



KANIKA – THE ACTRESS IS BACK IN THE MOVIES

Kanika, an engineering graduate from BITS, Pilani, and a former Miss Chennai Runner-Up, recently graduated from BITS. Although she had made **Five Star**, a hit movie that was directed by Mani Ratnam, she waited till completing her studies to take on new projects. Obviously she thought the BITS degree was worth it !

She is making a grand re-entry in director K S Ravikumar's latest venture **Ethiree** in which she acted opposite Madhavan. Kanika also played a guest role in director Cheran's run-of-the-mill **Autograph**. She is currently playing the lead in director Keyar's **Dancer** and in a Telugu film too.

RASIKA – THE BAND

Rasika was formed by a small group of music lovers in Atlanta in 1994. The group has grown since then and has performed in many cities in USA, often to benefit charitable causes. Most of the members of the group are budding professionals and long time music students who have come together due to their overwhelming passion for music and it is this passion that they wish to share with the Indian community and all others who love Indian music.

The variety of music played by Rasika ranges from old and new "chatpati" Hindi songs to the latest "dhamaka" popular scores..from the sizzling Hindi music of the 80's and 90's to some exquisite compositions of R. Rahman and Iliaraja.

The orchestra is provided by an array of very talented instrumentalists who have performed widely on stage both in India and the U.S. The singers are some of the most talented and popular singers who have already won the hearts of the "junta" during the past performances in Charlotte, Atlanta, Augusta, Richmond, San Jose, and other cities.

Masala & Spice

BITSIANS in Rasika include Tirthankar Das (Drummer/ Percussionist), Pankaj Sharma (Electrical/ Acoustic Guitar), Priya Raman (Vocalist), Shyamsunder Vaidanathan (Composer / Sound Engineer / Keyboardist), Sundi (Keyboardist/ Violinist).



SHYAM VAI – THE KEYBOARDIST LAUNCHES HIS CD

Perhaps the first instrument Shyam began experimenting with was the harmonica. He borrowed an old harmonica from his neighbor when he was in grade 6 and played it at home everynight before he slept. His dad noticed this skill and bought him a wonderful HOHNER harmonica from Germany

At BITS Pilani, he performed with the Music Club at BITS Pilani for 5 years with a total of over 70 performances on different stages with its members. Shyam won the coveted BEST KEYBOARDIST in ROCTAVES for three consecutive years, 1993-1995.

Since 1999, he has been affiliated with DOUBLE FORTE @ CHICAGO: He has to his credit two complete albums of Indian music. His music and CDs can be heard/purchased online at mp3.com

His website is www.shyamvai.com

