



SEPTEMBER 2004  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: GWEN TOLINE  
917-204-5551 [bywordofmouth@msn.com](mailto:bywordofmouth@msn.com)

**TRINAYAN COLLECTIVE PRESENTS:**

**NEEL: THE ETERNAL BLUE**

*A multi-layered dance presentation inspired by deities of Hindu tradition*

**New York, NY. September 2004.** Trinayan Collective, the New York based group of Indian classical dancers, brings their latest program – *Neel: The Eternal Blue*, to Joyce Soho on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The captivating performance is a multi-layered theatrical presentation of Odissi, the dance form associated with the temples of Orissa in eastern India.

Ranging from traditional choreography re-staged for eight dancers, to solos that follow temple practice, the repertoire of *Neel: The Eternal Blue* invites audiences to meditate on manifestations of the divine. Krishna, ('blue-bodied flute player'), Shiva, ('blue-throated one'), and Kali, ('blue-black' goddess) come alive through rhythmic movement, hand and body gesture, music, and song, against a backdrop of moving images intended to evoke their very essence. Blue is the color associated with the fifth chakra in the human body, which is located in the base of the throat, and is the site of creativity and spiritual inspiration. As a complement to the blue-blackness of the three major forms of the divine, *Neel* introduces the sun god, Surya - well known for the series of moves addressed to him in Yoga practice – who breaks through the dark night in his horse-driven chariot of fire.

Trinayan Collective is a group of dancers devoted to the study, performance, and dissemination of Odissi. Renowned for the sensuous curves of its body postures, its deeply spiritual content, and lilting variation on north Indian music, Odissi is one of the most popular of the classical dance forms of India today.

The Collective is led by Bani Ray, teacher and re-stager for the group, who each year brings from Orissa their maestro, Guru Durga Charan Ranbir, to conduct workshops and to choreograph new items for them. *Trinayan* consists of five core artists - Bani Ray, Kakoli Mukherjee, Alicia Pascal, Taiis Pascal, and Nandini Sikand - each of who brings a varied range of skills to the work of the Collective.

A *Sutradhara* – 'narrator' in traditional Indian theater – weaves the dances together through stories, chants, poetry, and commentaries that intersperse the action. This is conceived and performed by guest artist, Odissi dancer and storyteller Rajika Puri.

To date Trinayan Collective has held annual New York showcases at the Merce Cunningham Studios (2003 and 2004), performed at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, The United Nations, and Lincoln Center Out of Doors and participated in International Festivals of Odissi Dance, (Washington DC. in 2000 & 2003). A highlight of its performance career has been participation in Lotus Fine Arts' *New York Ramayana*, (a full-length presentation of the Hindu epic told through alternating sections of Odissi, Burmese and Filipino dance) which was also aired on PBS in 2002. In 2003 it was presented at the Danny Kaye Playhouse – with Rajika Puri (*Neel's* current *Sutradhar*) as Narrator.

Joyce Soho is located at 155 Mercer Street (between Prince and Houston) in New York City.

Performance Schedule: Thursday October 28, 2004, Friday October 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm.

Tickets (Regular: \$25, Students and Seniors- \$20) can be reserved in advance by emailing [info@trinayan.org](mailto:info@trinayan.org) or by calling 212-334-7479. Tickets must be picked up by 7.45 p.m. on the day of performance (15 minutes before show time). For additional information please visit our website at [www.trinayan.org](http://www.trinayan.org)

Pg.2



The creation of Joyce SoHo was made possible by the magnanimous support of the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust. Joyce SoHo is supported by private funds from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, J.P. Morgan Chase, Mertz-Gilmore Foundation; the Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund, established in The New York Community Trust by the founders of The Reader's Digest Association; and by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

# # #