

UCSD to present Odissi classical dance from India October 25

October 11, 1996

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Odissi, considered the most lyrical and graceful of all classical dances in India, will be performed at 8 p.m. Oct. 25 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Dance master Kelucharan Mohapatra, a guru of the Indian Odissi classical dance of today, and a 10-member company of musicians and dancers from Orissa, Srijan, India, will present some of Mohapatra's original choreography in pure dance and dance drama.

The Oct. 25 performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. Guru Mohapatra and company's 1996 North American tour was organized by the Center for World Music to celebrate Mohapatra's 70th birthday and to recognize his contribution to the classical dance form as its reviver, a composer and choreographer.

Odissi, one of the seven classical dance forms in India, had its origin in 2nd century B.C. in what is now the modern state of Orissa on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. The dance form all but disappeared during historic invasions and unrest in the country. In the early 1950s, Mohapatra and a few other teachers and scholars spearheaded an effort to revive the dance form. Today Odissi dance is popular not only in India, but in countries throughout the world where Mohapatra's students perform and teach.

Mohapatra has traveled extensively throughout the world as a performer and as an accompanist on the drum for his students. He has been honored by the President of India with a Padmabhusan, one of the highest civilian awards given to Indian citizens, and he has been recognized by a number of the world's leading dance and music organizations.

Tickets for the Mandeville Auditorium performance of the spiritual dance of Odissi are \$14 general admission; \$12 for UCSD faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$10 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-6467, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

(October 11, 1996)