

on 24 March 2014

Dance icon Ramli Ibrahim performs in UNIMAS





Kota Samarahan: Accomplished in ballet, modern, and Indian classical dance, Datuk Ramli Ibrahim is a cultural icon who has performed internationally for more than three decades. He was instrumental in transforming the dance scenario in Malaysia by boldly charting new paths and single-handedly establishing Odissi as a widely appreciated dance form in this country, while creating a distinctively Malaysian interpretation of this ancient dance tradition.

Datuk Ramli Ibrahim has set stages ablaze in venerated centres of dance from Australia and India to Paris for more than three decades. His rigorous training in ballet, modern and Indian classical dance reflects not only his diverse technical accomplishments, but also his multifaceted approach to the arts. As artistic director and principal choreographer of the Sutra Dance Theatre, he has been a fountain of creativity, conceiving stunning works with a personal signature and distinctive Malaysian identity. He has also choreographed stunning works and nurtured some of the brightest dance talents from Malaysia.

As a pioneer, Datuk Ramli Ibrahim is recognised nationally as a cultural icon and a dynamic force within the arts scene, evident in the various accolades conferred upon him including the Fulbright Distinguished Artist Award in 1999, the Lifetime Achievement (BOH Cameronian) Award in 2003, ANGARAG Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006 (Guru Deba Prasad Institute, Orissa), Johan Setia Mahkota (J.S.M) and Anugerah Karyawan Seni in 2006.

With this, the Sutra Foundation together with the Sabah Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Malaysia, under the Department of Culture and Arts, is proudly presenting **Krishna, Love Re-invented (Odissi), East Malaysia Tour 2014** which will feature dancers from the Sutra Dance Theatre including Datuk Ramli Ibrahim himself who is also the Art Director.

This once in a lifetime classical dance experience will be held at the Experimental Theatre, Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak at 8.30 pm this Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2014. According to the dean of the faculty, Associate Professor Dr Hasnizam Abdul Wahid, "Datuk Ramli's performance is a rare experience for our students and the people of Sarawak. We are very lucky to be able to watch his world class performance first hand, and it will certainly motivate our Performance Arts students and lecturer to think and create artistic expressions on a higher standard". At the faculty, the local performing arts culture is introduced through teaching and learning of its various undergraduate courses, research, publication and community engagement. The focus of this program is experimental theatre that embeds strong roots of local culture and technology. UNIMAS currently offer a three-year Drama and Theater programme at the faculty, and applications are now open for interested candidates. Details can be obtained from the <http://www.upu.my>.

Source: Corporate Planning and Communications Division || Foto : Azlandy Mohammid Ali Tuah

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