

SPRING 2003



Nirvanam

a performance by Pritham Chakravarthy
Wednesday, March 19 - 7 pm
Memorial Union - Play Circle

Nirvanam, a one-woman show, is a powerful portrayal of the lives of eunuchs. The artist tells the story of a young boy, who at the age of 15 suddenly discovers that he enjoys wearing his sister's frock more than his clothes. Soon he realizes that he is a woman trapped in a man's body. His family is outraged and he is ostracized by his near and dear ones. After seeing Chakravarthy's performance Savitha Gautam writes "it is bold and effective."

Pritham Chakravarthy is an actress, activist and currently a Fulbright Scholar in residence at UW-Madison. She has performed Nirvanam in Chicago, Edinburgh, New York and Virginia, among other places.



***"Anjika Manipuri Dance and
Martial Arts of Eastern India"***

by Anjika Manipuri Dance Troupe
Saturday, April 5
2pm - 4:30 pm
B101 Lathrop Hall

Manipuri Dance and Martial Arts
2:00pm - 3:00 pm

Manipuri Martial Arts Workshop
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

The Anjika Manipuri Dance Troupe is devoted to the performance of Manipuri dance and martial arts and dance education. Priti Patel, its director and choreographer, started training at age 12 with the late Guru Bipin Singh, whose traditional teaching imparted life values along with dance technique. Ms. Patel has continued this philosophy through her own school, Anjika, which is also a center for dance therapy that specializes in helping children with cerebral palsy. Ms. Patel has performed and lectured at festivals throughout Asia for nearly 20 years. Her company includes dancers that she has trained, as well as master drummers and martial arts experts.

This tour was organized by World Music Institute in New York. www.worldmusicinstitute.org.

This tour is made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



"The Neglected Tradition of Short Narratives in Urdu"

by Christina Oesterheld

**Monday, April 7 - Noon
206 Ingraham Hall**

Histories of Urdu narrative genres tend to focus mainly on the development of the novel and the short story, as far as modern forms are concerned, and on the *qissa* and *dastan* tradition. Shorter narrative forms are usually omitted, though anecdotes, jokes, tales etc. always were and still are part of everyday life. They form an important part of conversational practice. In written form, however, today we find them mostly in schoolbooks and chapbooks or in religious advice literature. It seems that they have been relegated to the realm of "popular literature". Perhaps this fact is responsible for the neglect of such forms.

Christina Oesterheld teaches Urdu at the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg. She has written many articles on 19th-century Urdu literature and translated contemporary Urdu fiction into German.



White Mughals: Love and Betrayal in Eighteenth-Century India

**William Dalrymple Thursday, April 17
12:30 - 1:30 pm**

University Bookstore - 2nd floor - 711 State Street

William Dalrymple's eagerly-anticipated book, *White Mughals*, is the romantic and ultimately tragic tale of a passionate love affair that crossed and transcended all the cultural, religious and political boundaries of its time. The story involves secret assignments, court intrigue, harem politics, religious disputes and espionage. Dalrymple discovers a world almost entirely unexplored by history, and places at its centre a compelling tale of love, seduction and betrayal.