

Fusing the feat

Catch Hrishkesh Pawar merge Kathak with contemporary dance techniques at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday

NEHA JAIN

Hrishkesh Pawar is a contemporary dancer and has made his mark in India and abroad. His sheer love for this performing art has paved his way to success.

"I just love the feeling of being on stage and getting lost in the aura of dance," says Hrishkesh, a trained classical dancer. "This art form needs grace. For male classical dancers it is importance to understand the difference between grace and femininity," says. "Kathak is a versatile form of expression. It can be fused with all other dance styles. One needs more flexibility for ballet, but when it comes to fusion ballet is more rigid than Kathak," Hrishkesh explains.

He belongs to a conventional Indian family, and has faced enough opposition in being a male dancer. "One way or the other, men dance around all their life," he laughs, adding on a serious note, "Initially people around me were not happy with what I was doing, but I was determined to prove myself."

He was invited to the Deutsch School for Improvisation in 2004 where he performed solo and also with students at the Berlin Modern Art Museum and Seuhe Bühne Theatre. Hrishikesh was the first Indian guest student to be invited to the 'Dance Teaching Programme' for a year at the Palucca Schule Hochschule für Tanz und Musik, Dresden, which is the only independent state-funded university for dancers and dance teachers in Germany. Today, he focuses mainly on merging the two dance forms, Kathak and contemporary movements. "No, it's not a fusion," he says. "I want to establish an independent communicative speech through these dance techniques."

He looks forward to training aspirants of all ages and dance backgrounds. 'Aspirations' a show choreographed by Hrishkesh will be staged by members of the youth group of Pune at St Patrick's Cathedral on July 28, 2008, at 6.15 pm. It will showcase the benefits of dance and how it can help to develop a better society around us.

