

Sutradhar Institute of Dance and Related Arts
presents



Devi Dance Theatre

in

“Weaving Life”

Press Release

January 27th 2018

at 8pm

&

January 28th 2018

at 4pm

Dance Place

(3225 8th Street NE

Washington DC

20017)

For more information
please visit:

www.dancesidra.org

“Weaving Life” articulates in dance, martial arts and mime, the lyrics of Native American, African American and Indian poetry. Choreographers Nilimma Devi, Anila Kumari and martial artist Khilton Nongmaithem reveal how each cultural sphere has a shared theme of weaving and connectedness.

The Navajo song *“Loom is Life Itself”* urges people to return to weaving as a way to wisdom. The Navajo immortalized the idea of cultural wholeness through music, poetry and weaving.

Continents away, 16th century Indian poet Kabir used weaving as a metaphor for the “Divine”. “Such delicate fabric ... who wove it?” Kabir urged us to see the “Divine” as one even when we call God by many names. His message is timeless.

African American spirituals emerged out of slavery to sing of the liberation of spirit in the face of repression; creating culture unsurpassed in its resilience and moral dignity. In *“Long White Robe”* heroism of soul is danced to.

In the 1920’s weaving was reinvented in India. Mahatma Gandhi made the “Charkha” (hand spindle) and “Khadi” (hand woven) a symbol of identity and freedom. It was a dawn of new awakening for the human spirit everywhere.

This project invites you to ask “What does it mean to weave, not just a piece of cloth but a whole tapestry of humanity? As Gandhi said, “The whole world is my village.”

This evening also includes a suite of three works titled: *“Quantum Body”*, *“Kingship”* and *“Yearning”*.

