

India Week at York

# Some sing, some dance in Fine Arts show

The sensuous, sculptural movements of Odissi classical dancer Menaka Thakkar launched the current India Week exhibition Monday night in the foyer of the Fine Arts centre.

Dean Joe Green inaugurated the evening show, which offers a multimedia panorama of Indian arts, an impressive photo exhibition, and a widely varied display of traditional Indian crafts, many of them now rarities

disappearing from the scene as industrial life overtakes the sub-continent.

The artwork on display is the work of Sudha Thakkar and Abdullah Khandwani, both of Bombay, who also co-ordinated the program for India Week.

Sitarist Shambhu Das visited the exhibition to perform a full concert of morning Ragas Tuesday morning, so

that the Indian Raga music traditionally associated with the moods and feeling of morning could be played at the appropriate time of day. Usually this is impossible, since most concerts are held at night.

Wednesday afternoon, Jon Higgins of York's music department and his group demonstrated the close relationship between music and dance in Indian art.

Jon Higgins (vocal), L. Shankar (violin) and Trichi Sankaran (mrdingam). From 10 to 12 a.m. next Wednesday, the programme will present Indian group dances.

There is no admission charge for

any of these events.

The programmes reflect a growing interest at York in Indian and Asian studies, which began with fine arts courses in music and history, and an inter-disciplinary course in Asian arts.

## Skilful satire in cabaret revue

By BOB McBRYDE

Dames at Sea, running indefinitely at the Theatre in the Dell, is a delight; a more confident and professionally competent production would be hard to discover in Toronto.

The play is a satire of those 1930s musicals which followed a small-town girl from obscurity to instant Broadway acclaim. All the recognizable types are here: the egotistic star, the helpful chorus girl, the harried director, and of course, two stalwart representatives of Uncle Sam's navy.

And along the way, every trial, tribulation or triumph is cause for a song. Skilful exaggeration by the actors and a few extra coincidences in the script make such corn palatable — and extremely amusing.

Julie Amato, as the brassy

Broadway star, slinks through her part exhibiting an expert singing voice and a talent for simulating arrogance.

Deborah Packer, as the dependable chorus girl, displays a penchant for delivering sensibly senseless truisms and chomping innumerable wads of Juicy Fruit. And Alex Laurier, who plays both the director and a naval captain, shows a taste for well-timed ham.

Such talent complements but does not overshadow Charlene Shipp, who plays the little girl who makes good with a humorous combination of pouting and pluck.

Fine music, choreography and costumes add to the charm of this comic gem.

The cabaret theatre is located on University at Elm. Phone 368-5309 for details. Student rates are \$2.50 Monday through Thursday.

### MORE TO COME

As the programme continues, seasoned performers such as Menaka Thakkar, Jon Higgins, L. Shankar, and Trichi Sankaran, master percussionist on the South Indian mrdingam and member of the York faculty, will appear along with groups of York students.

The show continues tonight through next Wednesday in the foyer. The exhibits open daily—except Sunday—from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., in the adjoining gallery of the Fine Arts building.

Tonight at 7:30 p.m. film department head James Beveridge shows four films he made on Indian classical musicians. Tomorrow at 8 p.m., Menaka Thakkar will perform a classical dance in Bharatnatyam style, followed by a multi-media presentation by Sudha Thakkar and Abdullah Khandwani.

### CLASSICAL MUSIC

A South Indian classical music recital will be held Monday at 8 p.m., with

## Sight and Sound

### Winters unleashes Straw Dogs

Rape, murder and primitive savagery make Sam Peckinpah's Straw Dogs more than just your average musical. Dustin Hoffman and Susan George move from America to a small Cornish village in Britain to escape American violence. Some people think this is the greatest suspense and action film since Blood Feast of 1,000 Maniacs. The author of the Siege of Trencher's Farm, on which the movie was allegedly based, calls it "a lousy Tom-and-Jerry opus", but what does he know?

Winters is showing it Friday and Sunday nights at 8 p.m. in Curtis LH-I, for \$1.25 general, \$1 Winters. Next week: The Jerusalem File.

### Zachariah rides to electric rock

Calumet Movies present the electric rock tale of Zachariah Sunday night at 7 and 9 p.m. in the Calumet common room. The film stars no-one of note, but has music by Country Joe Macdonald, and is co-authored by the Firesign Theatre. It's a take-off on westerns, bordering on a glossy home movie. The price is right, at 69 cents.

### Devils condemned by the Vatican

Bethune presents a wild, erotic, obscene movie which they coyly suggest "might not be for everyone's taste". The Devils, condemned by the Vatican, is based on an actual account of religious and sexual hysteria in 17th century France. Director Ken (Women in Love) Russell let out all the stops on this one, and took Oliver Reed and Vanessa Redgrave along for the ride. Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 p.m. in Curtis LH-L. Admission is \$1.25 general, \$1 Bethune, in 35 mm. with two cartoons.



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