

The **Taal Dance Collective** is widely recognized for its stunning and unique fusion of Classical Indian and modern Western dance styles resulting in a mesmerizing, avant-garde yet sophisticated performance experience

From elegant statuesque poses, to fast rhythmic footwork set against modern electronic tabla-beats and rich global music textures, Taal combines years of classical training with contemporary expression to unleash the sensual beauty and unbounded spirit of traditional dance.



Founded in March 2003, the company offers its talent, entertainment and direction/ choreography for a diverse spectrum of entertainment including stage productions, festivals, music concerts, music videos, film, cultural events, and private events. The individual dancers are spectacular at impromptu dance to live music and also perform stunning expressive solo acts. Additionally, the dancers host workshops at events providing instruction in various forms of Indian dance including Bollywood and classical fusion.

Taal's dancers were selected to be featured in Pepsi's new commercial airing in July 2006. They have also been featured in a San Miguel commercial and have stunned audiences with performances at the Emmy's HBO Reception, "Jinn" book release party hosted by Brian Grazer, Ron Howard, George Lucas, and Renee Zelleweger, a CBS.com series called BBQ Bill, and a UPN TV show (yet to be released). Taal's dances have been presented at museums such as Salvador Dali Museum, the Getty Center, Japanese American National Museum, and Museum of Contemporary Art. Additionally, their works have been showcased at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA Convention Center, Pacific Design Center, Civic Center Auditorium (SF), Wiltern Theatre, 20th Century Fox Studios to name a select few. They have collaborated with leading producers and DJs Nitin Sawhney (UK), Cheb i Sabbah (SF), MIDival Punditz (New Delhi), Karsh Kale (NY), and Bombay Dub Orchestra (UK) to create a cutting-edge experience that fuses the beauty and form of Indian tradition with electronic world grooves. They have also performed alongside Christina Aguilera, Black Eyed Peas, and other live music entertainers.



## RESUME

### Dance Training and Styles:

Bollywood, Indian Classical Dances of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Kuchipudi, and Mohini Attam, Modern/Contemporary, Hip Hop, and Jazz

### Industry Events

- Primetime EMMYS, HBO Reception, Pacific Design Center (Los Angeles, CA)
- Ron/Cheryl Howard Book Signing Event at the home of Brian Grazer (Pacific Palisades, CA)
- Pepsi International Commercial, Choreographed and Danced (Los Angeles, CA)
- San Miguel, International Commercial (Los Angeles, CA)
- Indian Film Festival Industry Leadership Awards (House of Blues, Los Angeles, CA)
- Indian Film Festival Opening and Closing Galas (Los Angeles, CA)
- CBS.com TV Series BBQ Bill (Hollywood, CA)
- Annual Tie Conference (Santa Clara, CA)
- Henry Fonda Theatre, Indian Film Festival Opening Night (Hollywood, CA)

### Tours/Performances

- Central Park Summer Stage with Cheb i Sabbah (New York, NY)
- Walt Disney Concert Hall, Festival with Karsh Kale (Los Angeles, CA)
- Global Sight and Sound Project Ahimsa, Sony Metreon (San Francisco, CA)
- Make an Impact, Momart Theater (Hollywood, CA)
- Venice Centennial Celebration (Venice, CA)
- Midival Punditz (New Delhi) US Tour (Los Angeles & San Francisco, CA)
- One Night for India, Wiltern Theater (Los Angeles, CA)
- Nitin Sawhney (UK) US Tour (Los Angeles & San Francisco, CA)

### Museums

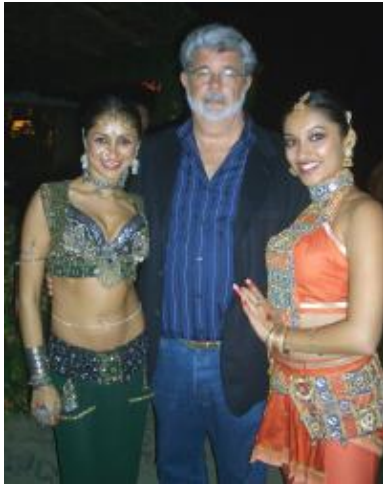
- Getty Center Summer Sessions Concert Series (Los Angeles, CA)
- LACMA Free Monday Concerts (Los Angeles, CA)
- Salvador Dali Museum, Project Ahimsa 4th Anniversary (St. Petersburg, FL)
- Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (North Adams, MA)
- Japanese American National Museum Central Summer Concerts (Los Angeles, CA)
- Page Museum, Sister Cities Festival (Los Angeles, CA)

### Specialty Shows

- Craigslist Nonprofit Boot Camp Reception, Civic Center Auditorium (San Francisco, CA)
- Salesforce.com Annual Sales Meeting (San Francisco, CA)
- Levitt Pavilion World Concert Series (Pasadena, CA)
- NBC Travel and Tourism Expo, LA Convention Center (Los Angeles, CA)
- Health and Harmony Festival (Santa Rosa, CA)
- Himalayan Festival (Salt Lake City, UT)



*"Pulsating Indian-inflected dance" – **Variety.com***



**Taal with George Lucas**

*"During their mesmerizing person ...even stirred from their seat. The presentation was totally innovative. I don't think Utah has ever seen anything similar, and the applause and appreciation was overwhelming*

**- Himalayan Festival Director, Utah**

*"It feels like the dancers are challenging you"*

**- India Journal, Jason Gurvitz**



**Taal with Director Tarsem Singh  
Filming of Pepsi Commercial**



**Taal with Marcia Cross**

*Sultry members of Taal Dance Collective keep guests entertained..*

**- Hollywood Reporter**



**Taal with Ron Howard,  
"Jinn" Book Signing Party**



**Taal with Quentin Tarantino,  
HBO Emmy's Reception**

*"Enthralled the audiences"*

**- The IndianExpress**

*"Beautiful Indian Dancers"*

**- Defamer.com**

**Taal Dance Collective**

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taal

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## New York I

### >> BOLLYWOODLAND >>

**H**ollywood rocked with the sounds of Bollywood — courtesy of the **Bombay Dub Orchestra** — at Ivar on April 17 during the opening-night celebration of the **Fifth Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles**. Sultry members of the **Taal Dance Collective** kept guests entertained, and Chakra Cuisine provided a sumptuous buffet of delectables for guests including filmmaker **Jag Mundhra**, whose film "Provoked" opened the six-day fest at the nearby ArcLight Cinemas. Joining Mundhra were the film's **Nandita Das** and **Nicholas Irons** as well as actor/painter/poet **Deepti Naval**, this year's honoree.

— Mira Advani

From left, Jag Mundhra, Nandita Das and Nicholas Irons



Chad Richman/Getty Images

The Taal Dance Collective performs.



Taal Dance Collective  
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The only weekly newspaper in California, which gives you complete news about India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan etc

# NEWS ASIA

Community



## Bhangra Fundraiser For Obama

The beautifully graphitized walls and the crowded store front of a trendy shop in Los Angeles was the venue for the 2008 Movement and the South Asians for Obama LA's O'Bhangra. The fundraising extravaganza started at seven thirty and ended at midnight. It was hosted by D'LO, featuring DJ Rekha and performances by the Taal Dance Collective and Dhol Nation, the O'Bhangra was a night to remember. The bhangra beats filled the street with movement as people danced, talked politics and help support Vijay Chakravarthy, and the Barack Obama campaign for the Presidency in 2008.

**Taal Dance Collective**

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005

ick Nicholson makes a rare red-carpet cameo; Nicole Kidman primps for her closeup.

# A'S LING

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Stacey Snider at  
MA gala

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**Sean Penn and Sydney Pollack; right, Aussie Naomi Watts shows up for best pal Kidman.**



Public Information, kicked off the Tribeca Film Festival.

Earlier in the evening, helmer Sydney Pollack, Kidman, Sean Penn and Tribeca organizers Robert De Niro and Jane Rosenthal were joined by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in introducing the film at the Ziegfeld Theater. To accommodate the demand for tickets, screenings also were held at the Paris Theater and at MoMA.

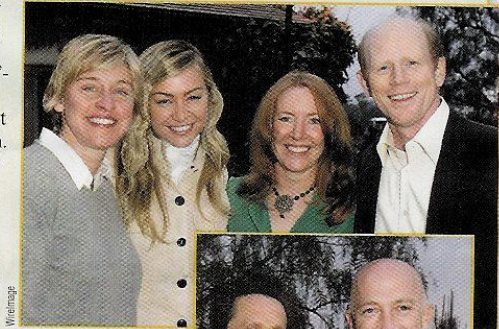
Guests had free range at the MoMA bash, giving them a chance to study Monet's "Waterlilies" while rubbing shoulders with the likes of Catherine Keener, Sheryl Crow, Naomi Watts, Rachel Weisz, Salman Rushdie and Tom Brokaw.

## I Dream of 'Jinn'

Cheryl Howard Crew says that while she was researching her new novel, "In the Face of Jinn" — about a woman who disappears in the borderlands of Pakistan and Afghan-

istan — she watched every "Arabian Nights"-inspired pic she could get her hands on.

Those attending her book party on a chilly Monday evening may have wondered if they'd stepped onto the set of one of those movies.



**Ellen DeGeneres, Portia De Rossi, Cheryl Howard Crew and Ron Howard**

As "I Dream of Jeannie"-style belly dancers wiggled around the lawn of Brian and Gigi Levangie Grazer's Pacific Palisades home,

and dashiki-draped bartenders served fruity cocktails graced with plastic monkeys, Howard Crew said she wasn't sure, in writing the

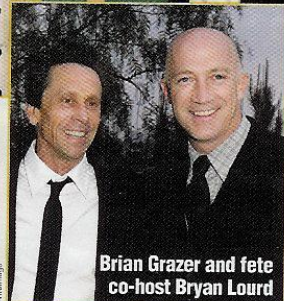
novel, if it would be a mystery, thriller or adventure story. "My husband (Ron Howard) said if you don't pick a genre, they'll never know how to market it," she confided.

The genre of the party was casbah cool,

with pulsating Indian-inflected dance music, carved



**Party co-hosts George Lucas and Renee Zellweger**



**Brian Grazer and fete co-host Bryan Lourd**



**Buddhas and sitar players.**  
— Jonathan Bing



VOICE OF INDIANS WORLDWIDE

# India Post

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## IFFLA 2005 bigger, better



**PURNIMA BHARATH**  
India Post News Service

LOS ANGELES: As the flickering light in a dark theater beamed images of Vijay Raaz ("Monsoon Wedding") gunning his autorickshaw "Madhuri" on bumpy roads in Rajasthan in "Hari Om," the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles touched every film lover's consciousness through its five-day fete; be it political, social, economic or emotional.

The closing night film, Bharatbala's "Hari Om" embodied IFFLA's mission: greater appreciation and understanding of Indian cinema and the enigma that the country is. As "Hari Om" unfolded on the screen, the hospitality, stark beauty and mysterious character of India shone through. The film went on to win the Audience Award for Best Feature Film.

Details on page 24

**SYMBOL OF IFFLA:** The autorickshaw was the single most popular vehicle at the festival. It played seminal roles in Richie Mehta's "Anar" and Bharatbala's "Hari Om"

April 29, 2005

## Community Across America

India Post 25

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## Of organic processes and superb story telling

**PURNIMA BHARATH**  
India Post News Service

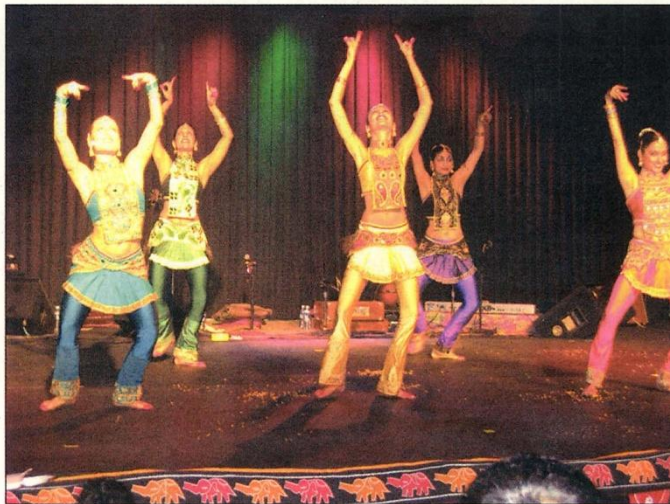
LOS ANGELES, CA: Filmmakers could not have asked for a better setting: a reputed film festival taking place at a luxurious state-of-the-art theater complex; an expert jury; a discerning audience and a meaningful Q&A afterwards.

IFFLA's run at the ArcLight Cinemas on Sunset Blvd. April 20-24 brought out a select breed of filmmakers and filmgoers, both devoted to expanding the horizons of Indian cinema and their own. "Black Friday" challenged viewers to watch a complex film based on *Mid Day's* chief crime reporter S Hussain Zaidi's book about the serial bomb blasts that rocked Mumbai in 1993.

According to director Anurag Kashyap, every fact represented in the film has been documented or verified. The film followed the perpetrators' wake, fleeing from Mumbai to Rampur, Jaipur, Delhi, Calcutta, and numerous other locations; shooting in the exact places where the men who orchestrated the bomb blasts lived, planned the devastation and fled from.

"On Sunday right after Black Friday, posters sprung up all over Bombay saying 'Let's Go to Work on Monday' and Bombay actually went back to work the next day," Kashyap said. With an initial budget of about a million dollars, Kashyap's biggest problem wasn't the central character of his film - it was how not to incite the audience.

"The whole idea was to have balance in totality," he said. Following the stories of the men who planned the bomb blasts, its aftermath, the demolition of the Babri



Taal Dance Company members perform at SIR for IFFLA closing festivities

Best Documentary. Principally a screenplay writer, Kashyap admits to making a living by penning films that he would never

a complicated social issue. It told a story with multiple and conflicting points of view and did it without ever being judgmental. The film commands admiration from us as filmgoers and human beings." It was the only film that received unstinted praise during the fest.

However, critical acclaim for his films has not helped the director and screenwriter in India where both his forthcoming films

"Paanch" and "Black Friday" haven't been released. The Bombay bomb blasts case is still ongoing in India and with a verdict expected soon, opponents argue the release of "Black Friday" will influence the outcome.

Kashyap argues that since the book by the same name has been out for a long time, it's unfair to stop the film's release on the premise of being influential. He remains optimistic that things will be resolved soon.





# Taal Dancers Light Up Evening at Benefit Concert

By INDULATA PRASAD

LOS ANGELES, CA. - "Make an Impact" a benefit concert held in Hollywood on July 23 was a night of multi-ethnic music, fashion and art to raise funds to protect the indigenous people of the Amazon rain forest and the victimized women and children of Juarez, Mexico. More than 600 people attended the benefit concert.

"There's a lot more going on than celebrity breakups in Los Angeles. We're bringing the rest of the world to LA through music

"Their style is so fast, they are mixing it with modern times, dancing to electronic music. The way they dance is really impressive," Gurvitz said commenting on the troupe's impromptu performance on the drumbeats. "It feels like the dancers are challenging you, it is not just representational."



Taal dancers adding to the cultural diversity of the show.

Apart from the impromptu performances the seven-member dance troupe also presented a special 15 minutes sequence based on Indian mythology. The dance movements effectively weaved in movements of Bharata Natyam, Kathak, and Odissi with the contemporary dance elements, all set to cutting edge Indian electronic music.

and hopefully educating a city in the process," Jason Gurvitz, founder of Green Dog Films and the organizer of this event said, adding, "We were trying to create a night of international fusion."

Among those performing were Indian dance troupe Taal, Latin funk-soul band Fredaliba with lead singer, actor Eric Balfour, Sanskrit chantress also famous as Madonna's backup singer Donna Delorey, the MoonCrickets, and the Naked Rhythm Drums. Fashion and dance show that showcased the African influenced designs of

"The audience's positive response blew us away," Singhal said. "It simply means that the west is really starting to soak in and appreciate the beauty of the Indian culture. It means that we are succeeding in our goals of exposing the artistry and magic of our heritage to a larger main-

stream audience."

"I was expecting around 2000 people to show up," Gurvitz said. The concert raised around \$7000. The proceeds went to the Casa Amiga, the rape crisis center in Juarez where since 1993 hundreds of murders and around 5000 disappearances of mostly young women have been reported and to

upcoming fashion designer Katija Neemo, gypsy guitar and belly dancing along with, Taal Dancers further added to the diversity in entertainment the evening presented.

The Taal Dance Company was a hit with the audience. The dancers impromptu performance to the drum beats of "Naked Rhythm tribal drums" won much applause. "We call it free-forming. It is dancing truly in the moment," Astha Singhal, artistic director of Taal, who also performed at the concert said,



Taal dancers were a hit with the audience.



The Naked Rhythm Drums displaying the African influence.

Amazon Watch an organization that is currently engaged in an international campaign to hold

Chevron-Texaco accountable for its toxic contamination of the Ecuadorian Amazon.