

Ashley Steps Up The Rhythm: That's Dancing!

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Ashley Lobo, creative director of The Danceworx, is all set to present his latest dance extravaganza in the city next week. And when one drops in at his studio in Kailash Colony, one can see the hours of hard work that goes behind each step. "After *Chorusline*, which was two years ago, I wanted to do something special," says Ashley. So get ready to see his new production, *That's Dancing!* which will "cover a huge gamut of dance from classical ballet to tap dancing to Bollywood *jhatkas*. We have also done some experimental contemporary dance numbers," explains Ashley.

The music ranges from animation numbers to Britney Spears. While most of the songs have been choreographed by Ashley, Jaan Freeman (a dancer from New York, he runs the Freeman Reportie Company there) and Anastacia Flewin (she teaches ballet at Danceworx) are also choreographing some numbers. "Because of various



PHOTO: SUNIL SAXENA

Ashley Lobo (centre) and his team at Danceworx bring to you their new production *That's Dancing!*, in association with Essar Speed

inputs, all the sequences will have a different feel," says Ashley. *That's Dancing!* will also mark the debut of seven other dancers – Gaiety, Sana Kidwai, Uma Shanker, Shivali Malhotra, Justin Yep, Shohini Dutta and Norbu Shering – who are turning choreographers. "For them it is a learning experience, and gives the whole production a feeling of freshness," says Ashley.

For Ashley, it doesn't matter that Delhi is not exactly a theatreperson's haven. "For me filling the house has never been a problem. In fact, I think we are doing very few shows. Even without any publicity, three-quarters of the tickets have been sold already," he says. Ashley also feels that Delhi is ready to boogie. "It is a part of our culture. Earlier I would have been scared of doing a show like this, but not anymore," he says.

— Catch *That's Dancing!* at Kamani Auditorium on Dec. 21, 22 and 23, at 4.30 and 6.30 p.m.