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Coming together

VIKHAR AHMED SAYEED

Event The energy of the flamenco melded with the joyful zest of the kalbeliya at the Fusion Flamenco performance



Dance dialogue Between two forms

The ITC Windsor Manor had an evening that showcased the fusion of two traditional dance forms of Spain and Rajasthan. The energy of the flamenco was weaved together with the joyful zest of the kalbeliya at the Gala Spanish Evening, to the delight of the audience. Hosted partly by the Embassy of Spain, the event was well attended by expatriate Spaniards who brought their country's boisterous fervour to the evening, and hollered 'Ole's' right through.

Two flamenco dancers led by the singing of Augustin Carbonell and accompanied by a percussionist on the cajon were the first to perform. Flamenco is a dance form of the Andalusian gypsies and is highly vigorous and rhythmic. The fiery verve that the two dancers brought to the form was matched by the haunting melody of Carbonell. If one tried hard and forgot the setting of the evening, you could actually imagine sitting in a gypsy camp somewhere in the hinterlands of Europe with a warm fire and tapping away to the performance.

The faces of the dancers were charged with emotion and their movements were lithe and feline as they madly tapped their heels through the evening. The fusion with the kalbeliyas was not a random choice, as this group of performers are also nomadic gypsies with their music and dance reflecting this. Using a variety of percussion, wind and string instruments, they combined wonderfully with the guitar of Carbonell to mesmerise the audience.

It is hard to imagine the rhythm of the flamenco and the kalbeliya to be the same, because the forms itself are so different but the performance that evening was exquisitely choreographed. The sequined multi-hued whirl of the kalbeliya dancer was complimented by the precisely fluid movements of the flamenco dancers. It was an evening when the gentle ghungroo and the rhythmic tap dancing of the flamenco dancers seamlessly combined in an international collaboration of dances.

The evening also had a display of Spanish cuisine and launched the Spanish food festival at the Raj Pavillion. The food festival continues till November 7.

VIKHAR AHMED SAYEED