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WHEN Indian artistes come to Singapore it's big news. When Singaporean artistes perform in India it's even bigger news.

Singapore's Samarpana festival has been invited to showcase select elements from its local programming in Bangalore for the second year running.

Ananya GML Cultural Academy, Bangalore, a renowned organisation that has been promoting the arts in Bangalore for over 17 years, is collaborating with Samarpana – The Asian Festival of Classical Dance to present Ananya Samarpana.

“Dr Raghavendra, the managing trustee of Ananya, attended the first Samarpana in Singapore in 2012,” says Mrs Jyoti Ramesh of Jade Group, the organiser of the festival in Singapore. “He was highly impressed with the quality of the performances and the programming. That gave birth to the collaboration and we are pleased to have such a prime platform in India to showcase the best of Samarpana.”

Where last year's Ananya Samarpana festival showcased artistes who had already performed in the Samarpana festival, the one in Bangalore on June 28 and 29 this year premieres the production Dhaara that will be performed in Singapore in September.

A cross-genre, cross-border collaboration between Singapore-based

dance school Shruti Laya, theatre company WeCanDoIt and Mudrika of Bangalore, Dhaara is written by Mrs Gauri Gupta, and traces the mythological and contemporary narratives of the holy Ganges, in pure bharatanatyam and English theatre.

Mrs Gayatri Sriram of Shruti Laya, and the producer of the festival, says: “One of Samarpana's key aims has been to connect with the younger generation and provide them a platform. Just as we have an upcoming artiste slot in Samarpana where we feature rising artistes, the Ananya Samarpana festival this year features local dancer Aditi Deshpande.”

The festival is not about profit or self-promotion, it is about a quality platform, say the organisers. In encouraging Singaporean artistes to perform internationally, in exposing Indian audiences to the best of Singapore and by providing a platform for outstanding youngsters, the organisers of Samarpana and its sister festival Ananya Samarpana are steadily and surely achieving their goal of building a superlative international platform.

Samarpana – The Asian Festival of Classical Dance will take place from Sept 5 to 7. For details, log on to www.samarpanafestival.net