

Dilse... from the heart

Indian night a great success

BY NAOMI FLESCHHUT

Two beautiful, larger than life paintings of women posing with traditional greeting gestures welcomed this year's audience to INDISA's 15th annual cultural production.

While the many excited, elegantly dressed people found their way to their seats, I introduced myself to the two women at my table who would prove to be my 'cultural advisors' throughout the night. Silpa Roy and Savia Antao guided me through the first event of the evening — the fashion show. As Sari-clad women displayed their colourful, flowing dresses accented with the flash and clink of gold bracelets and jewellery, Silpa and Savia described the intricacies between the different styles of men's fashion. The more formally attired men sported either sleek new Indian-style suits or the traditional kurta and pyjamas — long, loose shirts and drawstring-waist pants. Others were dressed in Punjabi lungis (skirts raised and tied to show the legs, which, as we learned later, are excellent to dance in, high energy Punjabi style).

And dance they did! Whether it was well choreographed groups dancing to classical and modern Indian music, or women showing their graceful, sensual body movements while lipsyncing to popular tunes, dance filled every aspect of the night.

Asian Invasion, a group formed originally for the 1997 show, highlighted the evening with their funky moves, while the Desi Boys thrilled all with their lively

acrobatics. More impressive still was the talented performance of Hyoti Seyan singing and playing the harmonium. And Rajveer Seyan showed his skill on the exotic-sounding tablas (Indian drums).

The climax of the evening (other than the food, of course), were the intense dramatic performances of Ayesha Basu and Samir Dawson as they enacted the powerful emotional interplay between a young man and a woman with traditional Indian moves — and a little fake blood.

As I walked away from Saturday's festivities, however, what stuck most in my mind is the way the performers and organizers managed to meld traditional and the more modern Indian values and traditions in a seamless display of contemporary Indian-Canadian culture.

For reasons unknown, I arrived expecting a sombre evening of tradition-laced entertainment, but instead I was treated to satire, classical song and dance transformed by modern interpretation, and even some sexy moves here and there. The evening was a success in not only providing excellent entertainment, but also in displaying the diversity and personality inherent in the Indian culture and the youth who maintain it. Kudos to the hard work and dedication of the INDISA executive council and all those who helped make the 1999 Indian cultural show such a great success.

Also, thanks to Avtar Singh for explaining so much.

SpinOff

moments from the first 1999 SpinOff

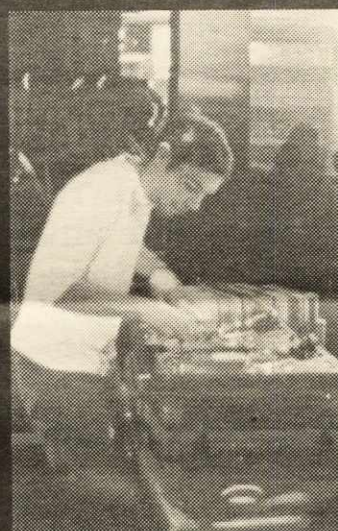


Scratch Bastard in an early round

Papa Grand MC



The finalists:



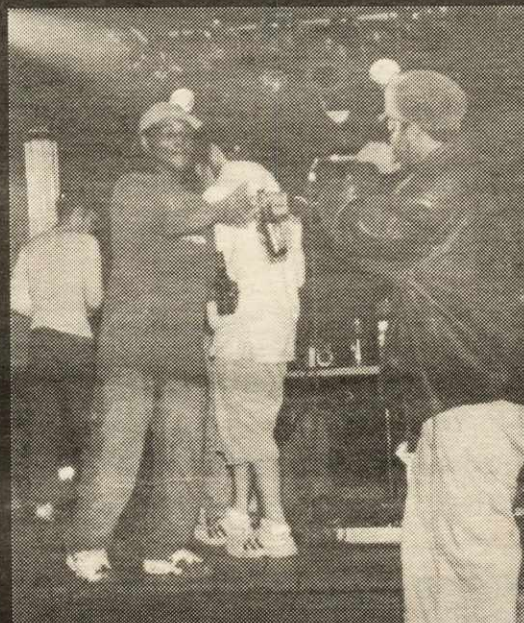
Buck65



Drunkeness Monster



Loonie Toonez



Loonie Toonez gets the good word

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

the SpinOff was a fundraiser for the Gazette.

thanks to everyone who came out to support the DJs and the Gazette.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE - HALIFAX DEPARTURES

MARCH 1999

TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
VANCOUVER	—	18:55	—	—	—	—	—
CALGARY	—	18:55	—	—	—	—	—
TORONTO	—	16:00	—	15:50	16:00	—	—
ST. JOHN'S	—	06:00 11:05 20:10	—	06:00 10:25 21:35	—	—	—

HALIFAX DEPARTURES TO USA

ST. PETERSBURG	—	—	17:50	—	—	—	07:20
FT. LAUDERDALE	—	—	07:00	—	—	—	—
ORLANDO	17:50	11:05	07:00	—	—	—	—

AIRPORT STANDBY FARES: Are subject to available seats prior to departure. Passengers may register 2 1/2 hours prior to the scheduled departure of flight. Fares are subject to change without notice. Travel on any specific flight is not guaranteed. Payment (Cash or Credit Card only) must be made on departure. One way travel only. Schedule subject to change without notice.

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