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## Ragamala Show Overview by Aarthi Prasad



The Ragamala Music and Dance Theater group performed May 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 at Dondero High School for Tamil Sangam Michigan and Tamil Nadu Foundation's charity fundraiser program. The first half of the program was a colorful exhibition of traditional Bharathnatyam validating the dancers' talent and training in the classic art.

The second half of the show consisted of unique rendition of Bharathnatyam with a worldly flare. A musical interlude follows with traditional Japanese Taiko drumming by Al Zdrzil. Equipped with western style costumes, the dancers follow the Taiko drumming with classical and contemporary movements. The show concludes with choreography to Zap Mama, a French acapella group, showing that Ragamala is truly all encompassing dance theater company.

In addition to the exciting show, the audience had a chance to truly see what Tamil Nadu Foundation has and aspires to accomplish. Touching videos of the Leper colonies in Tamil Nadu from Rebecca Douglas showed the lepers, their children and the struggles that they endure in their daily life. Her work and dedication was inspirational and sent a strong message to the community. More information about the various other charities were discussed. Totally, the MTS community raised a monumental \$20,000 for the charities. This feat could have not been possible if it wasn't for the dedication and hard work of Mr. Soma Sundaram, Mr. Athi Narayanan, Dr. Chokkalingam, Mr. Saravanan Chokkalingam, Mrs. Vani Prasad, and Mrs. Renuka Chalekode to name a few of the organizers.

In my opinion the show in combination with the charitable presentations, showed me the power I hold in my hand and with such a giving and caring community we can do so much for the world.