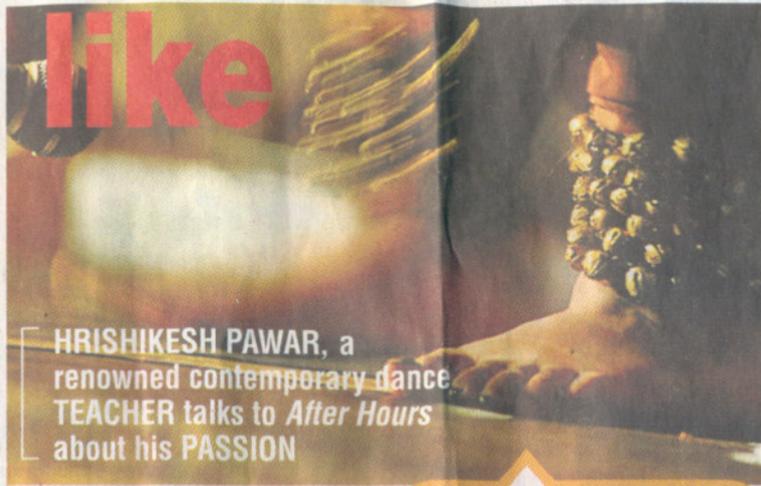


# Dance a man

**Abhishek Kumar Chand**

**THE** Teresian Association, Pune, a Christian association of lay people, founded by St Pedro Poveda in 1911, celebrates the feast of St Pedro Poveda every year at St Patrick's Cathedral. This year, the celebration comprised a short programme highlighting the work that the association has been doing and a presentation by the youth titled 'Aspiration'.

The event featured a short dance choreographed by Hrishikesh Pawar, an internationally renowned contemporary dance teacher and choreographer. Pawar started learning the classical Indian dance form of Kathak from Manisha Abhay. In 2004, he became the first Indian to be invited for a 'Summer Improve Workshop' by the Deutsch School for improvisation. He has a teaching ex-



perience in contemporary dance both in Germany and in India and merging the two dance forms namely, Kathak and contemporary dance is his primary focus. He has trained a wide range of people coming from different walks of life, of all ages, different postures, various dance backgrounds and even special children like the students of Kamlabai Mehta School for the blind girls.

The reason behind organising such an event, said Hrishikesh Pawar, is the fact that these young adults can learn about what is happening around them. According to



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him, "The script of the dance and the structure of the contemporary piece had been created and implemented entirely by the dancers. This made them conscious about social issues, it also gave them a chance to communicate their emotions in a way they never could have with just plain and simple words dancing gave them a much more powerful voice of expression.' When asked why he chose only young students for his dance number, he added, "The youth are the future and they have the energy, the drive, the enthusiasm, the freshness and the dynamism which any programme needs. I don't think I could have asked for anyone else."

Savita, a member of the Teresian Association, who organised the whole event, says, "As individuals who strive to be aware of the needs around them, the organisation wants to build a more active society. We constantly preach that to achieve one's potential, one needed to reach out, work together with everybody and live in harmony with the surroundings." Last but not the least, the Teresian Association works for human progress and social transformation through culture and by supporting the rights and dignity of each individual, especially the right to education for all.