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kathak

Kathak is a classical dance of Northern India. Its past is colourful and venerable. The word Kathak is etymologically related to Katha, the art of story-telling. A community of professional story-tellers who recounted and interpreted tales from Hindu mythology were known as Kathakars. They conveyed the episodes through the artistic medium of narration, singing and dancing. This gradually became a full-fledged hereditary art of dance called Kathak.

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The great cultural resurgence of this century has given Kathak a new form and content. Kathak today is a blend of Vedic and Shastric traditions enriched by the art of Keertans and Dhrupad intermingled with the aesthetics of the Mughals and the refinements of Hindustani music in the form of Thumri Dadra and Ghazal.

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odissi

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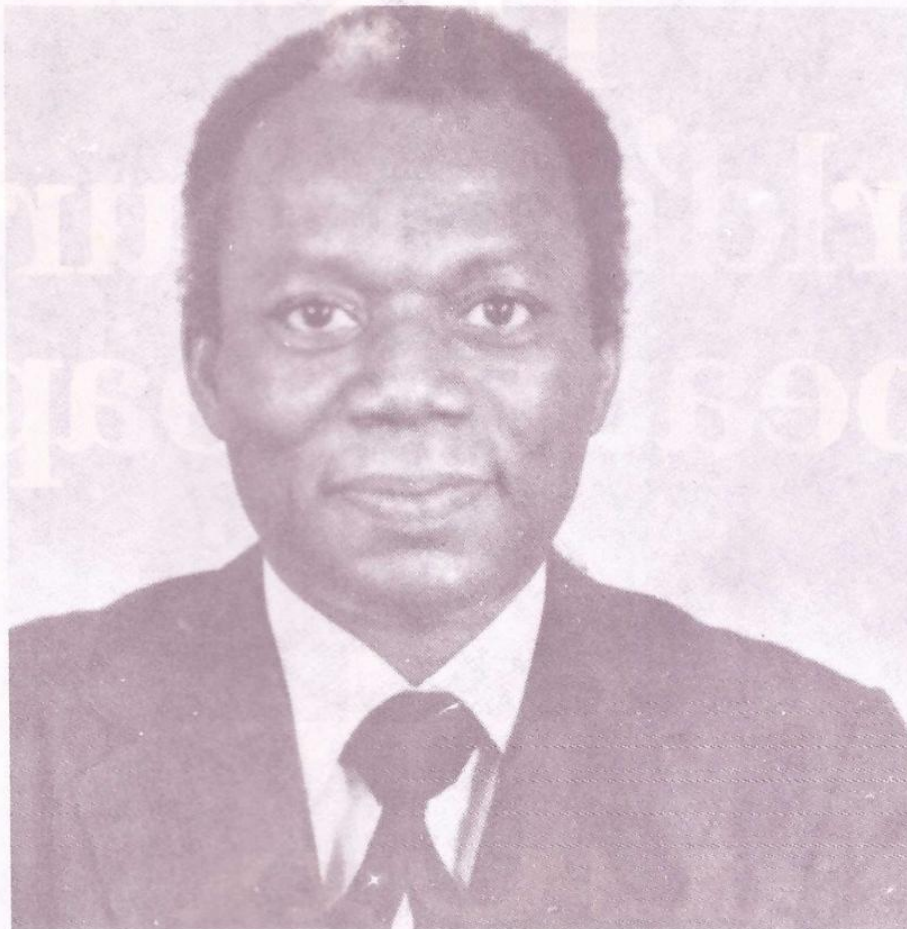
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foreword



MESSAGE FROM: THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE.

It gives me great pleasure to send a message on the occasion of the production "Padmini" to be held at Queens Hall.

We in Trinidad and Tobago are richly blessed, culturally. We are blessed, because what we know today as our culture, unlike that of many other nations of the world, is influenced by the coming together of almost all of the various ethnic groups of the world. Influences on our culture come from Africa, India, Pakistan, Britain, Spain, France, China. All these influences are manifested in our culture.

The Indian influence forms an integral part of our culture. The National Council of Indian Culture must be commended for their contribution to the promotion of the Indian influence for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

Tonight we are about to view the production "Padmini", the first dance drama attempted by the famous dancing couple Pratap and Priya Pawar with the Kala-Kendra Dancers of Trinidad and Tobago.

I am sure this evening's performance will be every bit enjoyable as previous performances put on by this famous dancing pair.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. H. ...', written over a horizontal line.

Minister of Education and Culture

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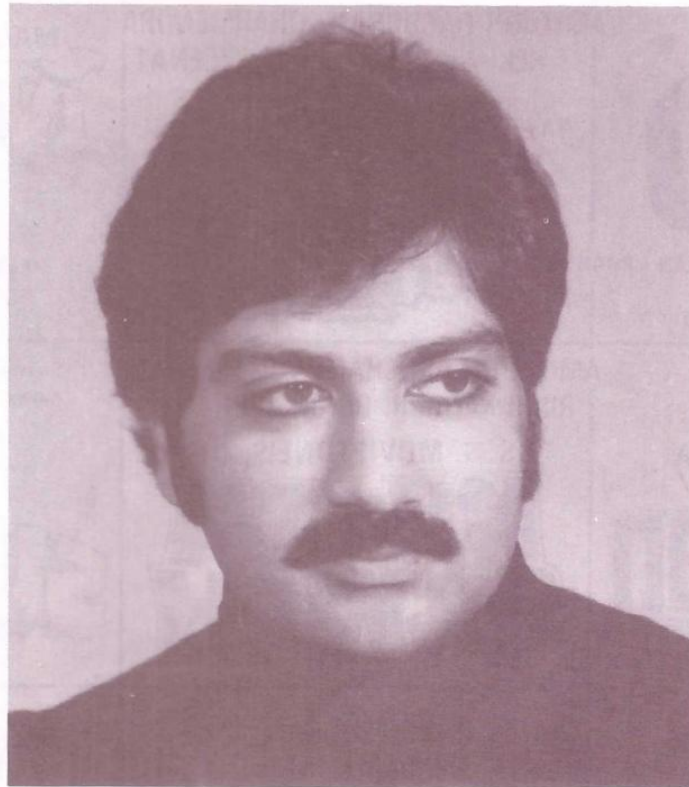
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Message of His Excellency Mr. Gaj Singh Jodhpur, High Commissioner for India



It is most heartening to learn that for the first time in Trinidad an Indian historical ballet is being presented by Pratap and Priya Pawar and the Kala Kendra dancers under the auspices of the National Council of Indian Culture.

It is only befitting that this ambitious and adventurous step forward in the development of Indian dance in Trinidad should be undertaken by these two artistes who have virtually revolutionised the teaching of Indian dance in this country. They have been successful in drawing the attention of all culturally conscious people towards the intricacy, sophistication and beauty of Indian classical dance.

The National Council of Indian Culture also deserves to be congratulated for the initiative they have taken and the encouragement they have given to the teacher-artistes and students alike which has made it possible for Indian dance to assume its rightful place as an integral part of this country's rich and varied culture. As a result of the dedicated services and professional instruction of Pratap and Priya and the guidance and patronage of the NCIC, Trinidad can today proudly boast of their own authentic and highly skilled troupe of Indian classical dancers. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Indian High Commission has been able to participate in this positive development.

The story of Padmini is rooted in historic fact and shrouded by legend. It is a story of the valour and the chivalry of the Rajputs of Rajputana and their spirited and defiant patriotic struggle against the might of the Mughal Empire.

Among the many valiant men and women who sacrificed their lives during that period to protect their honour and their ancestry, the name of Rani Padmini shines out as a paragon of virtue and Indian womanhood. She exemplifies the loyalty, courage and devotion that every Indian wife seeks to emulate. Her example was a source of inspiration that fired within every man of her clan the urge to uphold their legendary tradition of valour in the face of adversity.

Rani Padmini's spirit still lives on not only in the legends and ballads of Rajasthan but her praises are also sung throughout the length and breadth of India. Coming from the same State in India, I am delighted that her memory is being revived through this performance, the first of its kind ever to be attempted in Trinidad.

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Pratap & Priya as "Rati — Kamadeo" (Lord of love and his consort).

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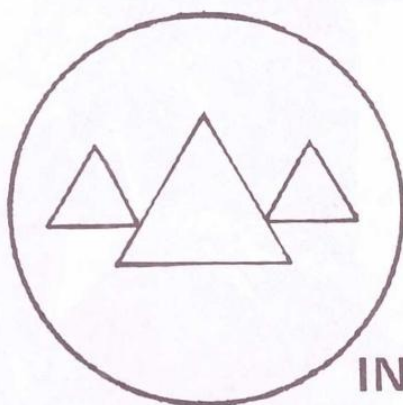
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3. When oil is hot pour curry mixture into the pot and fry for about two minutes then pour meat into the pot and allow to simmer until meat gets tender. If meat is not tender add about ½ tea-cup of warm water and allow to boil until meat gets tender enough with sauce required.



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PADMINI

a story of today's needs

Dance is much more than entertainment. It is an artistic medium that provides excellent opportunities to give expression to various themes.

This has been the pattern of the work of Kala Kendra, the dance section of the National Council of Indian Culture. In the past we have staged Triveni, a production that linked common expressions of European, African, Indian and Caribbean dance. It was a new initiative that led one newspaper to comment that Triveni was 'the show that made history'.

Such was the impact of Triveni that the Ministry of Education and Culture commissioned a series of shows for school children.

Then there was 'Deep Jale', the story of Divali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, adding new dimensions to this significant national Festival.

And now Padmini, an ancient story but relevant to today's needs. A commentary on self-respect and dignity.

The presentation of Padmini is now a reality because of untiring efforts by the choreographers, Pratap and Priya Pawar, the musicians including visiting Indian sarod player Bhaskar Bose, the designers and our dance students who have acquired tremendous stage exposure and competence.

The National Council of Indian Culture now contemplates another initiative, a major stage production with a complete cast of students of Kala Kendra.

Thanks for your continuing patronage.

HANS HANOOMANSINGH
President



*Hans Hanoomansingh President of the
National Council of Indian Culture.*

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pratap pawar

When he dances, Kathak and Pratap Pawar flow into each other. His feeling and sincerity, as a critic has "mesmerise the audience". His dancing has been acclaimed at home and abroad as a rich blend of the various elements of the style he represents — mime and gesture, movement and posture, rhythm and mood. The most distinguishing features of Pratap Pawar, however, are his masculine charm and his powerful but graceful movements. His expression is superb.

Pratap considers himself very lucky to have had his training in pure traditional style from none other than Birju Maharaj, the great Kathak Guru and Choreographer. There is a commonly shared feeling that he stands today right on the shoulders of his guru.

Being a graduate from the Agra University in English, Hindi, Economics & Political Science, Pratap has been a popular teacher at the American International School New Delhi, where he taught KATHAK for five years.

Recognising his talent, the Government of India deputed him to perform in Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, Ceylon and Indonesia, where as before in U.K., U.S.A., Bhutan, Sikkim, Thailand and other countries, he has been acknowledged as an outstanding Artist.

Pratap has also made his mark as a ballet dancer as Rama in the Ramlila Ballet of Bhartiya Kala Kendra New Delhi. He has also co-starred with the famous film actress Asha Parakh as Salim in "Anarkali". He has also become famous with his performance in the film "Dastaan". Before leaving India he was senior staff artist at "Kathak Kendra", National School of Kathak Dance. He has been in charge of the department of Kathak dance at the Indian Cultural Centre, Georgetown Guyana, South America, for four (4) years — 1973-1976.

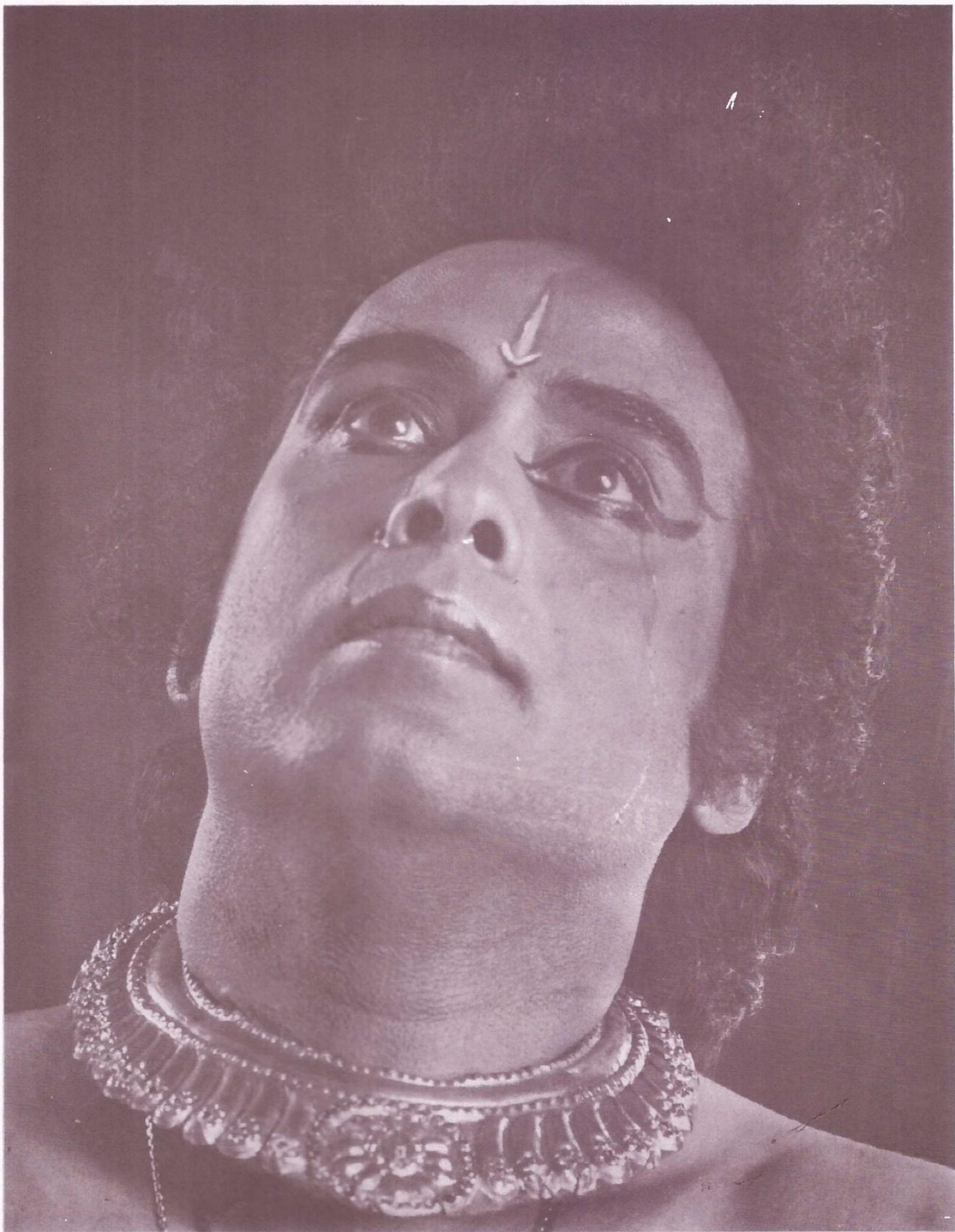
Pratap and Priya appeared in the first Guyanese Film "Anmol Bandhan". The entire Choreography (dance) of this film is done by Pratap Pawar. Recently, thousands have been thrilled in Haiti, Surinam, Barbados and Trinidad by the superb display of Indian Dance by the divine couple.

During his stay in Guyana for about four years, Pratap along with Priya, gave a number of performances and trained a large number of students in Kathak and Odissi, who earned a name for them in Guyana and abroad. The couple conducted two very successful dance workshops in Trinidad during 1975 & 1976. Presently Pratap is dancer and director choreographer at Kala Kendra, the cultural wing of National Council of India Culture, Trinidad. This assignment has been given to him, by the Government of India's I.C.C.R., New Delhi.

Pratap has numerous performances at his credit which he did at Rashtrapati Bhawan (President's House) New Delhi for foreign dignitaries like Queen Elizabeth, King of Ethiopia, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Kosigin, late president J.F. Kennedy, Kaunda, Bandaranaike, and many others.

Recently Government of India has sent him to tour South America as leader of a Cultural Delegation as principal dancer. It was an extremely successful tour of Peru, Chile and Venezuela, where people saw Kathak for the first time and highly appreciated.

"TRIVENI" & "Deep Jale" are famous productions done by Pawar in Trinidad and now "PADMINI". "TRIVENI" was sponsored by Government of Trinidad in Sr. Comprehensive Schools all over the country including Tobago.



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Happy Easter everybody

The head of UNESCO must be a man for all seasons, countries and occasions. Mr. Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, who spent three memorable days in Trinidad last week, is obviously that kind of man.

In this picture, the genial UNESCO Director General expresses his appreciation to the Kala Kendra dancers by extending the traditional Hindu greeting. The youthful, vivacious performers were featured in the Cultural Show presented in his honour by the Ministry of Education and Culture at the Holiday Inn on Tuesday.

Among the other performers were the Samaroo Family Steelband, St. Martin's Girls Choir, the Roaring Lion, Morne Diablo Folk Performers and Charmaine McCarthy, the Junior Carnival Monarch.

In Trinidad, of course, Mr. M'Bow found a kind of United Nations in microcosm, a melting pot of creeds and races. Small wonder that he felt so much at home.

Happy Easter, everybody.

priya pawar

The news of her latest adventure will bring joy to the innumerable fans of Priya (popularly remembered as Sita of the Ramlila Ballet) in the Capital, Delhi. Eager to grasp as much of dance as possible, Priya has set herself to master one of the most exquisite and brilliant dance forms — Odissi — under the guidance of the celebrated Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra and his noted disciple Hari Krishna Behera. Within a period of two years she has achieved much, as has been seen in her performance everywhere.

Kathak and Priya are old friends. Under the guidance of Shri Mohan Rao Kalyanpukur, Priya started wooing this glamorous dance at the early age of four and soon acquired an astonishing mastery in art. Her present Guru is Shri Kundan Lal Gangani. The late Acharya Sunder Prasad, the famous torch-bearer of the Jaipur Charana is responsible for her perfection and fame in Kathak.

Married to Pratap, Priya finds herself giving and taking more and more every day. Not only does this husband and wife team make an excellent couple at home but also on stage. Priya accompanied her husband on his tour of South East Asia and won the highest laurels for herself. She extensively toured East and West Africa by herself.

Priya today stands unrivalled in the capital of India for her striking individual dance postures and her dignity. Abhinaya distinguished her dance. The Press has emphasised her "inimitable grace".

Priya has taught Kathak and Odissi styles of Indian dance about four years at Indian Cultural Centre, Guyana. At present she is with her husband in Trinidad to accompany him in his performances as well as to present and popularise a traditional dance form of India, Odissi, at Kala Kendra, the cultural wing of National Council of India Culture. Both assignments are given by Gov't of India's I.C.C.R., New Delhi.

Recently Priya had a successful tour with her husband in Peru, Chile and Venezuela and did thirteen performances. She also presented a special programme along with her students at Trinidad President House which was personally appreciated by President Ellis Clarke, Lady Clarke and the diplomatic Corp.

She has done six musical performances and two television shows with her husband in leading music conferences in India in 1977-78, during their last home leave.

"Priya's movements have a peculiar feminine charm - soft and gliding and yet not weak in any sense".
Indian Express, Bombay.

"Priya was a picture of charm in the Abhisarika piece".
Hindustan Times, New Delhi.

"Priya Pawar who gave a scintillating Kathak recital".
Femina, Bombay.

"Delightful recital by Priya Pawar. Priya excelled for she was equally at ease in pure dance as well as the expressed aspect".
Indian Express, Bombay.

"Kathak-Orissi Jugalbandi a marriage of two dance styles was a bold experiment coming from Pratap & Priya Pawar".
Patriot, New Delhi.

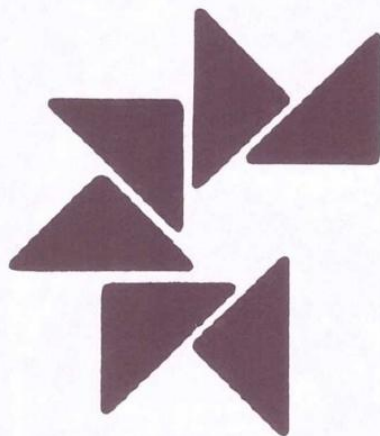
"Priya Pawar's presentation of Abhisarika was the best number of the evening". (from a preview performance of nine members' cultural delegation going to east and west Africa.
Patriot, New Delhi.

"His lovely wife Priya is a dancer of Queenly grace and dignity".



Best Wishes and all success to Pratap & Priya Pawar

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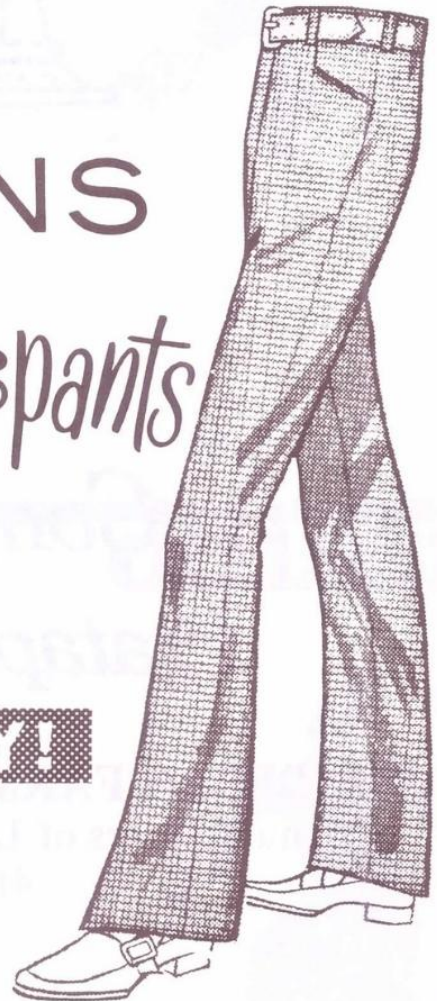
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kathak

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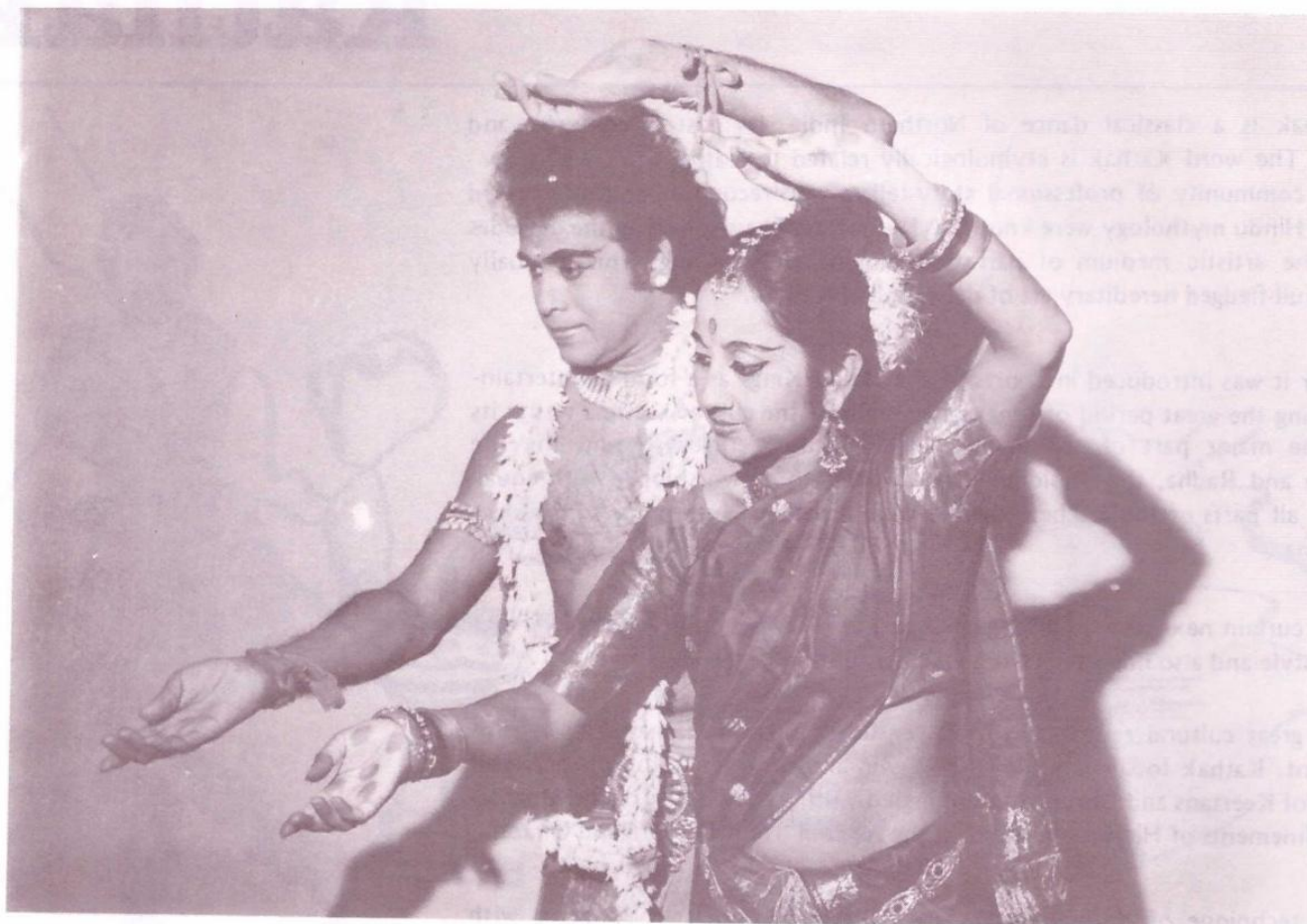


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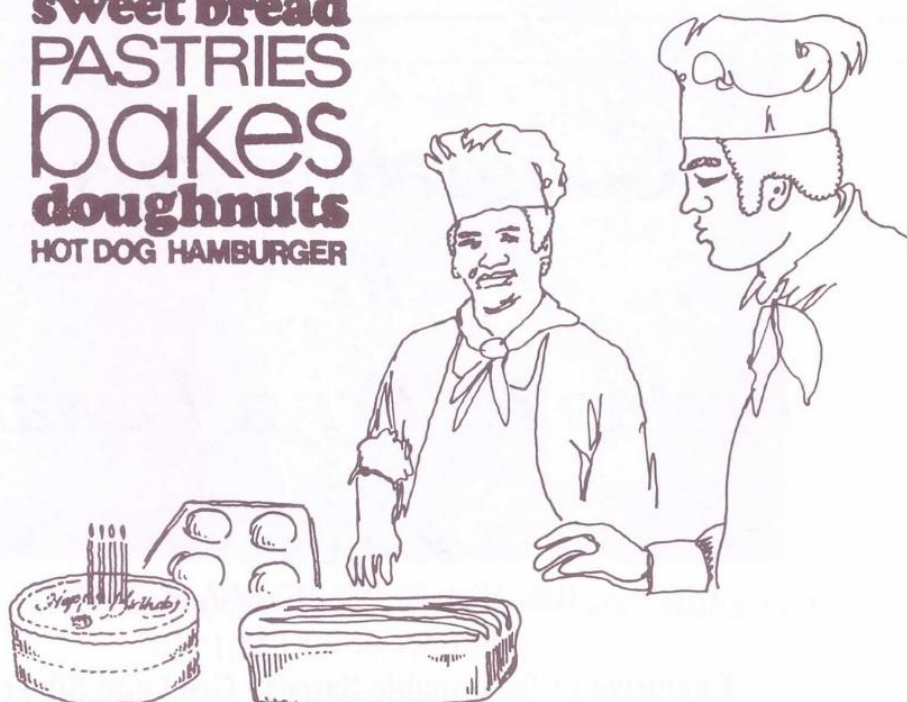
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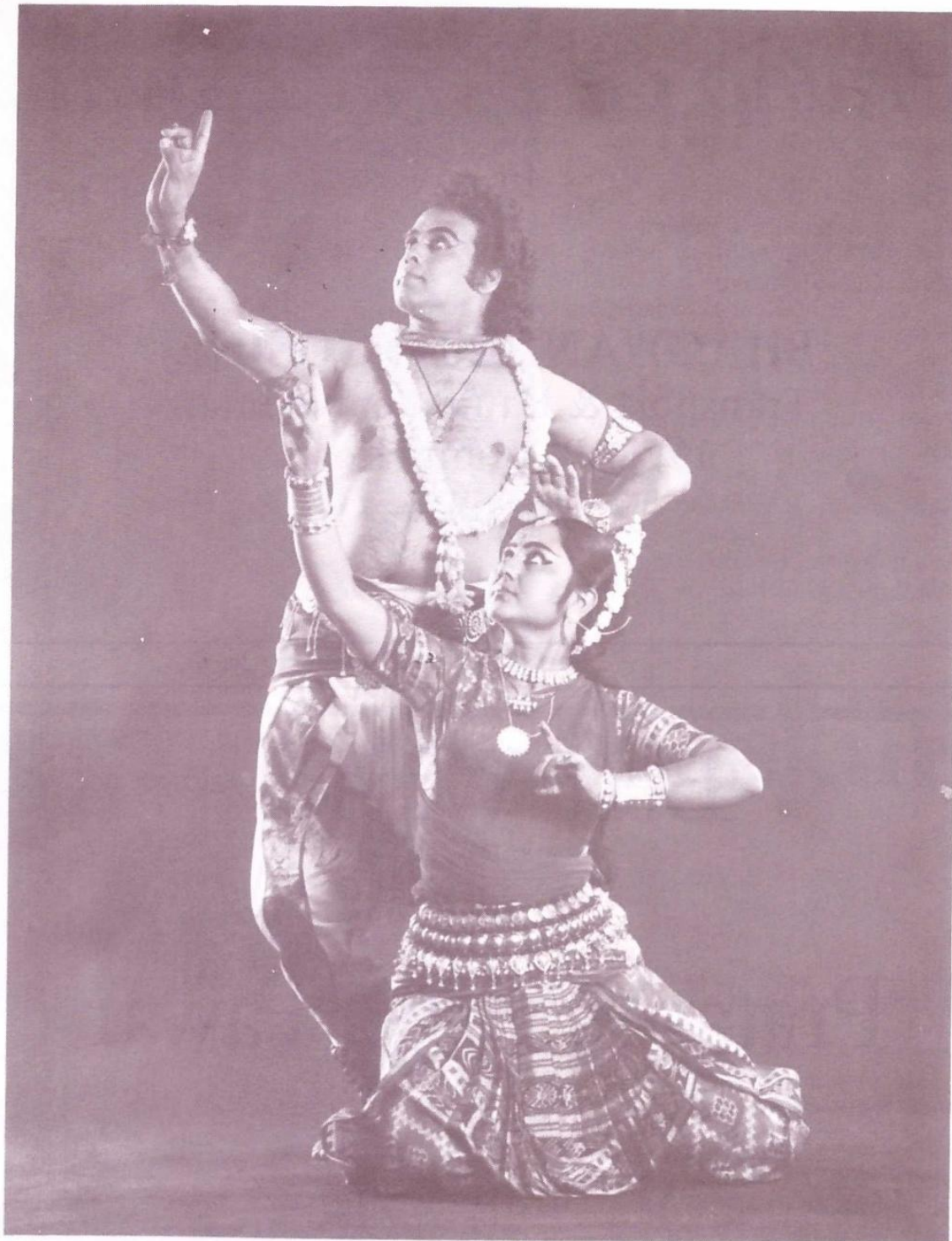
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pandit viśhwanath misra

Pandit Vishwanath Misra was born in Azmgarh in the state of Uttar Pradesh in 1947. He began his instruction in the Tabla at the age of eight under his Guru, Padma Shri Pandit Shamata Persaud, a renowned table player of India.

Misra has given both live and television and radio performances throughout India. In 1969 he participated in the World Music Festival in Iran and since then he has been on several Indian cultural delegations outside India. He has performed in the United Kingdom and France in 1972 and Nepal in 1974.

Pandit Misra has been in Guyana since December 1975 and is the Tabla Instructor at the Indian Cultural Centre. In January 1976, he visited Barbados and performed under the auspices of the Barbados Arts Council.

In addition to being a skilled Tabla Player, Pandit Misra is a capable vocalist and Sarangi player.

Since one year Vishwanath Misra has joined the Pawars in Trinidad. He had a successful tour with them as an accompanist as well as solo performer in Peru, Chile and Venezuela. In Kala Kendra he is preparing a young and promising group of Tabla players.

His present assignment with National Council of Indian Culture is through I.C.C.R. New Delhi.

bhaskar bose

Bhaskar Bose is one of the most promising young Sarod players of India. He learnt the art of Sarod from his fater Shri Harihar Bose and took advance lessons from late Shri Birendra Kishore Roy Chowdhary of Calcutta.

Bhaskar is graduate (English hons.) of Delhi University, M.A. previous and B.A. (Sangit Prabhaker) from Allahbad.

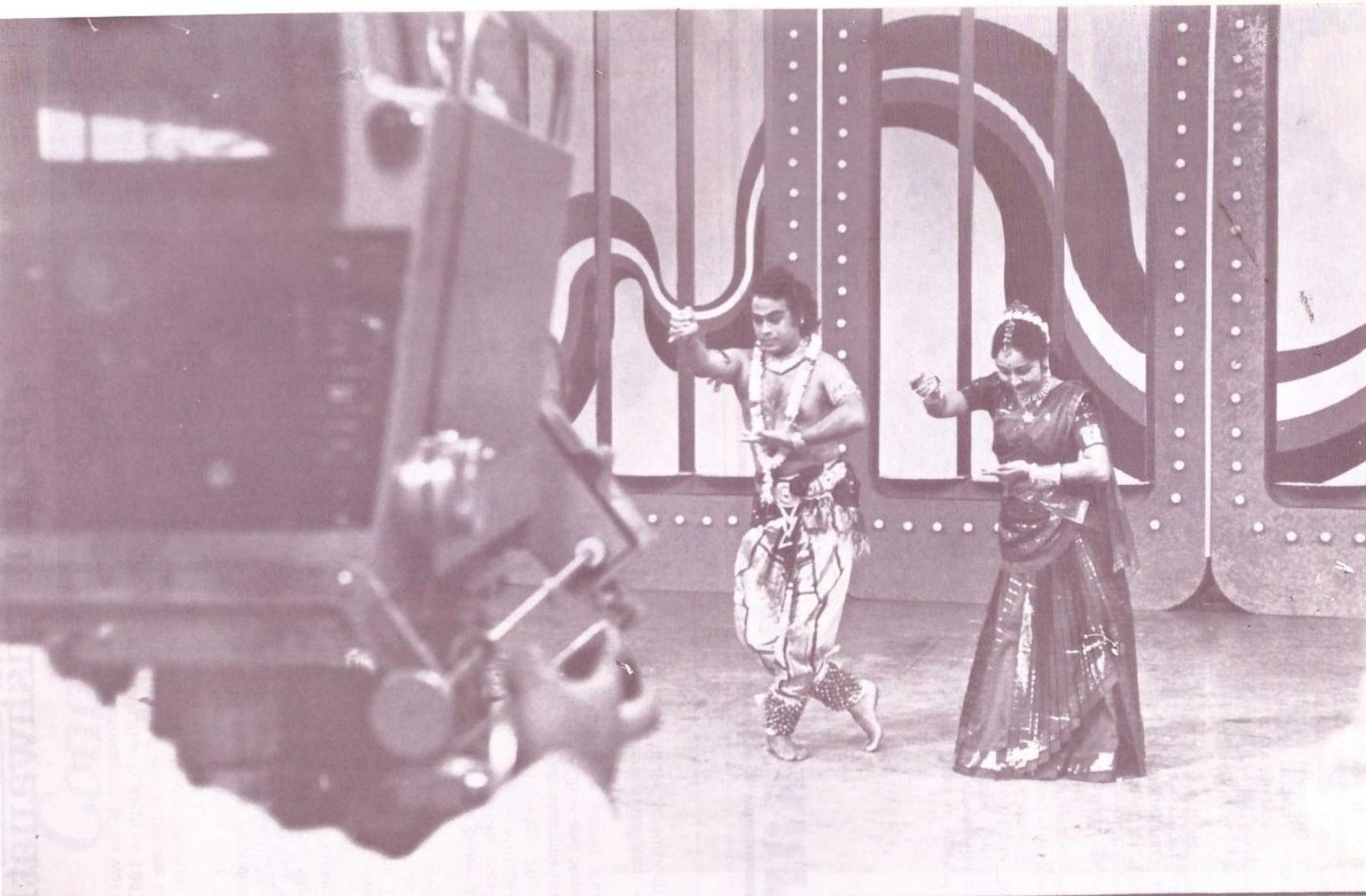
In 1973 Bhaskar Bose extensively toured Europe for three months and given several solo performances in cities of Switzerland and France. Bhaskar also accompanied ex-prime minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi as a member of the official cultural delegation during her visit to Iran in April 74.

Bhaskar Bose has got number of successful solo performances at his credit which he did in leading music conference of India.

Recently he has finished his assignment in Indian Cultural Centre Guyana as Sitar and Sarod teacher where he aslo got married young Marlym Hall, known Indian classical dancer of Guyana.

Bhaskar Bose, is an imaginative and creative artiste, which proves in his music of "Padmini" he dance drama choreographed by Pradap Pawar and produced by National Council of Indian Culture, Trinidad & Tobago.

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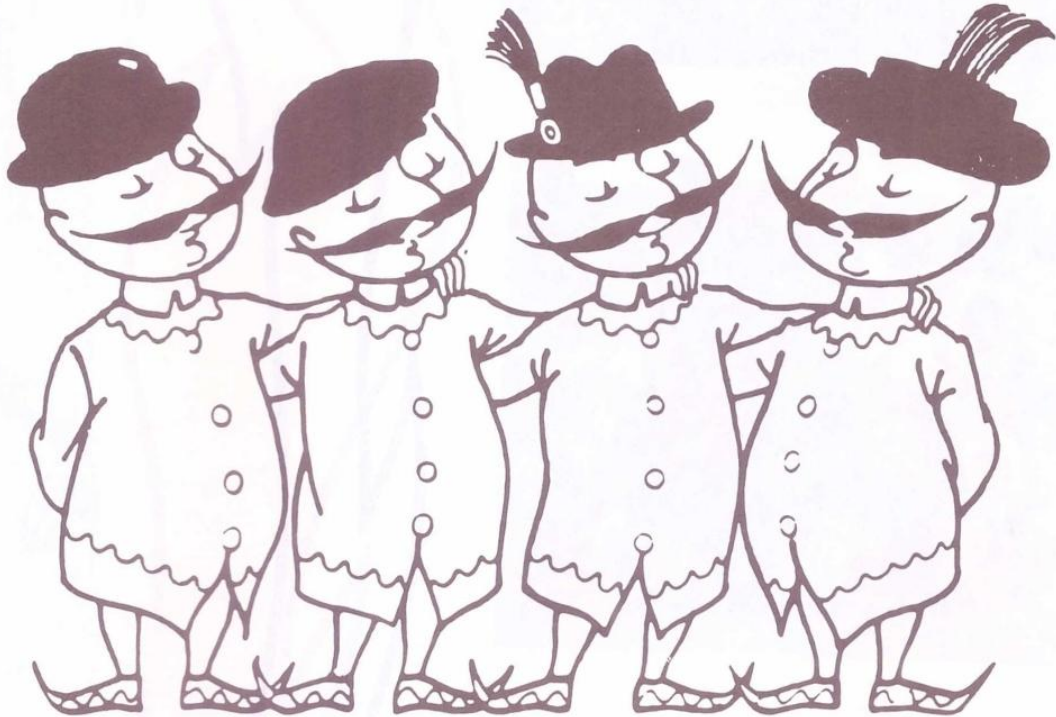
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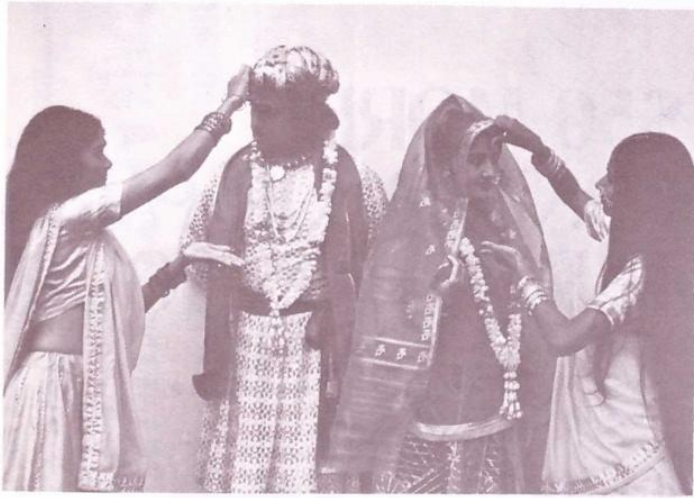
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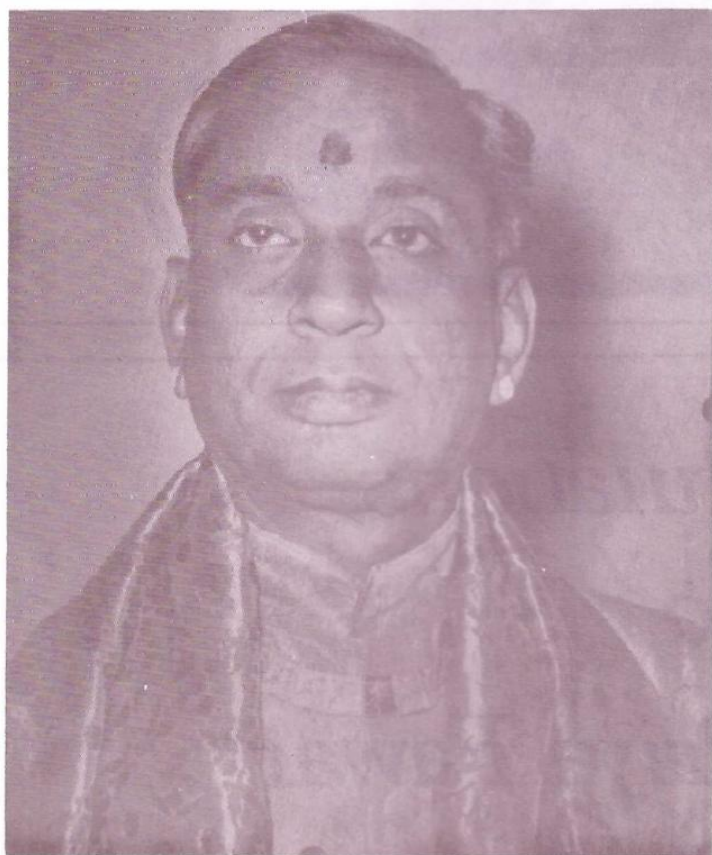
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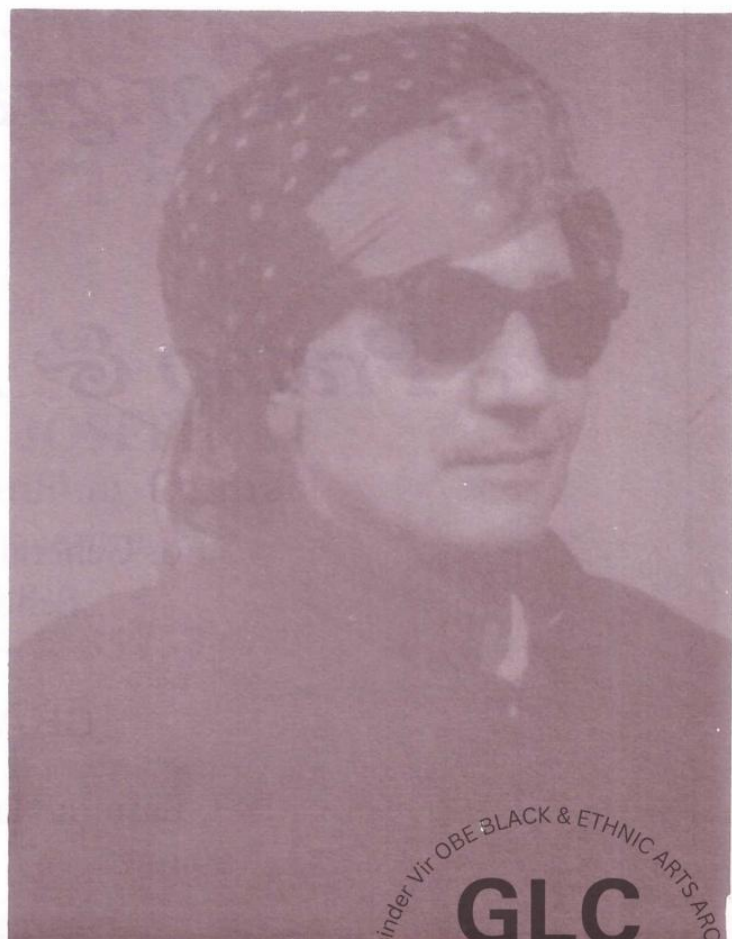
Pratap & Priya learned the art of Kathak dance at the feet of their great Gurus at Kathak Kendra (Bharat Kala Kendra) New Delhi.



Shri Birju Maharaj



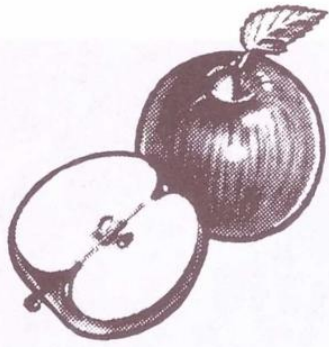
Late Shri Shambhu Maharaj



Late Pandit Sunder Prasadji 1986

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India's Melody Queen – Lata Mangeshkar garlanding Pratap & Priya after their performance at Bomby organised by her in memory of her late father whose portrait is seen in the background. 24th April, 1971.

After the show, the famous female singer Asha Bhosle, younger sister of Lata Mangeshkar congratulates Priya and Pratap Pawar, while Anand son of Asha looks on.



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Personal greetings and congratulations to Pratap Pawar from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru after Ramlila's performance at New Delhi.

October 1959.



Priya (as Ramayan's Sita) receiving blessings from India's Ex-president (late) Shri Zakir Hussain.

October 1966.



Priya (Bharatiya Kala Kendra's Sita) meeting India's Ex-president (late) Dr. Radha Krishnan, with her fellow artists.

October 1967.

appreciation

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Sunday Times Magazine — Manila.

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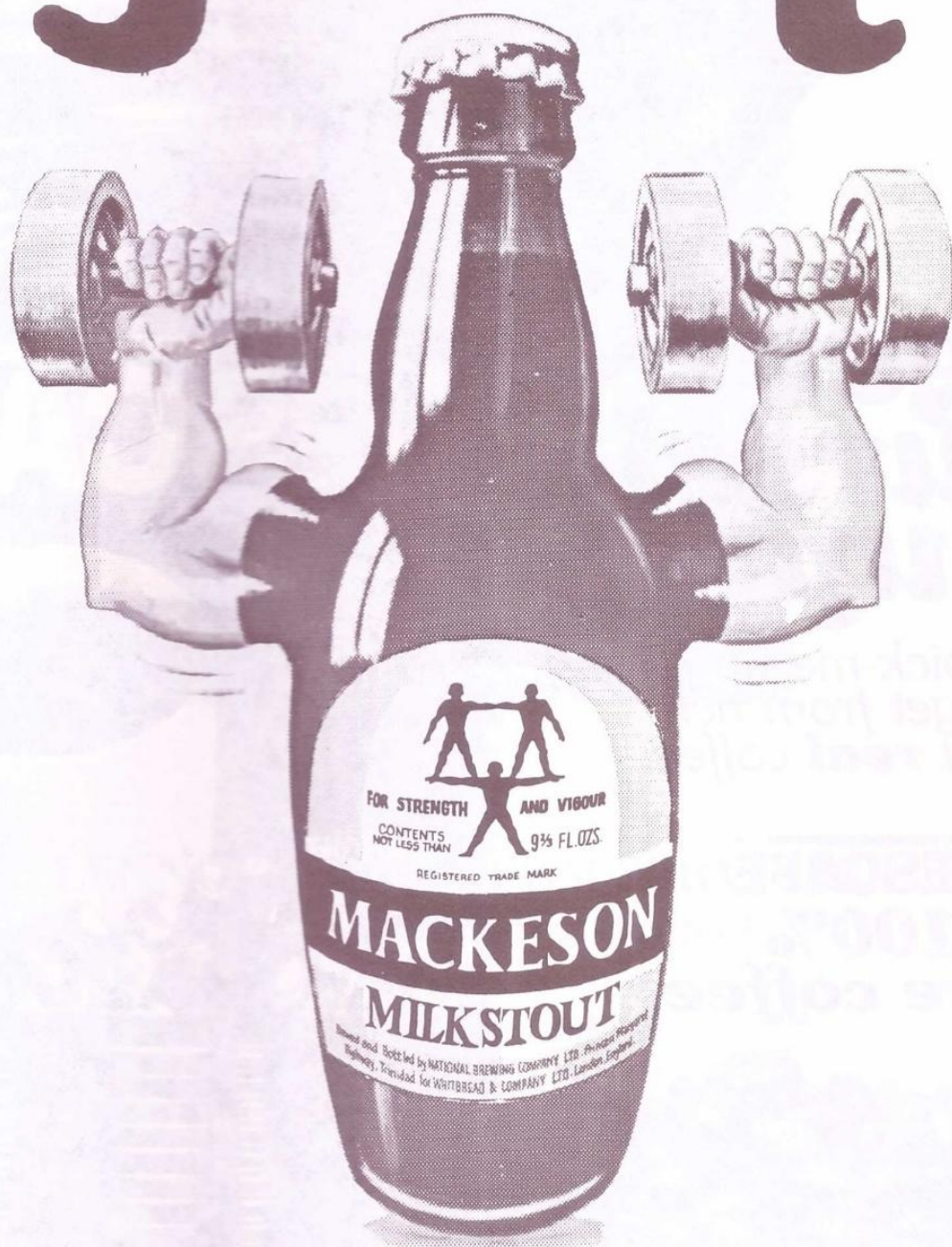
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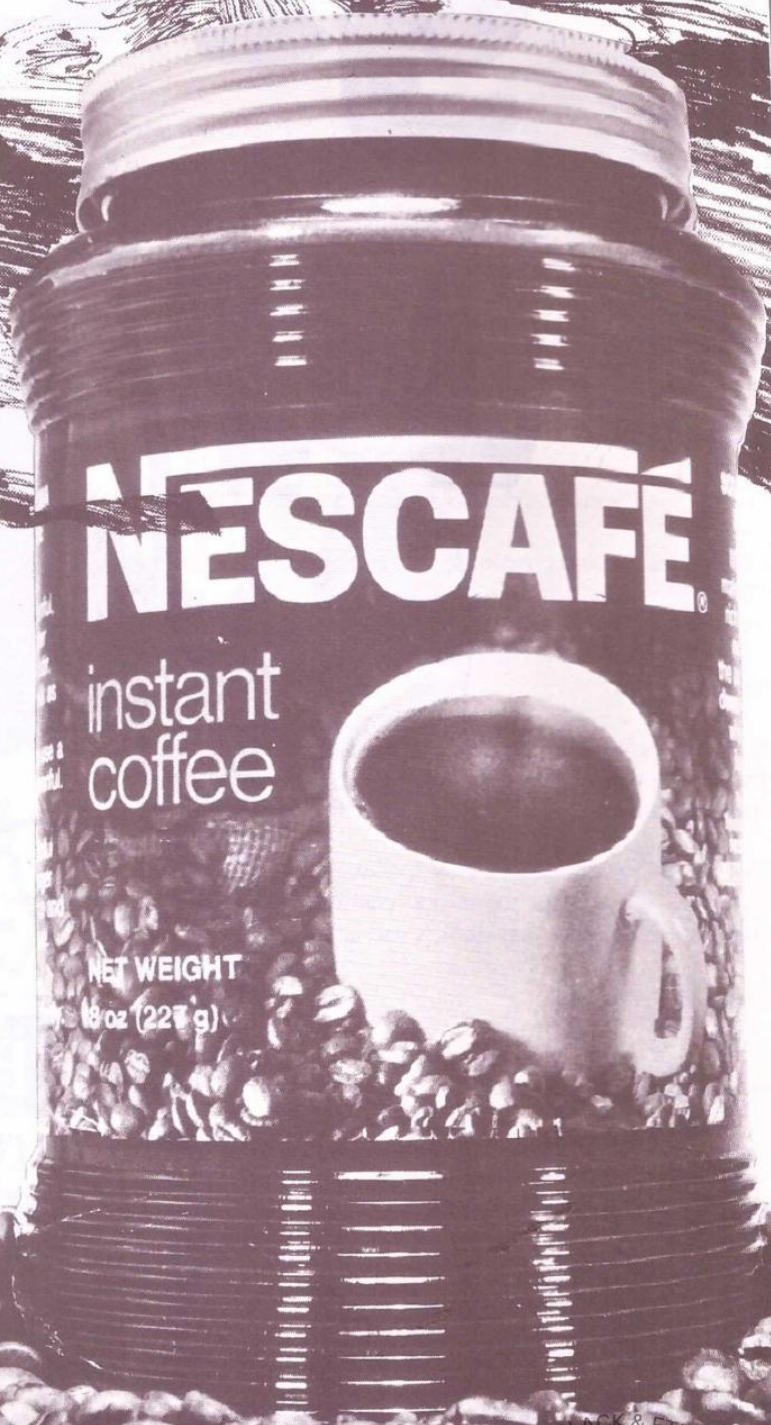
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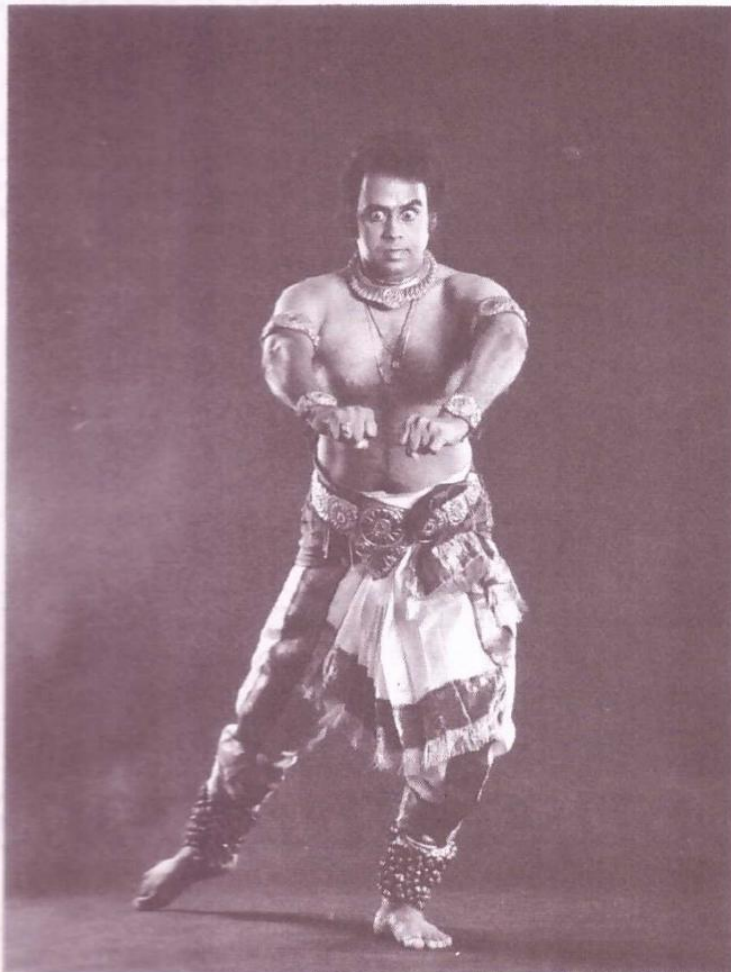


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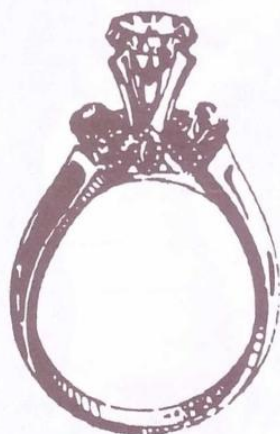
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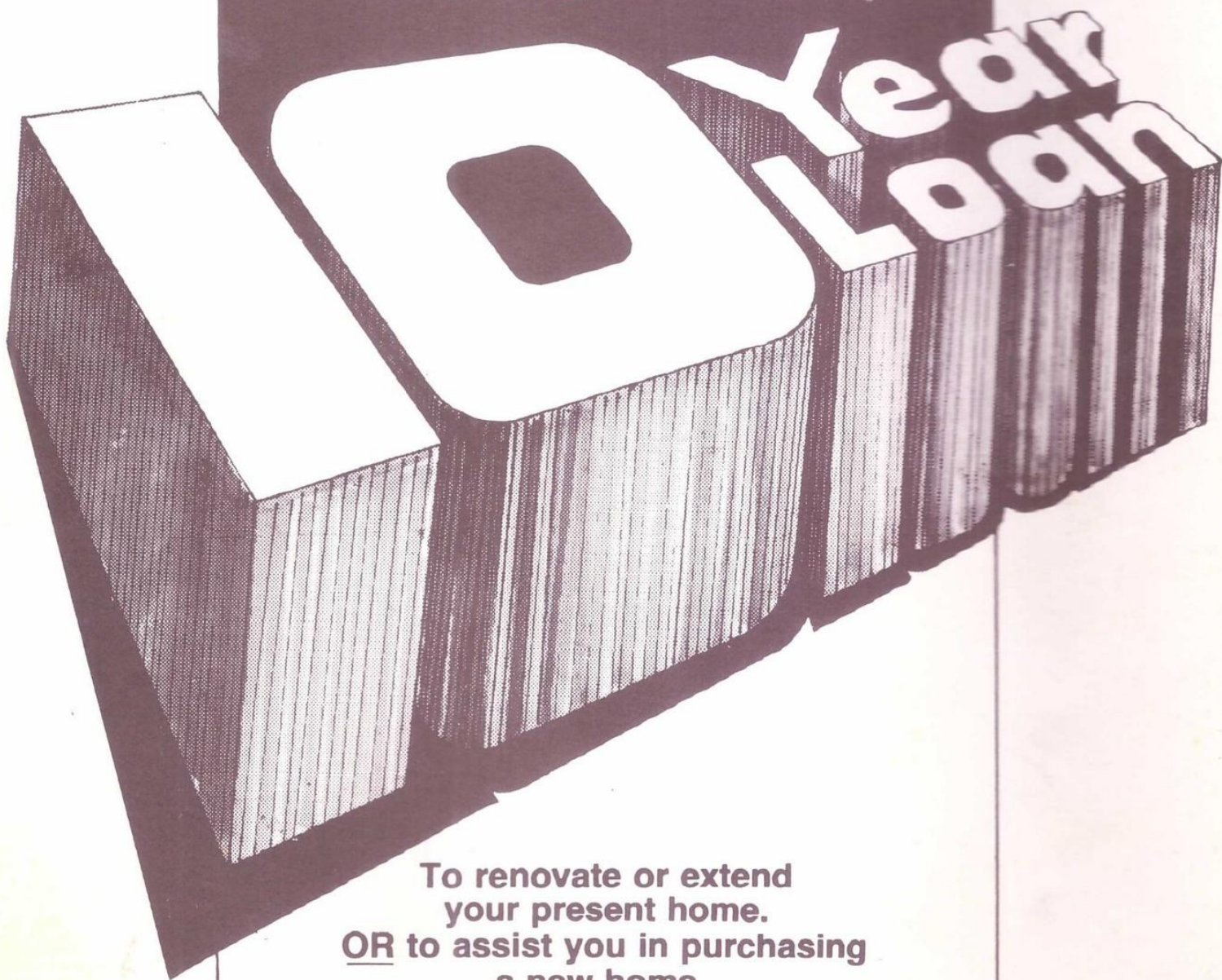
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