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Dynamic show by Sinhala troupe

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THE Sinhala Cultural Troupe of Malaysia, based at the Buddhist Maha Vihara in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, has come of age.

It is now three years old.

To celebrate its anniversary and to prove its maturity, a dynamic show was staged by the seasoned members of the troupe.

The show which was held at the Dewan Asoka in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur recently, received a good response from the audience.

The troupe, which was formed on Sanghamitta Full Moon Day (also known as Women's Day) in December 1994, staged a variety of items including Puja dance, Giridewi, Gajaga, Dumbura Mitiyawatha, drum orchestra and sang five folk songs.

Dumbura was an upbeat dance performed during joyous occasions. The song for the dance was a re-make of an old folk song on a fast track.

The dance, which was also performed at the Malam Wesak last year at Stadium Negara to an all-Chinese audience, was also well-received this time.

Giridewi was a dance performed by female dancers, in appreciation of Giridewi, one of the goddesses of dance.

The drum orchestra (Samuha Beravadana) is a musical item which featured all the percussion instruments used on festive occasions in Sri Lanka.

The presentation ushers in the various sounds of auspiciousness, festivity and goodwill, and is often the last item of any show.

The puja dance, meanwhile, is a dance of devotion and offering to all Devas (goddesses) related to dance.

At the end of the show, the organising committee chairman Leslie Jayawardena was besieged by the many present to join the troupe and to enrol for Sinhala classes to be conducted from this month.

For this new awakening, credit should go to everyone concerned, particularly to the troupe and its tutor Dayani Hemadasa.

Dayani staged Gajaga (elephant dance) solo and later formed part of the drum orchestra.

There was another presentation by a group of children aged between three and nine who called themselves Cheras Sinhala Podhi Kandayama.

Earlier, the traditional oil lamp was lit by Sasana Abhiwurdhi Wardana Society president Mrs Irene Perera, Siri Jayanthi Association president Mervyn Weerasena, Malaysian Sinhala Association president Eddie de Silva and Sri Lanka High Commission counsellor Wipula Wanigasekara and Jayawardena to launch the show.

Any Sinhala interested in joining the troupe or Sinhala classes can call Yanna Perera at 03-2741141/2741886.

The troupe had its maiden performance at the 1995 Sinhala New Year show at the Dewan Asoka.

Since then it had performed at many functions such as the yearly Malam Wesak, Sri Lankan national day and the annual Evening of Appreciation.

The climax of its calendar of events last year was when the troupe was invited to perform for the Malaysian South-South Association dinner officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad.

Last year the troupe set foot on the international arena when it was invited to perform at the World Trade Centre in Singapore for the launching of the Dhammapada.

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