

Fazal & Abid Syed: Music Is All In The Family

BY BRITTANY MARKS

Meeting at Treesound Studios, you can't help but notice the records on the wall from the talented artists that have recorded there. Brothers, Fazal (Foz) and Abid (Bid-lo), are each talented in their own right, however.

Foz, the eldest, is a self-taught guitar player. From the young age of 15, he played and practiced constantly. His brother, Abid, reminisced "I used to fall asleep to him playing all night, all day." That amount of dedication may partly explain Foz' musical success. He is currently with the Atlanta based band Rehab, which was nominated for the Wide Open Video of the Year at the Country Music Television Awards. Throughout his career, he has worked with a plethora of well named artists such as Kid Rock, Fall Out Boy, Blink 182 and Hinder to name a few.

Bid-lo is following in his brother's musical footsteps. He is establishing a name for himself as an American-Indian Fusion Hip-Hop artist. Early on he says, "My mom would

always have me sing at family functions." His talent and ability to use words and music to

express himself is a passion he harnessed very young. When asked to sing a couple of lines during the interview, he gladly accepted. The lyrics flowed and rhymed so well, you would have never thought it was an i m p r o m p t u performance. Bid-lo writes his own lyrics and embraces many opportunities to perform alongside the band Rehab. These opportunities allow him to continuously grow and mature as an artist.

When asked what they perceived to be their greatest challenge in the

music business, they both agreed that most difficulties arose from being a minority in an industry dominated by non-Indians. This challenge has now created opportunities for the brothers in other ways. As musicians and artists both Foz and Bid-lo are looking to continually grow and enhance their musical style.

Having a strong tie to both the American and Indian culture, their goal is to combine qualities from the two cultures and blend them together to create something unique and their own. They hope to bridge the gap between Indian and American cultures through their music.

"Music is one of the few things in the world that regardless of race or religion, is universally understood. It inspires feelings in people that can't be described in words", says Foz.

With the growing success each have experienced thus far in their careers, their future in India and America is sure to be an exciting journey to watch!



Shaina Daya Shows Talent At 'Arangetaram' Performance

BY MAHADEV DESAI

Dilip and Smita Daya hosted an 'arangetaram' for their daughter Shaina, at the Roswell Cultural Arts Center on Sunday, July 19.

The auditorium was packed and right on time the emcee, Kena Vyas welcomed all and explained the significance of the auspicious invocatory puja. Shaina's Guru, Smt. Mrs. Dinaben Sheth, of Kruti Dance Academy, accompanied Shaina, who was attired in shimmering costumes, embellished with sparkling jewelry, hair adornments and ghungroos, to the resplendent idols of cosmic Lord of dance, Lord Nataraj, Lord Ganesh and Goddess Saraswati, where Shaina lit the diyas, invoking the blessings of the divine powers, to the accompaniment of uplifting mantras and received the blessings of her Guru. Shaina started off the performance with Nataraja Stuti where the dancer offers her salutations to Lord Nataraja. Shaina next performed Alarippu (to bloom) with grace and poise as if a bud was blooming into a beautiful flower. The next dance Jatiswaram was sheer magic with an exquisite blend of synchronized footwork, gestures, melody and rhythm. Krishna Shabdham is a song which gives rhythm to the glory of God through hand movements and facial expressions. Shaina stunned the audience with her flawless dance, pleading not to be distracted from the flute of Lord Krishna. Total silence reigned in the auditorium as Shaina brought out the beauty, grandeur and profundity of Varnam with grace, energy and perfect synchronization of Bhava, Raga and Tala. Dinaben sat on the side providing the soft beats with a pair of cymbals.

In the next item, Shaina brought tears to the audience while performing Padam-Gokul Maa, the Radha dance, reflecting a range of emotions from anger and sorrow felt by pining Radha due to Krishna's absence. The next item was followed by a bhajan from Geet Govind, where as Radha, she conveyed her jealousy of other gopis which later turns into sorrow as she was advised not to lose

faith in Krishna's love for her. In the following dance, depicting the story of Krishna and Rukmini, Shaina demonstrated her knowledge and skills of the various hand gestures in narrating a story. In the imaginatively self-choreographed dance, she

Photo courtesy Dilip Daya.



danced with her younger sister Annika and revealed her mastery of pure dance movements and expressions to depict various rhythms and emotions. And in the traditional dance of 'Madhurastakam, she paid her obeisance to Lord Krishna. She excelled herself in Tillana, where she revealed intense concentration, and practice required for captivating sculpture-like poses. The pin-drop silence enhanced the enjoyment of her performance, to the accompaniment of hypnotizing music 'par excellence'.

The Guest of honor, Deepak Ram is an accomplished soloist and a senior disciple of world renowned bansuri maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia.

In their speeches, marked with praise, and advice, Deepak Ram, Dr. Yusuf Ahmed, Uncles: Prashun/New York and Hamint/South Africa

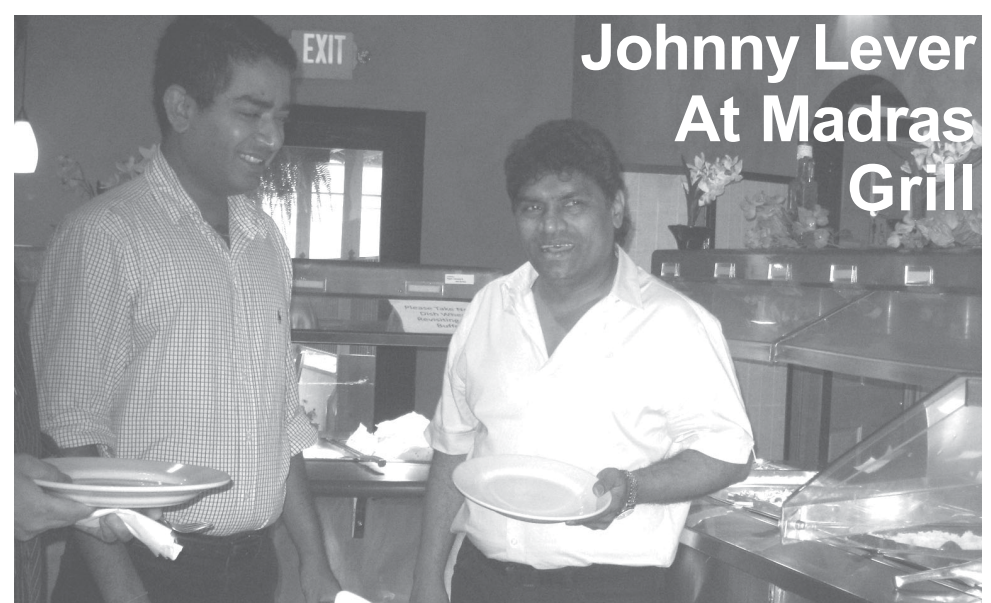
lauded Shaina's single-minded devotion to dancing, her persistence in reaching her goal. her commendable dancing cum music talent and voluntary work and also recognized the dedication, commitment and love of Guru Dinaben in not only helping Shaina realize her dream but also in teaching her about etiquette, composure, rich Indian traditions and culture, and leadership.

After Tillana, an ebullient and proud Guru Dinaben declared, "Heartiest congratulations to you from the bottom of my heart because this afternoon, you've successfully completed your 'Arangetram'. And best of luck in your college life and future career." Both Guru and Shaina offered their prayers to the deities, after which Dinaben presented Shaina with her Graduation Plaque.

After the concluding Mangalam Dance, Shaina made concluding remarks thanking her Guru Dinaben, her parents, her grand parents, Vasubhai and Nitaben

for vibrant stage décor, and top-notch photography, and all the guests at the ceremony. Guru Dinaben, beaming graduate Shaina, and family members received a thunderous standing ovation as they were being presented with flower bouquets.

Shaina has been initiated into Bharatnatyam dancing, under the guidance of Guru, Smt. Mrs. Dinaben Sheth, since the age of seven. She has a well rounded personality, she excels not only in dance but has received her black belt in karate. Shaina has also been playing flute for the last six years, She is Co-President of CARE International Club at Walton High School, and also does social and charity work. She has received the dedicated volunteer award in '07. She is an inspirational mentor and role model to many young students. Shaina has proved her mettle and has graduated with distinction. Her journey continues. And for the audience, no doubt the images of a wonderful ceremony will remain ingrained in their consciousness for a long time.



Bollywood comedian Johnny Lever stopped by at Madras Grill Restaurant to enjoy a sumptuous buffet lunch during his Atlanta visit in September. Lever was in Atlanta to perform at the First India Baptist Church, Decatur.