



IN SEARCH OF ROOTS

A Play to Remember

By: Kumar Punithavel

It was a full house at Armenian Cultural Centre on Saturday July 25th, 2015 where people had gathered to witness a performance by the artists sponsored by Tamil Literary Garden. The title of the play to be performed that day was "In search of the roots..."

The performance started on time and it was about a few young Canadian children in a future date trying to find their roots. In this case they had their forefathers migrated to Canada to prevent the persecution in their birth land. It is not new to the world where people migrate in search of security. Canada has always been in the forefront giving protection to such persecuted people.

In this play, the adolescent children with Tamil ethnicity wish to find the rich cultural heritage of their forefathers. It is interesting to note that their ancient fine arts which are waning be revived and introduced through the modern Dramatics. One could see the healthy variation in this play where

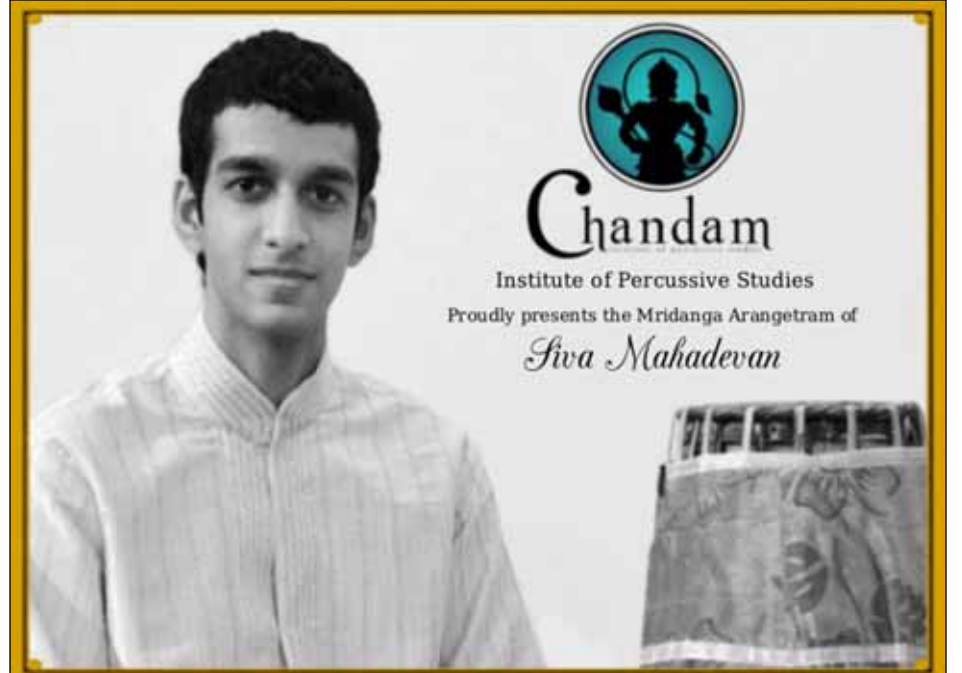
different cultures are blended together. In the play 'In search of roots' where we expected to find an awakening of only the Tamil culture we saw the traditional Chinese heritage dance followed by the Tamil Folkdance.

The youngsters in the play visit a group home of Tamil Seniors and ask them to teach some of the Tamil heritage fine art dramatics like that of the Chinese. Initially the persons who were very conversant in Tamil traditional dramatic performance refuse, but on the insistence of an elderly woman occupant in a wheel chair, they agree and teach the youngsters the ancient Folkdance drama known as Naattukkooththu. A modern Tamil drama embracing a Tamil folkdance and Chinese cultural dance is a rarity. The play was written and directed by the famous poet Ponniah Vivekanandan and the Naattukkooththu segment was choreographed by Arunthavanathan, a well known authority in the field. Manuel Jesudasen and Selvam Arulanandam were responsible for the efficient stage man-



agement and administration. All in all it was a fine performance and Tamil Literary Garden should be commended for this production. It is hoped the Gov-

ernment of Canada will continue to foster more such events in the future that build the cultural communities.



Sri Bala Dhandayuthapani Thunai
Sri Rama Jayam

*Padmini and Karthikeyan
Mahadevan*

cordially invite you to grace
the Mridanga Arangetram of their son

Siva Mahadevan

Disciple of Mridanga Jyothi
Sri Ramana Indrakumar
Founder of
Chandam - Institute of Percussive Studies

Venue

P.C. Ho Theatre
5183 Sheppard Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario M1B 5Z5

Date and Time

Saturday, August 22nd, 2015
at 4:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to
sivadebut@gmail.com
by July 26th, 2015.