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**Austin Dance India Celebrates 25 Years of Bharata Natyam Dance in  
Central Texas**

*Creative Director, Anuradha Naimpally, to showcase a sensational season of dance performances and student showcases throughout 2016*

**Austin, Texas (February, 2016)**— Austin Dance India, Austin's preeminent performance company and school for Bharata Natyam dance, is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2016 with a dynamic calendar of live performances and student showcases. Under the creative direction of Anuradha Naimpally, Austin Dance India will present a season of spectacular dance events including a 10 x 10 student showcase, a free dance-a-thon, and a collaborative multi-disciplined performing arts production at The Long Center, *Living in the Hyphen*, directed by Leng Wong of Lucky Chaos Productions, choreographed by Naimpally and featuring an ensemble cast of local actors, musicians and ADI dancers. *Living in the Hyphen* runs from March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> and explores the quandaries people face as they straddle two worlds. Austin Dance India's programming is family friendly and strives to unite the Austin community through the inclusive and transformative power of dance.

What began in 1989 as a young, passionate dancer sharing her craft in a garage with a just a couple of students, Austin Dance India has evolved into an essential force in the Austin creative and dance communities. Ever-dedicated to her passion for dance and desire to teach, Anuradha Naimpally, founder and Creative Director of Austin Dance India, has been training dancers since the youthful age of 15 and continues to serve as a mentor, advocate and expert in the art of Bharata Natyam dance. Throughout her decades-long career as an award-winning performer and teacher, she has taught an estimated 50,000 classes to more than 1,000 students – many of whom she has mentored for 10 years or more. “I feel deeply blessed that I have been able to establish a tiny corner of Indian classical dance in Austin that expands wide for anyone interested to experience it,” shares Naimpally. “Dance can and should be taught in a way that uplifts the spirit as the student discovers their own inner beauty and strength. I am still always discovering new wonders about the transformative powers of dance.”

To celebrate this hallmark year for Austin Dance India, Naimpally has curated a deeply personal and exuberant programming calendar. The events kick off on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at the Asian American Cultural Center with the *10 x X Showcase* – a student performance of works that are 10 minutes or less. Then, from March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 3<sup>rd</sup>, ADI will present a multi-arts showcase at The Long Center, *Living In the Hyphen*. In collaboration with Lucky Chaos Productions, this powerful presentation will combine theater, dance, music and comedy in an exploration of what it means to straddle two worlds – whether those worlds are cultural, artistic etc. In April, the community is invited to enjoy food, crafts and dancing galore at ADI's student *Dance-a-Thon Community Fair* hosted at the Asian American Cultural Center. The silver anniversary season wraps at Rollins Theater at The Long Center on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> with the popular *Annual Student Showcase*. This year's



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show explores the theme of “Girl Power” and will feature performances from current students, as well as the many talented alumni of ADI from the past 25 years.

Full event schedule can be found here: <http://austindanceindia.com/events/upcoming/>

Press kit and photos can be found here: <http://www.wyattbrand.com/austin-dance-india/>

### **About Austin Dance India**

Founded in 1991, Austin Dance India strives to promote traditional Indian dance through the disciplined study of technique, performance and presentation of Bharata Natyam dance, a 2,300 year-old tradition. Under the artistic direction of Anuradha Naimpally, Austin Dance India continues to serve the Austin community as the preeminent performance company and school devoted to Bharata Natyam. The revered organization presents a silver anniversary calendar of events for their 2016/2017 season, including traditional and contemporary dance performances, student showcases and their first ever dance-a-thon.

### **About Anuradha Naimpally**

Creative director, Anuradha Naimpally, has been teaching and performing for more than 30 years. She teaches all dance classes personally, carrying on the guru-sishya (teacher-disciple) tradition that she herself experienced throughout her own training. As a performer, Naimpally has accumulated a number of prestigious awards and titles, including the *Jacqueline LeMieux Prize* from the Canada Council and *Best Dancer* and *Best Dance Production* awards by the Austin Area Critics' Circle. She was bestowed the title of *Sringar Mani*, “Artistic Jewel”, in Bombay after her performance at the Kal-Ke-Kalakaar Festival in 1990. As a passionate arts educator, Naimpally conducts assembly performances and workshops on Indian dance and culture throughout Central Texas schools and libraries. She is also a selected artist with the Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Roster and Mid-America Arts Alliance. Naimpally holds a B.A. in philosophy and an M.F.A. in dance.

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