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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 15, 2011**

**A KALEIDOSCOPIIC EVENING OF DANCE:  
CLASSICAL EAST INDIAN DIASPORA HIGHLIGHTED IN PREMIERE,  
WESTERN MODERN DANCE ICON CELEBRATED IN REMOUNTED CLASSIC**

Philadelphia, PA- **Painted Bride Art Center** and **Asian Arts Initiative** present the Philadelphia debut of **Dakshina / Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company** in an enchanted evening of kaleidoscopic "West meets East" dance performance. This double bill performance also features a special guest performance by local dance talent **Pallabi Chakravorty and the Courtyard Dancers**. **Performances will take place at the Painted Bride Art Center at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9, 2011.**

Known for its signature style which fuses classical Indian Bharata Natyam, Kathak as well as modern dance forms, **Dakshina** is a dynamically diverse dance company led by **Daniel Phoenix Singh**. After working alongside **Lorray May**, a close surviving colleague to modern dance icon **Anna Sokolow**, **Dakshina/Daniel Singh Dance Company** will remount classic works choreographed by Sokolow honoring her invaluable contribution to the modern dance aesthetic. The tribute will include a suite of solos titled ***As I Remember*** featuring Sokolow's ever memorable works ***Lament for the Death of a Bullfighter***, ***Ballad***, and ***Kaddish*** in which she wore a prayer sleeve (usually only worn by men) and danced a poignant solo about loss.

For the second half of this evening of performance, **Dakshina** takes the stage to premiere its **newest fusion work *Vasanth* (slated to premiere at the Kennedy Center's Maximum India Festival in March of 2011)**. *Vasanth*, draws from Bharata Natyam and American modern dance forms to create an original synergetic style of choreography which explores the mythology of how the Goddess of Spring came to earth.

**Pallabi Chakravorty and the Courtyard Dancers** take the stage to present contemporary interpretations of Kathak (a classical Indian dance from North India). Their distinct choreography draws on north Indian song/poetic genres of Ghazals and Thumri. Joining the company will be **Priyadarshini Ghosh**. Visiting from India, Ghosh debuts the Bride to presents yet another classical Indian dance form called Mohiniattam from southern India.

**Tickets to the performance are \$25. To make a purchase, for more concert or venue info, visit [paintedbride.org](http://paintedbride.org), call the Box Office at 215-925-9914 or visit the Painted Bride Art Center, located at 230 Vine Street in Philadelphia. The box office is open Tuesday through Saturday, 12pm until 6pm. Crush Card holders receive a 20% discount. Students and seniors always receive a 25% discount on tickets. Group discounts are also available.**

**Press note:**

**For additional information (see below), or confirmation, or to schedule an artist interview call: Phil Sumpter, at (215) 925-9914 ext. 15.**

## **PAINTED BRIDE / Dakshina/Daniel Singh Dance Company / ADD-2**

### **About Dakshina/Daniel Singh Dance Company**

Dakshina means "offering" in Sanskrit and in keeping with this spirit, Dakshina offers artists and communities the unique opportunity to experience dance as a movement that links the arts, cultures, and social causes. Dakshina blends Indian dance forms such as Bharata Natyam, and modern dance, mirroring the multiple identities of second generation South Asians. Singh and his works have been hailed by *Washington City Paper* and *The Washington Post, Voice of America*, and awarded Metro D.C.'s Founder's Award for Innovation in Dance. The company has performed throughout the U.S. and in several cities in India.

### **What the Press has said:**

Taste and clarity of expression within parameters of high aesthetic standards set Dakshina from Washington DC apart as a dance company...Its gifted young director Daniel anchors talents of varying cultural origin and, himself a Bharatanatyam dancer, absorbs influences in his work.

[Times of India, January 3, 2010.](#)

Anna Sokolow was an unflinching choreographer of human pain and alienation. Not exactly popular stuff but unforgettably piercing. Her works are not seen much anymore (she died in 2000), which is why the Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company's reconstruction of her 1955 piece about urban isolation, "Rooms," is so fascinating. Sarah Kaufman, Washington Post Chief Dance Critic's Pick for Spring 2010. [Washington Post, January 31, 2010.](#)

For more information about Daniel Singh Dance Company, visit [www.dakshina.org](http://www.dakshina.org).

### **About Pallabi Chakravorty, Courtyard Dancers**

Founded by anthropologist, dancer, choreographer, and cultural worker Pallabi Chakravorty, Courtyard Dancers creates and stages contemporary Indian dance works based on classical and folk forms such as Kathak. Rooted in her tutelage experience with renowned gurus such as Bandana Sen in Calcutta, Pallabi's authentic dance pieces have been presented in prominent venues such as Philadelphia Museum of Art, PS 122 in New York, National Geographic Society in Washington D.C., among others. She holds a doctoral degree in Visual Anthropology from Temple University and teaches in the Department of Music and Dance at Swarthmore College. For more information visit [www.courtyarddancers.org](http://www.courtyarddancers.org).

### **About this Dance Engagement/Partnered Presentation**

This performance is a co-presentation by Asian Arts Initiative and the Painted Bride Art Center. The presentation of Dakshina is made possible in part by support from the National Performance Network (NPN) Performance Residency Program and a grant from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The **Painted Bride Art Center** collaborates with emerging and established artists to create, produce and present innovative work that affirms the intrinsic value of all cultures and celebrates the transformative power of the arts. Through performances and exhibitions, education and outreach, the Bride creates a forum for engagement centered on contemporary social issues. For more information about the Painted Bride Arts Center, please call (215) 925-9914 or visit [www.paintedbride.org](http://www.paintedbride.org).

**PAINTED BRIDE / Dakshina/Daniel Singh Dance Company / ADD-3**

**Asian Arts Initiative** is a community-based center in Philadelphia that engages artists and everyday people to create art that explores the diverse experiences of Asian Americans, addresses our social context, and imagines and effects positive community change. Recently relocated due to the expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Asian Arts Initiative is now in a new home at 1219 Vine Street where we are contributing to the revitalization of Vine Street and Chinatown North. For more information about Asian Arts Initiative, please call (215) 557-0455 or visit [www.asianartsinitiative.org](http://www.asianartsinitiative.org).