CONFLUENCE  a combined lecture by Padma Shri Dr. Sunil Kothari and performance by Sutra Dance Theatre under the artistic direction of YBhg. Datuk Ramli Ibrahim.  This event is organised by the University of Malaya Sri Lankan Endowment Fund and is in collaboration with Sutra Foundation.

The University of Malaya Sri Lankan Endowment Fund in collaboration with Sutra Foundation present:

CONFLUENCE
- a combined illustrated talk by dance scholar writer Padma Shri Dr. Sunil Kothari and performance by Sutra Dance Theatre under the artistic direction of Ramli Ibrahim, framing the influence of Indian myths, belief systems and aesthetics on traditional Southeast Asian performing arts.

The Experimental Theatre (Panggung Eksperimen), University of Malaya
October 10 (Thursday), 2013, 8.30 pm

The Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia have maintained strong politico-social-economic connections impacting the cultural fabric and lives of its people since ancient times. From the cultural point of view, these connections have resulted in a significant cross-fertilisation with indigenous cultural and belief systems, stimulating and transforming them in the process. Southeast Asian traditional performing arts offer a glowing tribute of their outstanding expressivity to the two Indian mythic epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata, and their aesthetics to the ‘Rasa theory’, propounded by the Natya Sastra (Definitive compendium representing Indian treatise on dramaturgy, 2nd – 5th Century A.D.).

Distinguished Indian dance scholar and writer, Padma Shri Dr Sunil Kothari, presents an illustrated talk framing the influence of these two well known Indian epics and also of Sanskritised India on Southeast Asian traditional performing arts and theatre and how the latter’s aesthetic concepts derive inspiration from India’s Natya Sastra.

Padma Shri Dr Sunil Kothari is a renowned dance historian, author and critic and has authored sixteen definitive books on Indian dances which include Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Chhau Dances of India, New Directions in Indian Dance, Sattriya (the classical dance of Assam) Photobiography of Uday Shankar and Rukmini Devi, Kathak, Kuchipudi and others.

Dr Kothari earned his Ph.D in Dance from M.S.University of Baroda and D.Litt in Dance from Rabindra Bharati University. He was Professor and Dean, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has held several seminal academic positions. He was Fulbright Professor and has taught at New York University, Evergreen College, Seattle, Georgia University and UCLA.

As a Dance critic he wrote for The Times of India group of publications for 40 years. He is based in New Delhi. He was awarded the Padma Shri by the President of the Government of India for his distinguished contribution to the scholarship and critical understanding and interpretation of Indian dance forms.

Confluence will also feature Sutra Dance Theatre under the artistic direction of Datuk Ramli Ibrahim.
This premier dance company of Malaysia will present two Indian classical styles (bharatanatyam and odissi) to augment Dr Sunil Kothari’s illustrated talk. Sutra Dance Theatre will undertake a tour of India and Europe after their performance at U.M.

The audience will also have the opportunity to experience several dance forms of Bali, known the world over for its rich and thriving traditional arts. The dances of Bali will be performed by Anak Agung Anom Putra, Bali’s internationally known dance exponent. Anak Agung Anom has had a longstanding association with Sutra Dance Theatre since the 70’s which culminated in Anom forming his gamelan group Semara Ratih, celebrated as one of Bali’s best gamelan groups. Anak Agung Anom will dance the Baris for which he is the acknowledged expert. Anom will be accompanied by his wife, an equally famous dancer in her own right who has specialized in the Kebyar Teruna Jaya.

Confluence promises to be an enlightening and entertaining experience which combines compelling scholarship with enthralling dance performances. Confluence provides us with a glimpse of the rich tapestry of diverse and inspired cultural outpourings that give birth to the rich traditions of these regions and at the same time, adding colour, ‘rasa’ and meaning to our lives.

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