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Austin Dance India and LuckyChaos Unite to Present Multi-Disciplined Performing Arts Show at the Long Center March 31st – April 3rd

Living on the Hyphen explores the quandary of living between two worlds through a collaborative production of dance, theater, music and comedy

Austin, TX (February, 2016) –As part of their celebratory 25th anniversary programming, Austin Dance India is proud to partner with LuckyChaos Productions to present an original new show, *Living on the Hyphen*. Directed by Leng Wong of LuckyChaos and choreographed by Anuradha Naimpally of Austin Dance India, *Living on the Hyphen* explores the difficulties people face as they straddle two worlds in a society that pressures us to fit into a single classification. This whimsical and poignant theatrical journey features live music, Bharata Natyam Indian dance, spoken word and more from an impressive ensemble cast of local actors, musicians and dancers. *Living on the Hyphen* runs from March 31st to April 3rd at the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

What are the experiences people face as they straddle two worlds – whether cultural, artistic or gender related identities? This thoughtful question is explored in the full-length tale co-created by Austin Dance India, Austin's premiere organization for promoting and teaching classical Indian dance, and LuckyChaos Productions, an Austin-based theater company devoted to producing original works by or about Asian Americans. Drawing on the personal experiences of the cast and director, *Living on the Hyphen* exhibits a vibrant multi-disciplined performance featuring a roster of notable Austin-based performers including JooHee Ahn, Soumya Ashok, Purna Bajekal, Jay Byrd, Jeffery Johnson and Jesus Valles. Live music will be performed by Eddie Hsu, Toshio Alan Mana, Amie Macieszewski and Rishi Bajekal. Classical Indian dance, Chinese dragon dance, spoken word, acting and music will narrate the tale co-written by Wong and the ensemble cast, and choreographed by Naimpally. “This a huge departure from anything I or Austin Dance India has done,” shares Naimpally, “but, I approached Leng to do this project because it is something I am passionate about and know she is too. Asian-American stories and artists need to heard and seen more.”

Living on the Hyphen premieres Thursday, March 31st at the Rollins Theater at the Long Center and runs through Sunday, April 3rd. There will be nightly performances during the run and matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday at 2p.m. Tickets are available now at <http://thelongcenter.org/event/13781/>

For more event details, please visit: <http://austindanceindia.com/events/upcoming/>

For *Living on the Hyphen* promotional video, visit: <https://youtu.be/gEX1OjScpwE>

Austin Dance India Press kit 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.



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About Anuradha Naimpally

Anuradha Naimpally, is the founder and artistic director of Austin Dance India. She 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.

About LuckyChaos

As part of the non-profit organization, Austin Asian American Arts Collective, LuckyChaos Productions strives to promote original works by or about Asian Americans as well as other under-represented communities using the medium of performance and visual arts.
<http://www.luckychaos.com/>

About Leng Wong

Founder and producing director of LuckyChaos Productions, Leng Wong is a trained actress who has appeared in independent films, TV, commercials, and live theater. She is a multiple past nominee for the B. Iden Payne Theater Awards for her work in *Stop Kiss* and for her portrayal of Yoshiko in the award-winning play *This Feather House*.

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