

## PRESS RELEASE

### **SAKHI- EXPLORING A FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SITA AND DRAUPADI Friday, 5TH April 2023 | Royal Opera House, Mumbai**

Sita and Draupadi are brought on to the same stage: SAKHI explores a friendship between these female icons of Hindu mythology. A unique blend of Bharatanatyam, contemporary dance and theatre, this production brings the Ramayana and Mahabharata to the same stage for its Mumbai premier at Royal Opera House.

After enthraling the spectators with a sold-out performance that left the nation's capital spellbound, Jyotsna Shourie Dance Society and Keelaka Dance Company are thrilled about the Mumbai Premiere of SAKHI: Exploring a friendship between Sita and Draupadi. The Mumbai Premiere is at the prestigious Royal Opera House on the 5th of April.

#### **For Immediate Release**

After the success of their last production UNMASKED, the team is back for the Mumbai premiere of their show – SAKHI. Known for their experimental approach to Bharatanatyam, the director-producer duo, Jyotsna Shourie and Aneesha Grover are excited to present their new dance theatre production which takes the audience through the Ramayana and Mahabharata through the eyes of Sita and Draupadi respectively. They are being supported by DJ/producer duo MadStarBase who are known for revitalizing forgotten Indian gems.

This production marks the launch of the Keelaka Dance Company which has been founded by Jyotsna Shourie and Aneesha Grover, with a keen focus on telling ancient stories through a modern lens by experimenting with different storytelling formats, blending different art forms, and incorporating diverse theatrical elements. This time they are presenting a mix of Bharatanatyam, contemporary dance and theatre set to a mix of Carnatic and Hip Hop/RnB music.

Since its reopening in 2016, The Royal Opera House has emerged as an inclusive hub of the artistic and cultural community, showcasing national and international artists par excellence on its stage.

#### **ABOUT SAKHI:**

Directed by critically acclaimed Bharatanatyam artiste, choreographer, and teacher, Jyotsna Shourie, SAKHI's soundtrack has been created by Carnatic maestro OS Arun and genre-defying Producer duo MadStarBase who are known as an undeniable force that is helping shape the

culture of young India today. This original script was written by Jyotsna Shourie and Aneesha Grover.

**Director of SAKHI and Renowned Bharatanatyam Exponent, Jyotsna Shourie, says,** “As Sita and Draupadi are iconic figures, their being friends presented intriguing possibilities. Sita being born from the earth was more nurturing ...while Draupadi being born from fire made her more aggressive; so these traits were kept in mind while working on the movements for each. For the first time the dancers, also become actors delivering their dialogues in English to make the performance easier to understand.”

**Producer of UNMASKED and Bharatanatyam Dancer playing the role of Sita, Aneesha Grover,** while talking about the scripting process, “To imagine Sita and Draupadi as friends, we had to delve deep into the politics of the goddesses. We have used fire as a crucial element in both their narratives -one was born from a yagya and the other was put through an agnipareeksha.. we have used this fire as a metaphor for society that has molded these characters into IDEAL women.”

**MadStarBase while talking about their collaboration on this project says,** “We always want to be at the forefront of taste and cultural shifts. So, we set our sights on the ancient, classical Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam. We wanted to develop a fresh new take on how we consume it, all with a focus on compelling and unique stories told through a new sonic landscape. We want sprinkle some spice on this niche and complex artform, to bring back the excitement, engage a younger audience and push the boundaries Bharatanatyam. Evolution is minute changes over a period of time.”

SAKHI’s India tour begins on 30<sup>th</sup> march in Delhi, with a show in Bengaluru on 3<sup>rd</sup> April before it Mumbai Premier.

This not-to-be missed spectacle promises to be a performance that will linger in your heart and imagination for a long time.

Where: Royal Opera House, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400004

When: 5th April 2023 | 7:00 PM onwards

Tickets: [in.bookmyshow.com](https://in.bookmyshow.com)