

The meaning of dance...

This contemporary dance theatre tries to ease people's rigid perceptions about dance and its forms

NEHA MADAAN

THIS PERFORMANCE would be eye candy for dance connoisseurs. On the occasion of the International Dance Day on April 29, Hrishikesh Pawar's Centre of Contemporary Dance has put together an enthralling piece of dance theatre, called 'Dance Is...'. The piece would be performed on the last day of 'Prayatna' — a Film and Dance Festival, which is a three-day extravaganza organised by the Centre of Contemporary Dance in collaboration with Max Mueller Bhavan and National Film Archive of India (NFAI) with contribution from the Alliance Francaise.

"My dance troupe would be performing a contemporary dance theatre piece titled 'Dance Is...' which looks at individual expression through movement. It explores how people have always been influenced by societies and struggle to discover and develop their own identities and distinct methods of expression," explains Pawar. The piece has a voice over by eminent theatre/film personality Jyoti Subhash and music composition by Saurabh Bhalerao.

Pawar feels that all of us live in boxes, where

everybody has a view of what dance is. "Everybody thinks or says that 'this is dance and this is not'. The piece goes beyond this and shows the flexibility of this medium of expression. It thus portrays the elasticity of the two words, 'Dance Is...'. One can put any word after these words. Whether it is happy or sorrowful that you choose to put, it would only reflect all the emotions that are there in life," says Pawar, referring to his piece which is essentially dance theatre, with a lot of vocals, voice-overs and theatrical dialogues narrated by Jyoti Subhash.

"I had seen Jyoti's plays, films and the way she interacted with people in theatre and knew that she would do justice to this particular piece," says Pawar, adding that 14 students from the Centre of Contemporary Dance would be performing this piece.

(Watch 'Dance Is...' on April 30 at Max Mueller Bhavan, 6:30 pm onwards. Entry is free.)

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—Hrishikesh Pawar



Pawar's troupe members live in action