

## Shoals Prepares to Welcome International Dance Troupe from India

The Shoals will have the unique opportunity to host an international dance troupe from India, the Mamata Shankar Ballet Troupe, on July 31, 2005 at 7 pm in the Florence High School Auditorium. A tour de force, the Mamata Shankar Ballet Troupe reflects the ethos of blending traditional dance techniques and global styles fusing both into a rich tapestry of art that is both modern and eternal.

With a broad repertoire of dance forms from classical to folk, Mamata Shankar and her troupe continues the enduring legacy of renowned dancer, Uday Shankar, and that of her uncle, Pt. Ravi Shankar, the maestro of Indian music. She is a versatile genius and has proven her talent as a great film actress, dancer, and a choreographer. Her husband, Mr. Chandradoy Ghosh, is the Founder-Director of the Mamata Shankar Ballet Troupe. After receiving the basics of music at Santiniketan (the institution founded by Nobel-laureate, Rabindranath Tagore), he learnt Kathakali and the Uday Shankar style of dance forms at the Uday Shankar India Culture Centre in Calcutta, under the guidance of Mrs. Amala Shankar. Under his leadership, the Indian Cultural delegation was sent to China, Mongolia & Japan (1985), Maldives (1989) and to West Indies & Guyana (1997).

The troupe has a long standing history of performing in the international arena since the late seventies. Besides performing in the Shoals area this year, the Troupe will be performing in the prestigious Madison Square Garden in New York during the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. In addition to that, they will be performing in Washington DC, San Diego, Phoenix, Portland, Kansas City, Houston, Syracuse, Nashville, Cleveland and some other major cities. In the past, the Troupe has performed in major cities of the US including New York, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Atlanta, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Houston, Lubbock, Nashville, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Denver, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Francisco, St. Louis. In Europe, they have performed in Sweden, Norway, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Belgium, and in the UK. They have also performed in Japan, Australia, South-east Asia, South America & the Caribbean's, and the Middle-East.

The Shoals India & South Asian Association, along with the Bengali Association of Huntsville, and the Creative Writing Program at Florence High School has taken the initiative to bring this world renowned troupe to Florence. The continued support of the Shoals community makes it possible to overcome the challenges of bringing troupes of such caliber.

In the words of Dr. Santanu Borah, the coordinator of the show, "it will be a perfect blend of east and west in its style. I am sure that it will be a feast for those who crave to see this kind of rare synthesis". In short, they have imbibed their spirit from the notion that dance can inculcate love and compassion in human life. So let us wait till July 31 to feel the love and compassion through their "Symphony of Life".

Admission:

Ticket prices include a sample platter of "Taste of India" (6-6:45 pm)

Reserved: \$25

General Admission: Advance \$12 At the Door \$15

Students: \$10 (At the Door & Limited Seats)

Children: No Charge for 12 and under

For more information about the event, please email to [santanuborah@hotmail.com](mailto:santanuborah@hotmail.com). Also, visit [www2.una.edu/sborah/mamatashankar](http://www2.una.edu/sborah/mamatashankar) for updates about the event.