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**IN TOWN** | Tap dancer, Ronnie Shambik Ghosh

# A toe-hold for a distant art

Vineeta Srivastava

HE CREATES magic with his feet. From Kathak to jazz, Irish to Spanish form, classical ballet to Chinese and western folk dance, you can catch all the beats to the tapping of his feet.

Professional tap-dancer Ronnie Shambik Ghosh is a guest at Chittaranjan Park. He's in town for a special performance at the India Habitat Centre on May 24.

Ronnie says, "I am also here for a month to conduct a dance workshop for Ashley Lobo's instructors. I am teaching the dance teachers the modern technique of Matt Mattox, which is all about anatomical precision on jazz with classical implementation".

His unusual name, he says, is a blend of western and Indian. Ronnie is popu-

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I hope to set up a training school as a tribute to my mother who is my inspiration

- Ronnie

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London.

Ronnie specialised in musical theatre dance from the Academy for performing Arts, Hong Kong graduating with flying colours.

"I was awarded the best student 2002-03 and got a letter of honour from the Dean of Dance at the Academy," says Ronnie. He was also felicitated by the Hong Kong CEO and selected for the International Arts Festival.

Ronnie practises for at least seven hours a day. "Dedication and discipline set him apart from other dancers. He is just phenomenal on stage," says Ronnie's friend Renata a well known Salsa trainer.

He has recently been conferred an arts scholarship from France and also has offers in Italy. Though global calling is hard to resist, this artist has his roots intact.

lar in India and Shambik abroad.

The dance form is yet to catch up in India. "Tap-shoes are specially made with metal attachments. A synchronisation of sound, rhythm and balance is created with a tap of the feet. This, then, follows a linear pathway to the upper deck

of the body and mind," says Ronnie. "There are two international brands of tap-shoes — Bloch and Capazio. I have got mine from Singapore", says the black belt in Karate.

With a foundation from Calcutta School of Music, he went on to do dance courses in New York and



FOOT NOTES : Ronnie claims to have developed his own style of tap dancing.

VIPIN KUMAR/HT