

Queering Indian Dance! **The Post Natyam Collective Premieres *Subversive Gestures***

Friday, August 10, 2012, 8:30 pm
Highways Performance Space at the 18th Street Arts Center
1651 18th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404

Santa Monica, CA – Highways Performance Space’s Artistic Director, Leo Garcia, presents *Subversive Gestures*, an evening of interdisciplinary performance that queers Indian dance, where gender-bending super-heroines, deconstructed mudras, and lesbian fantasies of courtesan-ancestors descend upon Highways’ unsuspecting audience. Created and performed by **Post Natyam Collective** members **Cynthia Ling Lee** and **Shyamala Moorty**, *Subversive Gestures* uses queer tactics of parodying and personalizing received legacies of gendered performance in a compelling mixture of contemporary Indian dance, theater, multimedia, and audience interaction. *Subversive Gestures* is part of BEHOLD!, Highways Performance Space’s queer performance series.

Subversive Gestures features the world premieres of several works, including *Not Enough*, a serio-comic tribute to Joe Goode's iconic *29 Effeminate Gestures* (1987), which re-contextualizes the original piece's investigations of the queer, gendered, dancing body for Indian classical dance; and *Super Ruwaxi: Origins*, a live comic-book story in which Ruwaxi, the dutiful daughter of Chinese immigrants, discovers her true super-identity as the Hairy Arm-Pitted Feminist, armed with magical body odor that can change the course of patriarchal oppression.

The Post Natyam Collective is a transnational, web-based coalition of women artists who creatively and critically engage South Asian dance. Unique to their networked nature, they use collaborative processes online to produce innovative dance and media work that rigorously tackles South Asian traditions and theory. Post Natyam Collective members are steeped in South Asian and other movement forms, such as bharatanatyam, kathak, kuchipudi, and contemporary dance, and the training of each artist is unique. In addition to dance, they work with multimedia, theater, art installations, creative writing, music, and scholarship. Drawing on these diverse tools, they create feminist, postcolonial, border-crossing artistic works shared with audiences on the web, in theaters, universities, and with communities. The Post Natyam Collective consists of Sandra Chatterjee (Munich/Salzburg/India), Cynthia Ling Lee (Los Angeles), Shyamala Moorty (Los Angeles), and Anjali Tata (Kansas City), with Sangita Shresthova (Los Angeles) as an affiliated media choreographer.

The artistic and academic work of Post Natyam Collective members has been presented internationally at venues such as Asia Society (New York); Chandra Mandapa: Spaces (Chennai); Dance Theater Workshop (New York); Highways Performance Space (Santa Monica); Indonesian Dance Festival (Jakarta); Kuandu Arts Festival (Taipei); Masala, Mehndi, Masti!! (Toronto); National Asian American Theater Festival (Los Angeles); Painted Bride Arts Center (Philadelphia); the Other Festival (Chennai); REDCAT (Los Angeles); Tanzhaus nrw (Düsseldorf); and Theater ABC (Prague). For more information, please see www.postnatyam.net and www.postnatyam.blogspot.com.

Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$15 for members/students/seniors. Buy your tickets online at www.highwaysperformance.org. Call 310-315-1459 for show information and to reserve.

Highways Performance Space is in its 22nd year as Southern California’s boldest center for new performance, promoting the development of contemporary, socially involved artists and art forms from diverse local, national and international communities. Artistic Director **Leo Garcia** continues to affirm Highways mission of developing and presenting innovative performance. For more information, photos or interviews, please contact **Patrick Kennelly**, Associate Artistic Director at 310-453-1755.