News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2007

Women of the World: Namita Bodaji in Performance with Shikha Mehta

WHAT: Modern and classical Indian dance performance sponsored by the University of St. Thomas Bill L. & Gerre D. Andrist Women of the World series and the Houston Institute for Culture.

WHO: Renowned dancer Namita Bodaji with her guest Shikha Mehta

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 3

WHERE: University of St. Thomas Jones Hall, 3910 Yoakum Blvd.
Parking: Moran Center, 3807 Graustark at W. Alabama

BACKGROUND: A master of the ancient Indian art of *Bharata Natyam*, Namita Bodaji will demonstrate the language of Indian dance, which uses complex body movements, hand signs, facial and eye expressions. She will also interpret epic dramas. Shikha Mehta, an exceptionally talented student who is studying under Bodaji in Mumbai, will also perform. The artists will present a fusion of modern and classical dances in a performance titled *Bharatajazzyam*, a combination of *Bharata Natyam* with its more modern dance form, jazz.

Namita Bodaji studied at Sri Rajrajeshwari Bharat Natya Kala Mandir Institute in Mumbai, India and received the high honor of *Sringar Mani* (artistic jewel). She has performed at Indian festivals, *Pallovothsava* and *Janmashtami*, and danced at holy temples, such as Guruvayoor in Kerala, and Jagmohan Palace in Mysore. She has performed in the ballets "Vasantavalli" and "Krishna Lila" (choreographed by Guru Kalyanasundaram) in the South of India, and she has appeared at the India International Center in New Delhi, the House of Soviet Culture and the World Folk Festival in Washington D.C. Bodaji choreographs and teaches modern and classical Indian dance. She has toured in the United States biennially since 2000. Bodaji has a Masters in English Literature.

COST: Free and open to the public

PHOTO: Bodaji publicity photo: http://www.houstonculture.org/imgpr/namitabw_RGB.jpg

CONTACT: Mark Lacy at 713-521-3686

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Namita Bodaji with her guest Shikha Mehta
Performing Modern and Classical Indian Dance
Thursday, May 3, 2007, 7:00pm
University of St Thomas Jones Hall
Yoakum at W. Alabama Street

Free and open to the public; Presented by Houston Institute for Culture
Press Contact: Mark Lacy, 713-521-3686
Public Contact: 713-521-3686, info@houstonculture.org

Visitors should park in the Moran Center Parking Garage located at W. Alabama and Graustark, 2 blocks west of Yoakum on W. Alabama Street.

A master of the ancient Indian art of Bharata Natyam, Namita Bodaji will demonstrate the language of Indian dance and interpret epic dramas. Shikha Mehta, an exceptionally-talented student who is studying under Namita in Mumbai, will also perform the dance tradition, which utilizes complex body movements, hand signs, facial and eye expressions. The talented artists will present a fusion of modern and classical dances in a performance themed Bharatajazzyam. Namita Bodaji studied at Sri Rajrajeshwari Bharat Natya Kala Mandir Institute in Mumbai, India and received the high honor of Sringar Mani (Artistic Jewel).

She has performed during important Indian festivals, Pallovothsava and Janmashtami, and danced at holy temples, such as Guruvayoor in Kerala, and Jagmohan Palace in Mysore. Bodaji choreographs and teaches modern and classical Indian dance. She has a Masters in English Literature.

Bodaji has performed in the ballets "Vasantavalli" and "Krishna Lila" (choreographed by Guru Kalyanasundaram) in the South of India, and she has appeared at the India International Center in New Delhi, the House of Soviet Culture, World Folk Festival and was featured on an Indian dance tour of England. She has toured in the United States biennially since 2000.

BODAJI PUBLICITY PHOTO
http://www.houstonculture.org/imgpr/namitabw_RGB.jpg

BIOGRAPHY