

The presentation of the programme: “Poetry, Dance and Lyrics in the Land of Harps and Mandolins” by the “Toos Foundation”

A discussion with the artist, ballerina and a famous Iranian designer, Ms. Kaboli

To be present on the stage and to be able to walk on the dancing grounds are as sweet to me as rebirth



As previously mentioned in the last issue of Keyhan, the Toos foundation will present on Sunday 24th of October, yet another cultural programme entitled: “Poetry, Dance and Lyrics in the Land of Harps and Mandolins.” This event will take place at Logan Hall, London, and undoubtedly it will once again receive a



warm reception from the enthusiasts. Last week, we conducted an interview with Ms. Jamileh Kharrazi, the founder of the Toos foundation; and now, we will have a discussion with Ms. Farzaneh Kaboli, who is a famous ballerina, and a programme designer. The intention is to discover about her previous artistic life and experience.

- **Ms. Kaboli, your name is well-known in the fields of dancing and ballet. How long have you been involved in this field and what other works have you produced?**

I salute those who are interested in the arts of dancing and all my respect and love goes to those who support this art. I developed interest in dancing since childhood; I recognized the rhyme and



subsequently danced with it. When I entered high school I was already known in this field and all the school events and cultural celebrations were coordinated by me; designing all the relevant programmes. After the establishment of the National Dance Polytechnic, I was enrolled with the aim to learn this art in a

serious and professional capacity. I was supervised by the foreign and home masters; however, my primary tutor was Mr. Du Warren, from whom I learned a great deal; he opened many doors in the world of dancing for me, I therefore, always consider myself as his student. May he live long and prosper.

I currently live in Iran, being engaged in the fields of dance and design and I have also produced many artistic works both in Iran and abroad. My last production was in Canada, which I was invited by the University of Toronto and with the help of the art students we managed to put on stage the local and national dances of Iran in three different Canadian cities. Inside Iran too, I have staged dances and ballet in the Italian, French and Canadian Embassy for a period of four years, and four nights in every year. I have also designed and coordinated 150 programmes, which have been presented on stage at the Rudaki Hall. In 2001, I put on stage a newer version of the famous play of “*Simurgh*” by Attar, which was previously done by Mr. Du Warren. In 2002, I also put on stage eight different dances from various provinces of Iran. I have also produced designs in the Islamic Olympic which took place in Iran.

- **We know that you have been a shining star in the programmes**

produced by Mr. Du Warren. Now, today after 32 years of activities, do you believe you have been able to fulfil his dreams?

Everything I and all my students know today, I owe to Mr. Du Warren, who taught me all I know, I shall dance for as long as I am alive. If however, a day comes that I won't be able to dance, that would be my last standing days, but until then I do my utmost to be a good student to my Master. My path is the same path that he showed me in Iran; to present a statement through motion, not physical movement.

- **How did you feel when you received the Toos foundation's invitation to appear on stage?**

If I had a thousand tongues still, I wouldn't be able to thank my Master, Mr. Du Warren. I wish I could give him half of my life as a gift. I just send him many kisses for allowing me to be his partner on the stage and for giving me many opportunities to flourish. I only hope that today, by putting all these programmes on the stage I can prove myself worthy of all his kindness and efforts he invested on me.

- **Would you be able to transfer all these excitement and gratitude to the audience?**

The stage is somewhat a holy place to me. Wherever it maybe, when I am on stage I feel separated from the reality and this world. It is as if by appearing on the stage I step into a new world. It is like a rebirth to me. There, I exist no more; only the excitement and joy. My only wish is to know more people, in love with the art and culture at the night of the event so we can once more be proud of being Iranian under one roof.

- **We thank you and your colleagues for your time; wishing you all the best.**