

Dance Seminar Recommendations

THE following are the recommendations of the Dance Seminar :

1. This Seminar recommends that with a view to co-ordinate the material and methods of teaching Bharata Natyam and to draw up a comprehensive codification, efforts be made to bring together a representative group of *Nattuvanars*, exponents and scholars in the art, and help them to hold a series of meetings and discussions on the materials and methods of teaching the art and produce a consolidated report. Further, in view of the dearth of *Nattuvangam* personnel in the field of Bharata Natyam, a Central College for training in *Nattuvangam* be established.

2. To co-ordinate the material and methods of teaching in Kathak and to draw up a comprehensive codification, efforts be made to bring together a representative group of exponents and scholars in the art and help them to hold a series of meetings and discussions on the materials and methods of teaching the art and produce a consolidated report. Further, in view of the present condition of the Kathak Dance, an institution be set up for the revitalisation of the Kathak dance through comprehensive research and systematic training under the guidance of the Gurus who happen to be foremost in the field.

Manipuri Dance

3. To preserve the authentic traditions of Manipuri dance as practised by the elder generation of Manipuri Gurus, various aspects of Manipuri dancing and its accompanying music be filmed and recorded from these Gurus who now reside in Manipur and surrounding districts, like Cachar, Sylhet and Tripura.

4. That more encouragement be given for the preservation and development of Kathakali art by giving financial and other assistance to the existing Kathakali training institutions.

5. That on account of the present economic condition of the few surviving artists of Kuchipudi dance, encouragement and a liberal subsidy be given to help the revival

and improvement of the art, according to a plan and under the auspices of the Andhra Pradesh Sangeeta Natak Akademi. Further, talented young men and women, with required qualifications, be trained in the Kuchipudi dance technique.

6. That *Yakshagana* dance-drama be recognised as a valuable art-form and encouragement be given for its preservation.

7. That some sort of stipend or grant be given for refresher courses in various dances to professional artists who need such refresher courses.

National Institute

8. That a National Institute of Folk Dance be established to study, preserve and propagate the various folk dances of the country.

9. That folk theatre workshops be established for carrying out experimental work in all forms and styles of folk-drama and dance-drama to evolve new modes of presentation and for introducing new themes and motifs in folk plays.

10. That a separate Seminar on Folk Dance be organised to cover the entire field of folk dance lore in all the different forms and styles, which is absolutely necessary for an accurate evaluation of the artistic merits and problems relating to the folk-theatre-arts, including dance and drama, for focussing more concentrated attention and for formulating policies and programmes for the future.

11. The Sangeet Natak Akademi is requested to constitute a Committee of Experts to study, in all its aspects, the question of the place of dance in our educational curricula at different levels and stages of education. This Committee, after submitting a comprehensive report, should make necessary recommendations and suggestions for improving the standards of teaching and courses of study.

12. This Seminar deems it important as well as profitable that contacts be established

between the Sangeet Natak Akademi and centres of learning, such as the universities, with a view to encouraging the study of our fine arts among teachers and scholars, especially those engaged in the study of Indian culture. It, therefore, recommends to the Government to take suitable steps to bring about a healthy co-operation and collaboration between the Akademi and the universities.

Committee of Experts

13. That a Committee of Experts be constituted to study various forms and styles of dance and dance-dramas prevalent in different regions, to record all available authentic texts and film performances, and present this material in a comprehensive report covering all aspects of Indian dance, suggesting ways and means for rehabilitating the forms which are decaying.

14. This Seminar recommends that steps be taken to publish :

- (a) authentic studies of established folk and classical dances, with sketches of *mudras* and other mimetic action, with precise definitional texts, to preserve and systematize the contemporary dance content and facilitate future development and experimentation on proper lines, basing all innovations on the traditional art material ;
- (b) reference works on dance-arts, such as, dance-companions, definitional glossaries, 'who is who in dance', translations of some of the rare Sanskrit works and standard handbooks and manuals in English and other European languages on the dance art.

15. That film and sound records be made of important dance rituals of India with necessary details, and studies be encouraged with regard to their aesthetic as well as anthropological aspects.

Travel Grants

16. That the Akademi should adopt a scheme of giving travel grants and scholarships on short-term basis to artists and scholars

working in the field of dance and drama. These scholarships can be divided into two categories :

- (i) Inland travel scholarships meant for inter-regional tours aiming at a better understanding of each other's artistic forms and traditions and eliminating ignorance ;
- (ii) foreign travel scholarships, aiming at widening our own knowledge and heritage in the arts of dance and drama.

17. To promote greater appreciation and mutual understanding, the Akademi should arrange for eminent exponents of Kathak to tour and take part in conferences and festivals in South India and eminent exponents of Bharata Natyam to tour and take part in conferences and festivals in the North.

18. That a study tour of South-East Asia by a party of artists and scholars be sponsored to explore the dance-material preserved in the dance and dance-drama traditions of South-East Asia and the exercises and methods of teaching of the art preserved in those areas.

Special Scholarships

19. That apart from the Humanities Scholarships for Indian dance, given by the Government of India, the Sangeet Natak Akademi should award some special scholarships to students of younger age-groups, for training in dancing as well as teaching.

20. That an award for modern dance compositions (Production) in ballets and dance-dramas be instituted to be given annually along with other Akademi Awards for dance.

Special National Award

21. That in addition to the National Awards to practising artists in the different schools of music and dance, the Akademi should institute a Special National Award for deserving teachers and scholars in the field.

22. That a committee be appointed to visit all institutions where teaching in Bharata Natyam, Kathakali, Kathak and Manipuri Dance is provided for and report on the

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qualifications of teachers, standard of teaching and other relevant particulars, obtaining in these institutions.

23. It is proposed that a study should be made of *Labnotation*, the system now universally used for all types of dancing in the West, so as to evolve an Indian system of dance notation to enable us to preserve our tradition for future generations.

Central Dance Museum

24. That immediate steps be taken to establish a Central Museum of Dance with special sections for costumes, ornaments and other traditional material available, such as masks, head-dresses and all such objects that are related to the art of dance. Steps should also be taken for the collection and display of

traditional costumes and ornaments of all Indian dances, whether classical, folk or ritualistic.

25. That the present method of organising Seminars by the Akademi be revised and Seminars in Dance, Drama, Music and Films, extending over four weeks be organised every year with a week each devoted to each of the arts.

26. To promote and develop folk as well as stylised forms of dances in different States of the country, periodical regional Seminars be arranged in co-operation with the State Akademies.

27. That all stage-artistes, and especially the dancers, be exempted from the levy of entertainment-tax on all shows, whether staged by amateurs or professionals.