

VoiceOfAsia Online.com

First-ever Ram Leela enthralls Houstonians

Houston: Performed by 130+ performers and students of the Kusum Sharma's Shri Natraj School of Dance (all local to Houston area), Ram Leela 2010, a theatrical style and dance enactment to glorify life story of Shri Ram was presented on October 23 at Cullen Performance Hall, University of Houston. The cast included close to 60 children of all ages .

The Play was organized by Shri Sita Ram Foundation, a non-profit organization with Dr. Arun Verma as its Chairman.

It was a feast to the eyes, ears and the soul, at the Cullen Performance Hall, University of Houston. The script was concise, costumes flown from India for the occasion were bright & colorful.

All the stage sets were elaborate & beautifully decorated by Anuradha ji of Mandap creations, Houston. The presentations were awesome, performances amazing and special effects spectacular.

The show was choreographed and directed by Kusum Sharma. The play had the audience enthralled, enchanted and mesmerized during the three hour performance, with 1,500 full capacity crowd.

The audience cried, laughed and jumped off their seats in excitement all through the show. The show culminated with Ravaan Dahan on the stage. The special effects all through the show with fireworks at key junctions, confetti spread during Ram Sita wedding all added to the allure.

Countless compliments were showered by many on the organizers and the performers; e.g. Dr. V. Mathur said "The quality of the play was beyond any ones expectations". Dr. Durga Agarwal chimed in that "It was equivalent to a Broadway quality show". Similar sentiments were expressed by numerous members of the audience. The play received standing ovation at the end of the performance. All in all an extraordinary play for the very first time in Houston.

The program was so spectacular and divine that many devotees in the audience felt the presence of Lord Ram among them.

Judge Ed Emmett honored 1st Ramleela in Houston by his presence, and brought in a proclamation declaring October 23, 2010, as the Ram Leela Day in Harris County. Senator Cornyn and Gov. Rick Perry sent letters congratulating the Indian community and wishing them a Very Happy Diwali and Dussehra.

Shri Sita Ram Foundation, USA plans a similar play with many new features next year in 2011, during the festive season of Dusshera & Diwali . In all likelihood this is expected to become an annual feature in Houston.

Shri Sita Ram Foundation, USA wishes to thank the Indian community, various organizations including members of Hindus of Greater Houston and the temples in Houston who supported the program. A heartfelt thanks are offered to all the performers who gave their 100%, and countless volunteers who selflessly worked to make this event an unforgettable one.