

Temple of Fine Arts International

TFA is a culturally and service oriented non-profit organization with centers in Malaysia, India, Singapore, Australia & Srilanka. Our recent addition to the TFA family is the Temple of Fine Arts North America, Inc.

Today, we are a well-known organization in our respective countries, recognized and respected as an institution whose primary motive is that of service and promoting arts and culture. In every center, TFA is well known as one of leading arts institutions with special expertise in Indian dance, music and culture. Though essentially Indian in nature, the TFA, however, is run on non-sectarian lines.

History of TFA beginnings

In 1971, a young Hindu monk by the name of Swami Shantanand arrived for the first time in Malaysia with a prayer to his master Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh: "Dear Master, I do not know why you have brought me here, but let me be worthy of your love and grace".



In Kuala Lumpur, he was hosted by a family and through them met a number of families. His gatherings were filled with songs in praise of God and his talks illuminated almost every conceivable subject pertinent to life and living but most of all, it was the way he spoke God's love that filled the hearts of those who heard him.

His approach was all embracing and his ideology simple: "Follow any path, religion or doctrine, but believe in it sincerely, because the sincerity of your belief will illuminate and guide you to the ultimate common goal - God". He taught the universal

message found in all religions: Love for GOD and service to mankind.

Soon by word of mouth, his following spread from Kuala Lumpur to Penang, Johor Bahru, Singapore and gradually to Perth and Melbourne in Australia. As some time passed by, a core of some one hundred families became his regular followers in each center and over a period of ten years, these followers were affectionately referred to as the Shiva Family.

The Shiva family comprised many youngsters and Swamiji felt the urge to begin a cultural center so that the children in the group would learn dance and music and thereby preserve something of their rich cultural heritage.

Here the divine is worshipped through the fine arts and art is taught just for the love of it. Today, TFA teaches different classical and folk dances and music of South as well as North Indian. It has become a government recognized non-profit institution in all its centers. Once a year, it conducts "Festival of Arts" - a week long offering of dance, drama and music, choreographed, directed and produced entirely by the teachers, students and other members of the institution. These presentations & stage productions are all given as a love offering to the public, **free of charge**.

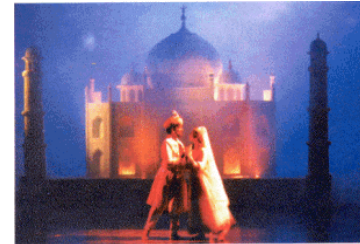
Here are some of TFA International Productions...



Swan Lake

Swan Lake is the masterpiece of Tchaikovsky, the acclaimed master of Ballet. The Temple of Fine Arts has tried to infuse new life into the Swan Lake by adapting it to suit our Indian dance styles but keeping the central theme intact. The

story is given a slight twist when pretty princesses from different lands are invited to display their dancing prowess to enable the prince to choose his mate.



Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal is a unique interpretation of the immortal love story of Shah Jahan and Mumtaz. The theme of human love transcending its earthly limitations has been expressed here. In Paradise, Mumtaz makes a wish to see the monument herself and the wish is granted. Descending to the mortal plane with Shah Jahan, they both relive

the special and significant moments of their lives together. The Temple of Fine Arts presented this dance drama in Kathak and folk dance style bringing to the fore, the Muslim culture.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Temple of Fine Arts presented the evergreen fantasy of William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. In presenting the popular story, the fantasy was transported from its Athenian home to the Indian desert state of Rajasthan, a state well known for its colorful costume and folk dance, which has enabled to infuse the Dream

with the cultural and mythological richness India is famous for.

Jonathan Livingston Seagull

Jonathan Livingston Seagull, the poetic masterpiece of Richard Bach was a bold attempt by The Temple of Fine Arts. In the dance drama, TFA had kept the theme of Richard Bach's story and used the original sound track



and music by Neil Diamond from the film version. However, the theme was interpreted in a more philosophical way.