**Padmabhushan Dr(s) Raja and Radha Reddy**

***INDIA’S LEGENDRY DANCING COUPLE***

Dr(s) Raja and Radha Reddy, world renowned dancing couple has given a new dimension to the age-old art of Kuchipudi dance. Their performances for over decades in both India and abroad have gained them a reputation for rare excellence and perfection of technique. If Kuchipudi ranks today a major Indian dance form, the credit goes in no small measure to this husband-wife team for its single-minded, pioneering efforts. They have given to Kuchipudi the vigor and range of ballet while retaining its grace and subtlety. It is a measure of the Reddy couple’s true insight into the dance form that they have not sacrificed any of its traditional poetry or dramatic sensibility while giving it a modern, full length recital form.

Imperceptibly but surely they have introduced a contemporary feeling, change within the self-imposed limits of a classical form, an elegance of presentation techniques that bears the stamp of their individual genius.

The counterpoint of gazelle-eyed Radha with her sinuous, ‘Shringara’ movements is Raja with his stark, chiseled, powerful movements. Together they seem to represent ‘Lasya’ and ‘Tandava’ the twin pillars on which the edifice of classical Indian dance rests. Radha’s soft, lyrical charms combine with Raja’s vigor and masculine movements to portray a sense of identity with classical characters from Hindu mythology, like Shiva and Parvati, Rama and Sita, Krishna and Radha, a revelation, as it were, of the twin concepts of Prakriti and Purusha, the male-female principle which forms the core of Indian philosophy. Themselves trained by eminent Kuchipudi teachers like Sri Vedantam Prahlada Sarma and Sri PVG Krishna Sarma, **Dr(s) Raja and Radha continue the tradition of the art by teaching Kuchipudi in a more systematized manner to young and promising pupils at their performing art centre ‘Natya Tarangini’ at Saket, New Delhi, Gurgaon and Jubliee Hills, Hyderabad.**

The unique art of these maestros found befitting official recognition through the award of the **PADMA SHREE, PADMA BHUSHAN and the prestigious Sangeet Natak Academy Award, doctorate from Hyderabad university and Nritya Choodamani by the Krishna-Gana Sabha of Chennai individually and simultaneously for the same cause.** They had the honour of being invited as the first Indian dancers to participate in the international Dance Festival of Avignon in France and Salzburg in Austria. They performed on Mississippi Ship, Mississippi River for Mr. Ford, then president of America. The couple’s contribution in the festivals of India in the U.S.A. and the U.K. were considered outstanding. they were invited to the declare open the “Play House Theatre” in Durban, South Africa for general public with their inaugural Kuchipudi performance . They were the star attraction of the All-star Ballet Gala festival in Japan. They inaugurated the India Festival in Bangladesh with their performance.

*“… If dancers are representatives of a culture, what one could see in Raja and Radha Reddy were the rich, intricate, melodic and poignant qualities .. that is India in all its diversity….”*

***Pira Sudham, Bangkok Post.***

*“…Raja and Radha Reddy scaling a new water mark of excellence… breathe taking stamina, fine technique and above all its merging with superbly felt and conveyed expressions…..”*

***Shanta Sarabjeet Singh, The Hindustan Times***

*“….One of the most superb performances seen anywhere in the world…..”*

***New York Dance Times***

*“….Raja’s posture, his slightest movement, his timing – all be spoke an outstanding dancer both authoritative and natural no matter whether or not you know anything at all about Kuchipudi…..”*

***JamsKennedy*** *in the* ***Guardian***

*“….Raja and Radha Reddy move vigorous and athletic, their facial expressions naughty and piquant, their movements humorous, bold and picturesque. They provided the rousing finale of the evening in exact western terms…..”*

***Max Loppert, Financial Times, London***

*“….Raja with his wife Radha Reddy was outstanding when he presented the nine incarnations of Lord Vishnu…. Here was a strikingly handsome young male dancer with strong stage presence, making the village dance-drama style of Kuchipudi spring to life, and dancing at high speed under full control….”*

***Fernau Hall*** *in* ***the Daily Telegraph***

*“….Stormed and circled the stage flashing out showers of cleanly articulated dramatic gestures….”*

***Don McDonagh*** *in* ***The New York Times***

*“…. Raja and Radha Reddy attractive pair, she tiny, curvaceous and prone to fits of giggles, he tall and romantically handsome. They are virtually unique in the classical dance of India because they always perform as a couple….”*

***Jan Murray*** *in* ***The Guardian***

*“…Radha and Raja’s recital should be an eye-opener to many other professional and self-styled artistes in our country…..”*

***The Times of India***