

# LeisureScene

What's On

# Showcasing grandeur of traditions...

MORE than 1,000 people will get an insight into the colourful traditions and culture of the Indian state of Karnataka this weekend.

The Kannada Sangha's Kannada Vaibhava (grandeur of Kannada) event is free to all and will take place from 2pm on Friday at the Al Raja School, Manama.

Top artists, writers and entertainers from Karnataka have been flown in especially for the celebration.



Ms Indushree and Mr Chinna, left



Award-winning dramatist, film and TV actor Kasaragodu Chinna will lead a seven-member troupe to present two short plays at the event.

They will also present a mime show. Mr Chinna, who is visiting Bahrain for the fourth time, has been a member of India's Karnataka Natak Academy and the Kerala Sangeeth Natak Academy.

He has been involved in several Kannada, Malayalam, Tulu, Konkani and English plays.

Magician and ventriloquist R Indushree is also on the bill to perform. During the last 15 years, Ms Indushree has performed at more than 3,000 shows all over the world and is believed to be India's first woman ventriloquist.

Her skits often feature references to current affairs and she is looking to enter the Guinness Book of World Records by using a 10-foot-tall dummy, a feat she claims none of her counterparts worldwide has achieved.

Other artists who will take part in the Sangha's annual event are stand-up comedian Ramnath Narasimhamurthy, mimicry and shadow-play artist Pattabhirama and Bahrain-based vocalist Vijaya Sathyanarayana and her team.

Members of the Sangha will also present a Karnataka Darshana stage show that offers a glimpse into the

state's history and heritage.

"Our annual mega event Kannada Vaibhava is a showcase of the cultural diversity of the state," said Sangha president B Rajkumar.

"The show has already drawn much interest from the people from the state.

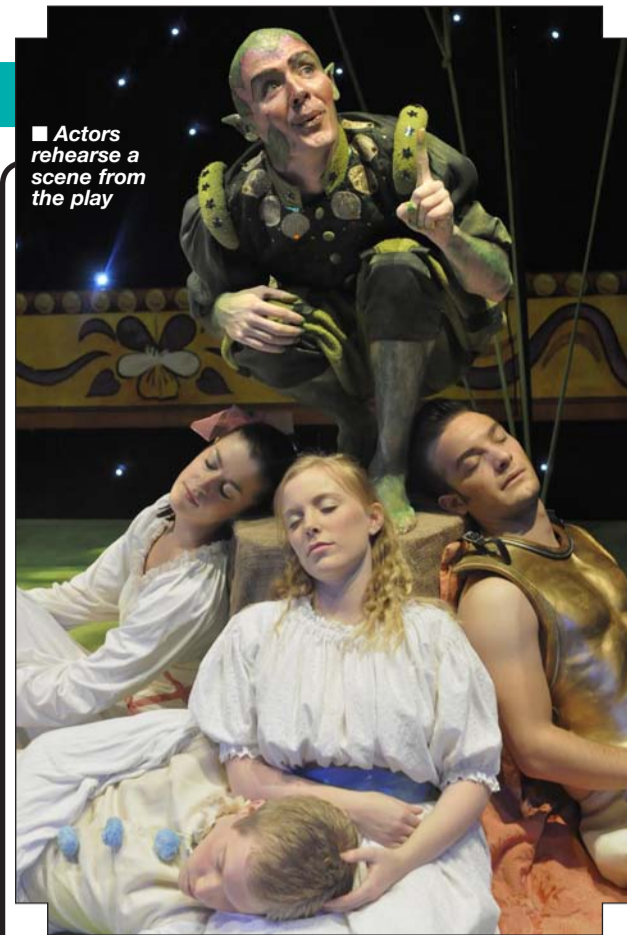
"I urge people from Karnataka and other Indian states to utilise this golden opportunity to witness the grand cultural event."

Platinum sponsors of the event are Al Wardi Group and Salarpuria Sattva Group.

The main sponsors are Delta Construction Company, Kristal Group, Mohammed Jalal and Sons, BMMI, Malabar Gold and Ramee Group of Hotels.

Co-sponsors are Ahmed Zayani and Sons, Al Fahad Manpower, Papillon Restaurant, Al Shatra Contracting, Jamal Al Ahmed Building Materials, Al Barq Electrical Service, Spring Irrigation, Ahmed Mohammed Jassim, Ahmed Omer Group, UAE Exchange and Metalco.

Karnataka Forests Conservator additional principal chief Dr Sunder Naik is expected to attend the event. Contact Mr Rajkumar on 39688395 for details.



Actors rehearse a scene from the play

## Shakespeare treat for the children

FANS of Shakespearean play *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will have a chance to enjoy a child-friendly version of the musical comedy when it is staged in Bahrain next month.

The play centres on the marriage of the Duke of Athens Theseus to the Queen of the Amazons Hippolyta and the activities of the mischievous fairies of the Fairyland forest in which the play is set.

The play also touches on the stories of four Athenian lovers as well as a group of Athenian workmen who are working towards presenting a play to entertain the royal couple at their wedding celebrations.

It is being staged in Bahrain by British production house Shakespeare 4 Kidz (S4K) in association with Bahrain-based Entertainment Plus.

The play was originally meant to have three shows in Bahrain, but organisers have added another show to meet requests from theatre fans.

"By popular demand, we will now have three matinee shows and change the timing of one of the shows," said Entertainment Plus owner Paula Mansour.

Shows will now take place at the Alumni Club in Adliya at 4.30pm on January 15, at 11am on January 16 and at 8.45am

and 11.45am on January 17.

"Every S4K show uses the whole Shakespearean plot but uses only the most famous original lines and slots them into modern language so that everyone, even the youngest primary school children, can understand," said organisers.

"There are also songs, dances and lots of spell-binding effects as the fairies create a world of wonder in the woods."

The staging of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* follows the successful run of *Macbeth* at the club last March, which was part of the play's international tour.

Tickets are BD13 for children and BD16 for those aged over 18.

Special rates will also be offered to schools who book in advance.

Tickets are now available at Alosra Supermarket at the Najibi Centre in Saar, Razmatazz in Budaiya and at the Hava Java café at Manazel, Salmabad.

Young actors will also have a chance to audition for the role of the play's Indian prince and share the stage with the S4K actors.

The role requires a 10-year-old boy, but he need not be Indian, said Ms Mansour.

Contact her on 39616858 to arrange an audition or e-mail havabite@gmail.com for more information.

## Young dancers stepping out for competition

THE talents of 34 young dancers will come under the focus during the second round of a nationwide solo dance competition at the Indian Club this weekend.

It follows the opening of the Club's Super Dancer competition that took place earlier this month.

The competition's second round will take place from 7pm on Friday at the Manama club.

Solo dancers will be divided into five to eight, nine to 11, and 12 to 15 categories and will perform dances with a number of props, said organisers.

A three-member judging panel will grade participants and decide the dancers who will participate in the competition's grand finale at the club on December 30.

During the finale, dancers will only compete in Hindi cinematic dances.

Six winners from the five to eight category, eight from the nine to 11 group and six from the 12 to 15 category will proceed to the final round.

Registration is now closed. The first prize winner in each category will receive \$250 (BD94).

The first runners-up will receive \$150 (BD56) and trophies while second runners-up will take home trophies.

All participants will receive certificates.

Each round of the competition is free to all to attend.

Call club entertainment secretary Radhakrishnan Theruvath on 36647253 for more information.



DJ Fuschia ... desi music treat

## DESI TUNES AT HAVANA CLUB

DUBAI-based female DJ Fuschia will perform at the National Day Desi Nite party tomorrow night at the Havana Club.

The Pakistani DJ has been influenced by a spectrum of artists from the Eastern and Western musical worlds including Roxette, R D Burman, Michael Jackson, Madhuri, Ace of Base and Alisha Chinai.

The former entertainment reporter has trained under Dubai's DJ Chico, who is the official DJ for Kingfisher and the Indian Premiere League and has

supported musical acts including Akon, Bob Sinclair, the Scorpions, the Rolling Stones, Lionel Ritchie, Shaan, Remo Fernandes and DJs Judge Jules, Spencer, Eddie Lock and Ray Davis.

She has also received training from Dubai-based DJ Jeff, who has played at Dubai's leading venues including Moksh at the Bed Lounge the Mix at the Grand Hyatt, the Kandy Experience at the Dubai Crowne Plaza and Temptasia at the Royal Le Meridian Abu Dhabi.

While she focuses primarily on Desi

music, Fuschia's sets also feature commercial, techno and electro house, Arabic and Persian tunes.

Doors open at 8.30pm at the Havana Club at the Panorama Hotel, Juffair.

Before the event, tickets will cost BD3 for women, BD5 for men and BD7 for couples.

At the door they will cost BD5 for women, BD7 for men, and BD10 for couples.

Call 33652535 or 37773693 for more information.