

# Cultural Glimpses of India 2008

Organized by India Association of Tallahassee

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cultural Glimpses of India

■ By *Thayumanasamy Somasundaram*

Saturday, November 15, 2008; 4-7 PM

Lawton Chiles High School Auditorium, Tallahassee, FL 32312

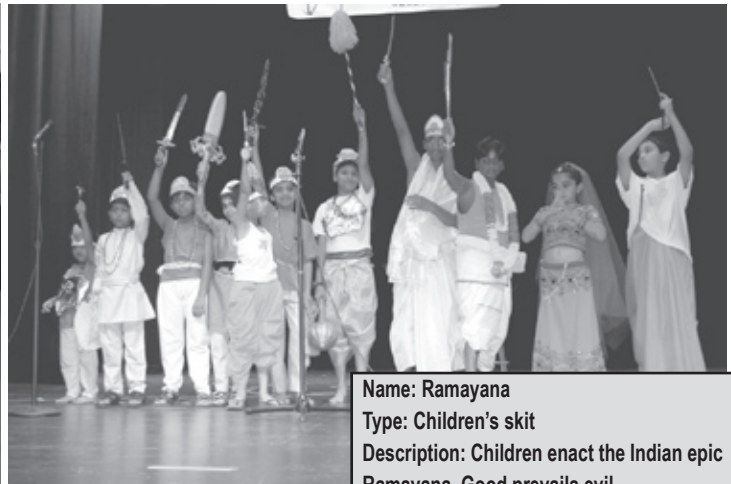


Name: Dhashavatara

Type: Classical dance

Description: Children portray the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu in this classical dance.

Photo: Megaah Ashok



Name: Ramayana

Type: Children's skit

Description: Children enact the Indian epic Ramayana. Good prevails evil.

Photo: Thayumana Somasundaram

India Association of Tallahassee (IATLH | [www.iatlh.org](http://www.iatlh.org)) a Florida non-profit organization was formed in 1997 to give opportunities for people from the Indian sub-continent to stay connected with each other and with their culture while living away from home. IATLH is devoted to promoting the cultural, social, and educational activities of people from India. The Association also aims to share the rich cultural heritage of India with the local community. To achieve these goals the Association organizes a premier annual event called Cultural Glimpses of India (CGOI) that attracts people of all walks of life from Leon county and neighboring areas. The 11th Annual Cultural Glimpses of India was held on Saturday, November 15, 2008 between 4 & 7 PM at Lawton Chiles High School Auditorium, Tallahassee, FL 32312. The free program was open to public and well over 1500 people of all ages attended it.

The program started at 4 PM sharp with opening remarks by the President of IATLH and introduction of members of the Executive Committee. Then children as young as 2 ½ years and adults dressed in brilliantly colored Indian costumes sang a welcome song. That was followed by among other items a classical dance by children, Dasavathar (10 incarnations of Vishnu), a skit Ramayana (the epic story of Rama and Sita), and a contemporary children's dance based on Bengali fairy tale. Then the Association's members and their families performed many dance numbers including a dance

medley and Punjabi Bhangra. Following a twenty minute intermission for snacks, the program continued with adults of all ages singing melodious songs, performing several dance numbers and staging a social play called Small Acts of Kindness. The styles of the dances ranged from classical Kuchipudi and Mohini Attam to Bollywood (Beedi Jalaayile dance) that reflected the cultural and social fabric of present day India. The themes of items also depicted a wide array of Indian emotions from soldiers defending the country, the bubbling enthusiasms of kids, joys and sorrows of life (Momo Chite dance), to moods of rural and urban Indians. The event concluded with the General Secretary delivering vote of thanks to the participants, sponsors, and audience. Everyone who was present witnessed a performance extravaganza and was thrilled to be part of an exciting evening. For more information about the Association, its activities, and membership please visit: <http://www.iatlh.org> or contact Subhasis Das ([president.iatlh@gmail.com](mailto:president.iatlh@gmail.com)) or Thayumanasamy Somasundaram ([GenSecretary.iatlh@gmail.com](mailto:GenSecretary.iatlh@gmail.com)). **A**



Thayumanasamy Somasundaram, a Tallahassee resident since 1993 is the current General Secretary of India Association of Tallahassee.



# One of only four successful WUKO International Referee Licenses

■ By Teri Mitchell



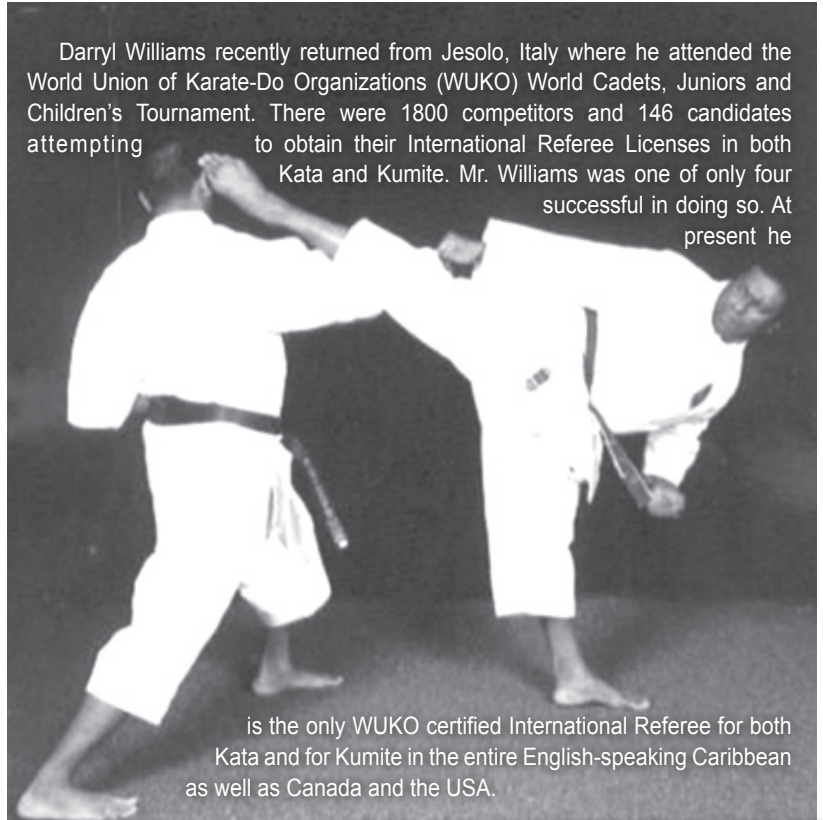
**Name:** Beedi- Jalaayile  
**Type:** Bollywood dance  
**Description:** Contemporary Indian movie dance  
**Photo:** Satish Shetty



**Name:** Small Acts of Kindness  
**Type:** Adult Play  
**Description:** Play about how even small acts of kindness result in great dividend  
**Photo:** Gayathri Melkote



**Name:** Momo Chitte  
**Type:** Classical Dance  
**Description:** Elegant dance about good and evil in life.  
**Photo:** Deb Sinha



Darryl Williams recently returned from Jesolo, Italy where he attended the World Union of Karate-Do Organizations (WUKO) World Cadets, Juniors and Children's Tournament. There were 1800 competitors and 146 candidates attempting to obtain their International Referee Licenses in both Kata and Kumite. Mr. Williams was one of only four successful in doing so. At present he

is the only WUKO certified International Referee for both Kata and for Kumite in the entire English-speaking Caribbean as well as Canada and the USA.

"Hook Kick" to the head by Darryl Williams



Darryl Williams (left) and the president of the World Union of Karate-Do Organizations (WUKO) Osvaldo Messias (right)

Sensei Williams is a 35 plus years veteran of Karate who resides in Orlando and operates Bassai Karate Dojo, Inc. with locations in Clermont, Ocoee, Orlando and Winter Garden in the state of Florida and branches in New York, and Guyana. He is also the current Chairman of the Trinidad & Tobago Karate Federation (TTKF) a national Karate body in the twin-island Republic of Trinidad & Tobago whom he represents at the WUKO. He has to his credit certification for coaching, referee and teaching instructor from various organizations throughout the USA, Canada and Trinidad & Tobago. He was recently certified as a referee by the FLMA and is a consultant to many Karate organizations. For further information on Sensei Williams and his affiliations please visit the following websites; [www.bassaidojo.com](http://www.bassaidojo.com), [www.trinbagokarate.com](http://www.trinbagokarate.com), [www.wuko-karate.org](http://www.wuko-karate.org), or call 407-953-4237.