



ACT Theatre Press Contact:

Cati Thelen
Marketing & PR Assistant
206.292.7660 x1121
cati.thelen@acttheatre.org

Pratidhwani Press Contact:

Anushka Bishen
Public Relations Contact
720.684.8326
anushka.bishen@pratidhwani.org

Pratidhwani Presents Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's *Chitrangada* in April 2017
ACTLab and Pratidhwani Explore Gender and Identity through Indian Classical Dance Drama

For Immediate Release - March 8, 2017- Pratidhwani, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization driven to create and promote performing opportunities for arts and artists of South Asia, announce their 10th flagship dance show, *Chitrangada* in partnership with ACTLab. *Chitrangada* is a story of a warrior princess from the ancient Hindu epic *Mahabharata*, which Rabindranath Tagore retold as a dance drama in 1892.

Tagore is India's first Nobel Laureate as well as the first non-European to win the prize in Literature. *Chitrangada*, one of his finest compositions, is a lyrical saga of one woman's quest for love, courage, and the true meaning of beauty. This tribute to the myriad facets of femininity make it as relevant today as it was centuries ago.

Pratidhwani is committed to bringing South Asian performing arts and artists to audiences in the greater Seattle area since 2001. Pratidhwani comprises a group of professionals who have full time careers and dedicate their late evenings to creating art. *Chitrangada*, previously showcased in 2010, is also one of Pratidhwani's most critically acclaimed shows. Directed by Moumita Bhattacharya and produced by Nitya Gupta, *Chitrangada* is Pratidhwani's third and largest collaboration with ACT.

"*Chitrangada* is a lyrical expression on gender stereotypes. And yet, it is a story of love. Of the ability of love to transform and the fact that love needs to embrace and support a person's *raison d'être*. This piece of art is a showcase of multiple music genres, dance forms, and costume styles of the Indian subcontinent," says Director Moumita Bhattacharya.

Chitrangada will be performed in The Allen Theatre at ACT, 700 Union Street, in downtown Seattle. The production opens on April 28, 2017 and runs through May 20, 2017. For tickets and more information, call 206-292-7676 or visit www.acttheatre.org. For more information about Pratidhwani, visit www.pratidhwani.org

For information or to arrange interviews, please contact Marketing & PR Assistant, Cati Thelen at cati.thelen@acttheatre.org.

About Pratidhwani

Pratidhwani is a 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural organization based in the Seattle area. Conceptualized and founded in 2001, Pratidhwani was formally established in 2003. At its core, Pratidhwani is a group of professionals of South Asian heritage that are enthusiastic and passionate about the artistic traditions of the Indian subcontinent, and are dedicated to the promotion and cultivation of the performing arts of their homeland in the Seattle area. Pratidhwani recognizes that the performing arts of South Asia encompass a vast and varied number of styles, genres and traditions, and to better organize its efforts, the organization functions as a collection of artistic wings, each with independent missions, but with cross-wing interaction and cooperation. The present wings of the organization are Light Music, Classical Music, Dance and Drama.

About ACTLab

Launched in 2007 as The Central Heating Lab, ACTLab serves as an incubator and catalyst for new works. Uniquely positioned to provide the space and resources to the development of projects in a collaborative environment, ACT partners with emerging and seasoned local artists, giving them the sustenance and pressure required to experiment, grow, and transform their work and reach new audiences. ACTLab presents artists working in all performance genres and provides an artistic home for a variety of local performance groups and artists like Azeotrope, The Seagull Project, UMO Ensemble, and Endangered Species Project. With year – round ACTLab and Mainstage programming, ACT offers its patrons a unique opportunity to maximize their theatre experience— the ACTPass: all you can see for only \$30 per month. ACTPass Members can attend nearly all ACT produced performances.

####