



HOPKINS CENTER

presents

DJ Rekha

Basement Bhangra

PROGRAM NOTES

Born as a folk dance in the North Indian state of Punjab, Bhangra music historically commemorated the warm harvest festival. As a strong, rhythm-based music, it celebrated community with its powerful drums. Emphasizing patriotism and life, Bhangra transformed into *boliyan* (short poems) accompanied by the bass of the *dhol* drum. Over the last 30 years Bhangra has spread throughout Britain and the South Asian diaspora, taking on many different forms. Today, Bhangra is a synergistic blend of its traditional origins and contemporary musical styles, ranging from reggae and hip-hop to drum n' bass.

DJ Rekha has produced one of the most successful and innovative

club nights to hit the New York scene: *Basement Bhangra*. Since its beginning in the spring of 1997, DJ Rekha's production company, Sangam Entertainment, has succeeded in putting Bhangra and Indian pop on the map of music consciousness. *Basement Bhangra* is held on the first Thursday of the month at the world-renowned Sounds of Brazil (SOBs). As stated in *Billboard Magazine*, "gaining entry after midnight could prove impossible." With few others providing "roots bhangra meets urban New York," *Basement Bhangra* has enticed the ears of many, successfully selling out every month. Furthermore, being centered in New York, *Basement Bhangra* has gained immense media exposure. *Basement Bhangra* attracts a hip, urban and thirsty crowd of all ages (www.sangament.com).

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DJ Rekha is a producer, activist and founder of *Basement Bhangra*, *Bollywood Disco* and *Mutiny* club nights. Named one of the most influential South Asians in the United States by *Newsweek*, DJ Rekha is a cultural instigator that has put Bhangra music on the map in North America. She serves on the boards of Breakthrough and Pop and Politics. She conceived the sound design for Sarah Jones' one-woman show, *Bridge and Tunnel* and recently completed the sound design for the upcoming NPR documentary, *Feet in Two Worlds*. Her production company, Sangament, Inc. produces live concerts and provides music consulting services.

Dave Sharma *percussion* spent most of 2004 doing nearly 400 performances of the AR Rahman/Andrew Lloyd Webber Broadway musical *Bombay Dreams*. Since the close of *Bombay Dreams*, Dave's coordinated the *tabla* and percussion parts for a *ghazal* record with Prashant Kumar, played at festivals in Brazil and Canada, DJed with Desmond Dekker and Karmacy, done a late-night groove series at the Blue Note with Sunny Jain and Kaash, and been holed up

in the "virtual studio" with DJ Rekha and author/vocalist Tanuja Desai-Hidier. He's performed and recorded with artists as varied as Karsh Kale and Ming+FS, Bikram Singh and NYC rock band Hoy. As an educator, Dave maintains a position as one of Carnegie Hall's Global Ambassadors.

Paul Clay *videographer* is a visual artist and curator who works in a wide variety of media. His perspective comes from an early interest in anthropology and social change. He is the founder of Fictive (www.fictive.net), a loose constellation of multi-disciplinary art creators who come together to produce works in a wide variety of media. He has presented at museums and art galleries in New York and internationally, as well as at alternative art venues and in the night scene. He has been working with live video mixing since his earliest days as an artist and has performed with many activist party crews in New York, including Blackkat, Complacent, Sholay Productions, Rhythm Collective, DJ Hirota and Sangament. It is always his great pleasure to work with DJ Rekha.

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Cosponsored by the Dartmouth Summer Arts Initiative.

Wednesday, June 29, 2005 • 9 pm
Warner Bentley Theater • Dartmouth College

WORLD HIP HOP

This summer, the Hop offers **THREE HIP HOP EVENTS** reflecting a dizzying new age of cultural interchange, from urban America to India, England, France, and beyond.

Saturday

June 25 • 8 pm

WILL POWER/FLOW

WILL POWER taps storytelling traditions from the oral history of West African griots to the epic poetry of Homer. An award-winning performer, Power fuses syncopated rhymes with fluid movement and live DJ soundtrack in FLOW, theater with the “energy of a musical” (*The New York Times*).



Wednesday

June 29 • 9 pm

BHANGRA DANCE PARTY!

Called “New York’s Best DJ” (*New York Magazine*) and “queen of hip-hop fusion” (*Time Out New York*), Indian-American DJ REKHA spins classic bhangra with Bollywood, hip-hop, reggae and electronica at this DANCE PARTY in the Bentley.



Friday & Saturday

July 1 & 2 • 8 pm

COMPAGNIE KÄFIG

The all-male French troupe KÄFIG polishes hip-hop into a choreography of “precision and rigor” (*The New York Times*), merging street culture with high art—an experiment in dance with “spectacular feats... a new strain of hip-hop—beautiful and meditative” (*Dance Magazine*).



HOPKINS CENTER MANAGEMENT STAFF

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Please turn off your cell phone inside the theater.

Assistive Listening Devices available in the lobby.



If you do not wish to keep your playbill, please discard it in the recycling bin provided in the lobby. Thank you.