

## **Monisa Nayak**

The show is based on the moods of five ragas. I start with Bairagi, a morning raga, then go on to Vrindavani Sarang, an afternoon raga. Then Kalavati and Malkauns, and I conclude with Bhairavi. I have based the choreography on the rising momentum of a Kathak recital, where we start with an invocation, then go on to the high energy of



technique and footwork, then abhinaya. As a young dancer I always felt people commented on the quality of our music. That is one reason I took this theme. I learnt music when I lived in Ambala, from Guru O.P. Gupta, a disciple of Pandit Amar Nath.

Monisa's exuberance makes her Kathak a pleasure to watch, and this quality was largely present in her group also. This and neat handling of entries and exits along with a quality music track helped her production "Raga Chitra" shine.

Among other images, the mood of romance depicted with a male and female dancer in the centre and the group dancing around them was effective. As the production picked up momentum, however, excellence of technique lost out to speed.

