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National Press Release

Nilima Devi is Awarded MBE

Nilima Devi Menski, the founder and Artistic Director of the Centre for Indian Classical Dance (CICD) in Leicester, has been announced as recipient of an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2013 for her services to dance.

The award has been granted in recognition of Nilima Devi's sustained commitment to promoting Indian dance for British arts, multicultural education and community cohesion for over 30 years.

Leicester's councillor and former Mayor, Manjula Sood said "I am very thrilled to hear that Nilima's work within the cultural community has been noticed and rewarded." Chris Maughan, Associate Research Fellow Lecturer, Arts and Festival Management, De_Montfort University commented, "it is richly deserved. Let's hope it provides a foundation for invigorating ideas and energy in arts development more broadly."

Under Nilima Devi's leadership, CICD has made significant educational and artistic contributions through numerous workshops, conferences, classes and public performances on local, regional and national scales. In addition to nurturing more than 20,000 students in Indian dance through teaching in schools, Nilima Devi has pioneered projects such as *Sinjini* (2009), a DVD on Indian music and dance produced using UK-based artists, and *Karman*, (2012), a book documenting the living history of arts in the South Asian diaspora, which have become invaluable resources for educational establishments.

Nilima Devi has also produced many major performance works such as the *Ugly Duckling* (1989), *Triangle* (1991), *Rainbow* (1993) (choreographed by Kumudini Lakhia), *Melory* (1995), *Dances of the Spheres* (1999) (choreographed by Roshan Date), *Flaming Feet* (2000), *Kathak Tells a Story* (2001), *Images* (2004) and *Urjah* (2007), which have contributed to transcending cultural and artistic boundaries whilst retaining the spirit of Indian dance.

In addition, Nilima Devi has trained several accomplished British-born dance artists, such as Aakash Odedra, who has been touring 'Rising' with the British Council in India and internationally, a solo production choreographed by Russell Maliphant, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Akram Khan.

The MBE is to be presented by the Queen at a special ceremony to be held at Buckingham Palace in London in 2013. For further details visit www.cicd.org.uk and the CICD Channel on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/CICDUK>.