

CHOREOGRAPHY

One of the factors that made *Salaam Namaste*, *Bunty aur Babli*, *Dhoom* and *Lakshya* 'rock' all the way to

becoming box-office hits was their choreography. But while listening to the music, how many of us tend to visualise the appropriate dance movements and would like to make a career of it?

Choreography promotes the expression of ideas through dance, movement languages and compositional forms on the body and between bodies. In August, 2005, Indian choreographer Shiamak Davar's *Spirit of Dance*, performed at the International Convention Centre, Durban, was a spectacular symphony of sound, colour, light and foot-work.

Apart from dance, the term choreography can be applied to various settings including stage combat, gymnastics, ice skating, marching and marching bands, and cinematography.

The list of creative choreography is quite long. Some notable ones are Kathak maestro Pt Birju Maharaj's *Katha*; Shiamak Davar's *Ramayana*, which adds modern colours to Valmiki's epic; Jayanta Bhagawati's *Bihu Bareboroniya* - a blended performance of Kathak and the three

types of Bihu; Anne Leda's *Cindrella* - an offering; *As I Discover Dance* - an autobiographic contemporary composition of Hemanta Kalita; *Bees and the Bear* - a child-oriented composition by Garima Hazarika; *MandalaX* - across cultural dance item conceived and choreographed by Janaki Patrik and Malaysian Ramli Ibrahim, and so on.

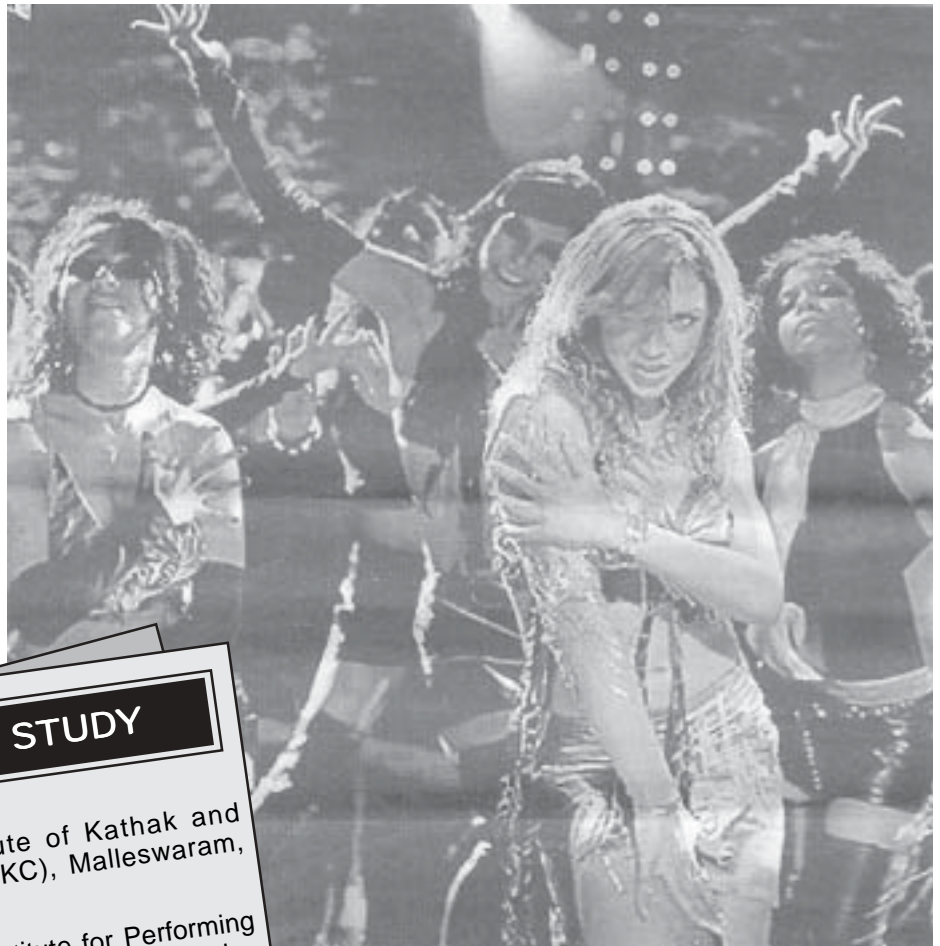
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

The choreographer arranges movement, lights, and sound in a deliberate manner to convey a concept, set a mood, or tell a story. A dance composition is based on music or a synopsis (a writing of what occurs in the dance).

The four major areas of entertainment where choreographers are required are: films and music videos; fashion; events; and conventional dance.

Film and music video choreography involves directing complete song-and-dance sequences for feature films or music videos.

Fashion choreographers have to teach the



RAZZLE DAZZLE: Choreographers create scintillating song-and-dance numbers like this one in *Dhoom*

WHERE TO STUDY

- The Natya Institute of Kathak and Choreography (NIKC), Malleswaram, Bangalore - 560055
- Shiamak Davar Institute for Performing Arts, Cambridge High School, Mumbai
- Danceworx Performing Arts Acad-emy, Greater Kailash, New Delhi
- Government College of Dance and Music, Bhubaneswar
- Faculty of Arts, University of Mysore, Mysore.

models to walk along with the music that is to be played for a fashion show, in a way that looks aesthetically appealing as well as glamorous and chic.

Event choreography involves choreographing in corporate and general entertainment events like film award functions, beauty pageants, festivals, product launches and inaugural celebration parties, etc.

Conventional dance choreography is what is traditionally seen at classical and folk dance dramas and the like. Mallika Sarabhai, Radha and Raja Reddy are famous choreographers in this area.

WHAT SHOULD I STUDY?

To take up a course in this subject you are required to have passed your plus two. A passion for dancing, coupled with an inborn talent for visualisation are among the essential qualities required for becoming a choreographer.

The course interweaves the practice of

performer and performance-maker as two integral elements of the creative process. It combines movement skills with choreographic practice and theoretical research. Experimentation, individuality and creative collaboration are encouraged within a supportive learning environment. The subjects covered include world and Indian history of dance, Indian aesthetics, history of art and choreography; stage design and lighting, music for dance, mime and movement.

WHAT NEXT?

There are plenty of job opportunities for choreographers today. They can work with television and film studios, theatre companies, modeling agencies and event management companies. Most choreographers, however, choose to work on a freelance basis with different directors or choreographers. You could start off by assisting an established choreographer.

Performing artists can form their own troupes or work with other troupes. They also have the option of starting schools and teaching. There are opportunities for employment in schools and colleges, studios and leisure centres. As entertainment now means big business, the future is extremely bright for those with talent.