



# kerala CHRONICLE

FRIDAY 1 | FEBRUARY 2013



problem solved

## BAN LIFTED ON PADMAPRIYA

DC CORRESPONDENT

✉ The controversy involving director M.A. Nishad and actor Padmapriya was amicably resolved on Wednesday. Trouble started brewing between the director and the actress during the shooting of the former's film *No 66 Madurai Bus*. Nishad had petitioned various associations, including the Kerala Film Producers Association, which clamped a ban on the actress for creating trouble during the shooting of the film.

"I had petitioned against the 'manager culture' perpetrated by the actor. On Wednesday, she agreed to remove the manager. She had posed a lot of problems during the shooting of my film. She has expressed her regret and the matter is now amicably settled," said Nishad. Padmapriya decided to clear the air through a press note, which said, "There have been various reports in the media on the settlement of the complaint lodged by M.A. Nishad. I want to clarify what actually transpired. There has been no apology that has been tendered by me. We both agreed that inconvenience caused to both of us was a case of misunderstanding due to lack of communication. The issue was peacefully and amicably resolved between both of us through an open discussion in the presence of the Council's office-bearers. There is nothing that is left to be read between the lines."

**'The issue was amicably resolved between both of us'**

Nishad informed that following the settlement the Producers Association has lifted the ban on the actress with immediate effect. The meeting was held at Travancore Court in Kochi, with five producer Council members present, including Sasi Ayyanchira and Alwin Antony. Padmapriya is currently working in *Ladies And Gentleman* directed by Siddique.

Padmapriya



# Bollywood to Hollywood

Alice Kieffer's passion for Bollywood dance has set her on a journey across the globe to promote the unique Indian dance form

SMITHA

DECCAN CHRONICLE

✉ Bollywood dance is fast gaining recognition globally. After hip-hop, salsa, tango, jazz and ballet, dance lovers in Europe have become ardent fans of dancing — Bollywood style. Meet French dancer and architect Alice Kieffer, who has been practicing Bollywood dance for more than four years.

Alice is on a unique mission to visit all the countries where this dance has been exported and to promote this modern Indian dance form across the world. Her global trip, called 'From Bollywood To Hollywood', sashayed off from Mumbai, the birthplace of Bollywood dance, where she performed with Rishi Soni and Lucky Singh, on January 17 and will culminate in California on July 17, the land of Hollywood dance. As part of her mission, Alice is in Kochi to visit dance schools and to share her experiences. Keenly interested in Indian mythology, culture, tradition and art forms, Alice plans to do a one-month yoga course at Sivasoorya Ashram in Kovalam. She will then travel to Beijing. "My passion for Bollywood dance, architecture, photography and travelling gave me the idea of this project," she says.

Born in Reims in France, Alice has been a keen dancer from childhood. "I have been dancing since I was four," she adds. After completing her college education,

she took up architecture as her profession and moved to Hamburg, Germany in 2008. "I have put my professional life on hold in order to follow my passions, especially dancing. I learnt modern Indian dancing from my teacher Tatjana Wegner, a Ukrainian woman who runs a dance company, Pari Productions, in Hamburg. Apart from my job as an architect, I am a member of the dance company and even find time to train students and to join the dance shows. In 2010, I took a diploma in Bollywood dance teaching," says Alice.

The seven months long global trip will cover nine countries — India, China, Australia, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Mexico and USA. "I will visit countries where Bollywood dance is popular while soaking in the folk culture of each country. Dance is a universal language that unites all generations and cultures, making it easier for people to meet," she remarks.

During the trip, Alice plans to interact with exponents of traditional art forms in these nine countries. "Compared to western dances, where body movements are more important, Indian dance forms are *abhinaya* (facial expression) oriented. For a westerner, the coordination of *mudras* and *abhinaya* is difficult," says Alice.

According to her, Bollywood dance is now becoming increasingly de rigueur at weddings and celebrations across Europe. A number of restaurants in London offer dance classes with traditional Indian food!

She also has plans to develop a new dance form combining the elements of traditional Indian dance with western dance forms. Alice plans to share the experiences of this wonderful journey on her blog and Facebook page, both in French and English for the benefit of those who share her passion for travel and dance.

Alice Kieffer started her dance tour in Mumbai on January 17 and will end it in California on July 17



Alice Kieffer

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