

## Lifestyles

### Indian dancer will perform at museum

Thursday, August 7, 2003

This weekend the Meru Foundation is hosting renowned Indian classical dancer Leela Samson, at the National Heritage Museum.

Dr. Vanita Shastri said Samson, who lives in New Delhi, will be performing a Bharatanatyam recital. According to the promotional materials, "dancing is architecture in complete abstraction. It is created with no physical materials yet it is a living example of creating sacred space where the aesthetic can be experienced."

Shastri said a "dancer is creating space wherever she dances."

Her husband, Shekhar, described Indian dance as "a living sculpture."

The pair said Samson is known for her costumes and her innovative changes to an ancient dance style.

Saturday morning Samson will give a lecture on invoking sacred space. According to Shekhar, "she will explore the development of the modern day performance, which has displaced classical Indian dance from the temple where it used to be performed to the modern stage and how that affects the purpose of dance itself. She will also explore the Rasa theory in classical Bharatanatyam to show the creation of emotive spaces and transformative qualities of classical Indian dance."

The lecture is from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the National Heritage Museum, 33 Marrett Road. The lecture is free. Sunday at 3 p.m., Samson will perform also at the museum. Tickets are \$35, \$25, and \$15. They can be purchased at the door or online ([merufoundation.org](http://merufoundation.org)). There will be a reception with Samson following the talk.

Monday, Aug. 11-Wednesday, Aug. 13, Samson will be holding a workshop for advanced students and teachers. Information can be found online for this, as well.

- Susan Bushey



Leela Samson performs on August 10, 2003 at the NHM