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**Yogic
Dance**
Of consciousness
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HIRANAYAGARBHA, "The Golden Womb", was produced by Natyanova. The Artistic Director, Priyadarshini Ghose, collaborated with Mohana Iyer, who has been trained in Kathakali, Mohiniattam and Bharatanatyam.

Audience members who arrived at Gyan Manch expecting to sit cosily in their seat and be treated to an evening of entertainment were highly mistaken: Hiranyagarbha was more didactic than entertaining.

The "golden womb" consists of two elements: Purusha - the centre of consciousness, and Prakriti - the source of all material existence. The production was planned as an interactive performance based on the principles of yoga.

The choreography dealt with the concept of Shakti as Kundalini uncoiling as it absolves each chakra to unite with Shiva. The dancer was conceived as the yogi, and the inner self is purified and mastered by him through the dance. All that remains is the experience of infinite space - the fifth element. The result is supreme bliss.

The choreographer has perceived that the ultimate goal of Indian dance and yoga is to be united with the supreme soul.

Priyadarshini Ghosh, Mohana Iyer and Jaydeep Palit seemed to practise yogic postures intensely. The combination of their yogic skill and proper dance training made their performances visually delightful.

Upanceta Sen's commentary, however, could have been shortened a little. After all, people went to see a choreographed dance. The visuals used were by Deborshi Roy and Priya Rammohan. Kalamandalam Gopa Kumar and Kalalayam Rajan with their *chenda*, *edaka* and *maddalam* playing effective percussion music.

In conclusion, this was an experimental performance which will surely improve with subsequent productions.

|| Tapati Chowdurie