

Kassam joins cast of 'Roots' dance and music show

Peel Brief.

KASSAM, Shama

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Over the years, Mississauga resident Shama Kassam, 26, a trained dancer, has honed her craft through tireless dedication and hard work.

So, last year, as she stood in line with other hopefuls, during an open audition for Roots: A journey through India, a dance and cultural extravaganza, the Clarkson resident was both nervous and determined to clinch a part in the show.

"The Roots audition in (the summer of 2016) was fierce, but I danced my heart out and I am happy to be part of an amazing cast," she said.

After a successful tour of Cana-

da, Roots will be making its final stop in Brampton's Rose Theatre, 1 Theatre Ln. Saturday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. Cast includes dancers from Brampton, Mississauga and across GTA.

"Roots: A Journey through India, has something for everyone," said Kassam, a yoga instructor. "It's for people interested in travelling and learning about other cultures as it describes India beautifully. It's a mesmerizing show that will delight the audience as well as make them laugh."

High-energy dance moves, colourful costumes and foot-tapping music are few of the elements of show, explained Shereen Ladha, 29, the show's director/creator.

"Roots is a theatre/stage show

that will take the audience on a journey through India, through time and across different regions," explained Ladha. "I think what makes Roots so unique is its multi-generational and multicultural appeal. The show will appeal to people of all cultures as it highlights the diversity of India's heritage."

Blending Bollywood tunes with a historical narrative through choreographed dance moves drawn from Hip-hop, ballet, and contemporary is Ladha's forte and she builds on that in the show.

"My parents took my brother and I to India when we were 10 years old to see the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort and connect with



Supplied photo

Roots: A Journey through India, is a show that through music and dance showcases the culture and heritage of India.

our roots," she said. "I always felt a connection to these old stories and watched them come to life in Bollywood movies. I think I must

have been part of this world in my previous life."

For tickets visit here or call 905-874-2800.