

# **Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh & Company**

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### **Metro DC Dance Awards selects Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company For the first Founder's Award for Innovation in Dance**

*Singh is the first South Asian to be recognized by Dance Metro DC*

Washington, DC—September 11, 2007—Metro DC Dance Awards presented DC-based dance organization, Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company (Dakshina), a prestigious **Founder's Award for Innovation in Dance**. The award was presented by Cheles Rhynes, the Founding Director of Metro DC Dance Awards at the Kennedy Center last night. The award recognizes Dakshina's path breaking work in creating a vision of dance that is multi-cultural, collaborative, and socially relevant. Dakshina is the first recipient of this grant and also has the honor of selecting the recipient for 2008.

Dakshina is a dance company that performs and presents multiple dance forms, such as Bharata Natyam, and Modern dance, mirroring the multiple identities of immigrant communities. The company combines the arts with social justice issues, both by incorporating the themes into their work and by creating partnerships with local community centers and schools. Dakshina has created an impressive track record with awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network/National Cultural Centers of Color, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Asia 21--Asia Society's Emerging Leaders Forum, and caps off this long list of awards with the most recent award from Dance Metro DC.

"The award was a surprise validation of our unique vision and offering to the community," said Daniel Phoenix Singh, artistic director of Dakshina. "The word Dakshina means both 'offering' and 'from the South of India.' We share our work as one of many offerings for the DC community. Our company's mission is to demonstrate that dance is universally accessible; that it is a system of communication that transcends boundaries, cultures, and time; and that it can be used as a vehicle for social change and community development." Singh also acknowledged his mentor and friend Pamela Matthews along with his artistic advisors Mim Rosen, Libby Smigel and Harriet Moncure Williams for their support and help.

Currently Dakshina is organizing its Fall Festival of Indian Arts. **Malavika Sarukkai, Anita Ratnam, Hari Krishnan and Aniruddhan Vasudevan** from India will join Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company for its signature Festival. Now in its fourth year, the festival's headline performances will take place on October 26-28 at Washington, D.C.'s historic Lincoln Theatre, where Dakshina will share the stage with leaders in Indian dance. The theme of Dakshina's 4th Fall Festival is "Celebrating Freedom," in commemoration of India's 60 years of independence. For more information about our events, please visit [www.Dakshina.org](http://www.Dakshina.org). For a list of other awardees visit: [http://www.mdcca.org/awards/Winners\\_07.php](http://www.mdcca.org/awards/Winners_07.php).

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## **About Dakshina**

Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company offers artists and audiences the unique opportunity to experience dance as a movement that links the arts, cultures, and social causes. Dakshina means “offering” in Sanskrit. Our company explores the definition of dance within the United States and connects it to Indian, Latin, Social, and Modern dance forms. We hope to provide participatory opportunities in which audiences can experience dance as a system of communication, one that transcends boundaries, cultures, and time. We are particularly committed to engage in dance not only as a means for aesthetic and artistic growth, but also as a vehicle for social change and community development.

## **About Daniel Phoenix Singh**

Daniel Phoenix Singh is the Artistic Director and President of Dakshina/Daniel Phoenix Singh Dance Company. Singh holds an MFA in Dance and a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies from the University of Maryland. He also holds a Laban Movement Analyst Certificate from the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies in New York City. He received a baccalaureate degree in Dance and Computer Science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Singh trained in *Bharata Natyam* with Guru Meena Telikicherla for several years. He currently collaborates with Aniruddan Vasudevan, a *Bharata Natyam* dancer and choreographer based in Chennai, India.

Singh’s most recent explorations in dance include Cuban/Colombian variations of Salsa and Merengue with Javier Varela and Shawn Malone. He is currently on the faculty at Joy of Motion, Maryland Youth Ballet, and Results the Gym. He is also a member of the Board of the Maryland Youth Ballet. Singh is active in KhushDC, a Washington DC organization serving the South Asian LGBT community and its friends. His works have been the critic’s pick in *Washington City Paper* and *The Washington Post*, and *Voice of America* profiled his dance company in the fall of 2005. His piece, *Songs of My Life*, was a finalist in the Metro DC Dance Awards, and Singh was a finalist for the Mayor’s Emerging Artist award in 2006 and 2007. Most recently he was nominated for the Creative Communities Artist Fellowship in 2007.