

Dance like nobody's watching

A hands-on workshop on contemporary dance by Astad Deboo, followed by his performance is on the cards for city connoisseurs

VISHAKHA AVACHAT

YOU HAVE watched him dance. And now a lucky few have a chance to watch him teach. Astad Deboo, the celebrated contemporary dancer, will be in the city to conduct a workshop on contemporary dance on Thursday. While in the city, he will also present an enthralling performance. The maestro, who has developed a unique dance style of his own, has also choreographed for films such as MF Hussain's *Meenaxi* and a promotional clip for *Omkara*.

"Over the years, I have created my own individual style of dance. In the workshop, I will make the students use and explore their bodies for this dance form," says the 62-year old dancer.

the Max Mueller Bhavan, in collaboration with National Film Archive of India (NFAI) Pune, Alliance Francaise de Pune, Maharashtra Cultural Centre and Centre of Contemporary Dance.

At the age of 20, Deboo saw the Murray Louis Dance Company from the US perform abstract dance and was mesmerised. He then went to New York to study modern dance. Later, he trained under Martha Graham in London and also trained under Josey Limon. He travelled to countries like Japan and Indonesia and observed the dances there, which helped him develop a style of his own.

"Modern dance also has a set of rules. The dance form keeps on developing and evolving. I train people in such a way that they pick it up instantly," says Deboo, who stays in Mumbai. He will be performing for the fifth time in the city. When asked about his work with hearing impaired students, he says, "All you have to do is to teach them to count and use the steps accordingly. I have performed with deaf dancers trained in Bharatnatyam and have also trained those dancers who did not have any dance training."

a_vishakha@dnaindia.net



The three-hour workshop will cater to the series of movements and the use of the body to suit the movements. "Minimal music will be used in the workshop. I will also undertake some exercise sessions to see the flexibility of the students," says Deboo, who has worked extensively with the hearing impaired. Deboo's dance workshop is organised by

BE THERE

- Astad Deboo will conduct a dance workshop on April 29, from 9 am to 12 noon at Su Darshan Hall, Shaniwar Peth.
- He will perform on April 30 at the Max Mueller Bhavan, Boat Club Road at 7 pm. Entry is free. To register, contact 2616 1042