journey of diversity that has so profoundly changed the destiny of our nation.



The Honourable Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister of Australia





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High Commissioner
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High Commission of India
3-5 Moonah Place, Yarralumla
Canberra, ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA


07 February 2011

MESSAGE

It is good to know that the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan is organising its annual Holi celebrations from 18-20 March 2011 and would be bringing out a special 'Holi Mahotsav' souvenir of its monthly magazine 'Bhavan Australia'.

Holi, the joyous festival of colours of India heralds Spring and it is celebrated throughout the width and breadth of India. I am happy to note that Indians in Australia as well as fellow Australians gather together on this day to celebrate this festival in a spirit of fellow feeling and friendship.

I convey my greetings and good wishes to Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and to the readers of Bhavan Australia a Happy Holi.


Sujatha Singh




भारत का उच्चायोग
CONSUL GENERAL

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www.hcinidia-aii.org

February 11, 2011

Message

I extend my warm felicitations to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Holi. As societies evolve, human identity would no longer be reflected through nationality but by the values we uphold. I pray that the spirit of brotherhood and friendship would embrace us all and reflect the essence of multiculturalism.

Happy Holi!


(Amit Dasgupta)





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SYDNEY 2000

Message from Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO

The Holi Mahatsav Festival

The Holi Mahatsav Festival of friendship and harmony, now in its ninth Australian year, has become an important Sydney Festival celebrating Indian culture through music and dance performances, meditation practices, cultural workshops, merchandise and food stalls.

This initiative of Bhavan in regularly organizing this programme is laudable, and the manner in which the Indian community has joined hands in making it a success, is a reflection of the strong harmony within the community.

Holi Mahotsav, festival of joy and colours of India, heralds Spring. It is celebrated by all communities together irrespective of caste, creed, religion or ethnicity.

I extend congratulations to the Bharatiya Vidy Bhavan Australia for the continuing success of this spectacular event. I wish all attending Holi Mahatsav, members and patrons of Bhavan Australia happiness and good will in this remarkable celebration.

Professor Marie R Bashir AC CVO
Governor of New South Wales





Barry O'Farrell MP
New South Wales Liberal Leader
New South Wales Leader of the Opposition



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MESSAGE FOR BHARATIYA VIDYA BAHVAN AUSTRALIA

It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Bharatiya Vidyā Bahvan of Australia on the occasion of the Holi Mahotsav festival 2011. This is also a day that creates an opportunity for Australian-Indians to share their rich cultural heritage with the wider Australian community.

The Australian-Indian community has contributed hugely to the fabric of our multicultural national identity. From your involvement in a wide range of community services, education and cultural activities, you have enriched the Australian way of life, by being one of the major and most active groups in New South Wales.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work that the Bharatiya Vidyā Bahvan of Australia have put into providing a bridge between the Indian community and the wider society, in order to further develop better relations, tolerance and cultural understanding amongst all Australians, particularly in New South Wales.

Bharatiya Vidyā Bahvan of Australia is to be commended on the perseverance of bonding global cultures through events such as Holi Mahotsav. I congratulate your services through education, community, arts and the cultural development of Australia.

Once again, please accept my best wishes to all the participants involved in the Bharatiya Vidyā Bahvan of Australia and the Holi Mahotsav festival 2011. I hope you enjoy a very successful Holi Mahotsav celebration.

Barry O'Farrell MP
NSW Opposition Leader

www.startthechange.com.au



Premier of New South Wales

HOLI MAHOTSAV FESTIVAL 2011

Message from the Premier of New South Wales

Festivals such as Holi Mahotsav are an established part of the New South Wales cultural landscape, eagerly awaited and enjoyed by many thousands of Australians.

Our society is vastly richer for the strength and variety of our festivals and the cultures that inspired them.

Holi Mahotsav – a three-day Festival of Colours, Friendship and Harmony – is inspired by the spirit of Holi, which, in its traditional settings, encouraged people to shed their differences, to forgive, to mingle, and join in one united, but diverse, community.

Today, Holi brings together the Indian Australian community through music, dance, food, fashion and fun. For other Australians, for all of us, it is a reminder of the rich culture of the Indian subcontinent.

My Government is proud of our tolerant, harmonious and productive multicultural society. I congratulate the festival organisers and the editors of *Bhavan Australia* on the success of the Holi Mahotsav festival and its contribution to the cultural life of our State.

Kristina Keneally MP
Premier





Message from Stepan Kerkyasharian AO

Community Relations commission of NSW

Holi Mahotsav is one of the important festivals of Sydney. It has achieved that status within only a few short years because it is a festival that emanates so much joy and fun.

Of course it has a serious message, but that message is well carried by the child-like enjoyment of throwing colours to create human rainbows.

I congratulate Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan on staging this impressive three-day event that spreads culture across the Darling Harbour precinct for the enjoyment of the broad Sydney community and thousands of interstate and international visitors.

Holi Mahotsav brings multiculturalism down town in a spectacular way.

I wish the festival organisers great success.

Stepan Kerkyasharian

Chair





presented by
**Bharatiya Vidya
 Bhavan**
 AUSTRALIA
 www.bhavanaustralia.org

18 - 20 March 2011
 Darling Harbour, Sydney



Saturday 19 March - 11am - 8pm, Dedicated to Harmony Day

- > Cultural Performances, Prayers, Meditation, Yoga and Ayurveda demonstrations
- > 12:30pm - Rath Yatra departs from Hyde Park (North)
- > Food and Craft Stalls

Sunday 20 March - 11am - 7pm

- > Cultural Performances
- > Colour Throwing Sessions at regular intervals
- > Food and Craft Stalls

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special features

- > Live demonstrations by artisans including pottery and handloom weaving will be carried throughout the exhibitions.
- > Guest artists from India: Padamshri Bharatnatyam dancer Nandini Krishna, courtesy Priyadarshini Academy and internationally renowned Debapriya and Samanavaya
- > Mahmood Khan, Koji & Akiko Japanese drum, Lost in Kansas, Bukchu Himalayan through singer, Tokyo Love-In and Jenevieve London
- > "Seeds of Hope" Exhibition, presented by SGI and the Earth Charter International. Purpose is to encourage people to initiate positive change and to introduce a vision for sustainable living.
- > Anzak Art Exhibition and creative interaction by abstract painter Matt Anzak, from Canada

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