



The History of Dance in Iran

The **Toos Foundation** presented the third event of its programme in relation to review the history of more than 3000 years of dance in Iran. This programme was presented on 9th of March 2008, at London's Logan Hall. In this review, the presentation covered:

- The Cult of Mithra
- The Achaemenian period
- The pre-Islam
- The Sufi and Samā'
- The Qajar
- Finally the Pahlavi period

The presentation looked at European influences and the beginning of the art and Ballet in Iran.

This was followed by a celebration of the artist-Nima Kian and his ballet group; "Les Ballet Persians." It included a gala performance of a number of dances based on Iranian folkloric stories, which included; the Turquoise Land, Rumi Rumi, Woman and *Simāy jān*.

These plays were based on the traditional Iranian stories; they were a reminder of the sad tales and the rice fields in Iran, a collection put together with the aid of humanitarian images and mixtures of colours, traditional music and beautiful symbolic movements transmitting a message containing love and peace. The **Toos Foundation** has always intended in all their programmes to prompt the Iranian youth to focus on their roots and culture; inviting them to draw a picture of their heritage and history in an open-minded fashion. The actual aim of the **Toos Foundation** has not only been to promote and introduce the arts and culture of Iran. In fact, their main purpose focuses on presenting the Iranians and Iran as a non-terrorist nation; telling the world we are a peace loving nation; believing in humanitarian duties.