**Ramayan**

Narrator - There was once a wise and good king named Dasharath. He was the king of Ayodhya. He had three wives whose names were Kaushalya, Kaikeyi and Sumitra. The king had 4 sons - Ram,who was Kaushalya’s son, Bharath who was Kaikey’s son, and Lakshman and Shatrughn who were the sons of Sumitra.

Narrator -One day Ram, along with Lakshman went to the swayamvara of Janaka’s daughter Sita, looking like a Brahman. There were a lot of princes and kings present in the swayamvar. No one was able to lift and string the bow but Ram managed to lift it and break the bow. Ram married Sita and his brothers married her sisters.

Narrator - Manthara was Kaikeyi’s maid who manipulated her into asking Dashrath for a boon to make Bharath the king and send Ram into exile for 14 years. Dashrath had promised her 3 boons long back for saving his life during war, so he couldn’t deny her.

Narrator - Sita and Lakshman persuaded Ram to take them along with

him into exile. Bharath refused to become the King but in the absence of Ram, he said that he would act as king until Ram returned from his exile.

Narrator - One day, during their exile in the forest, Ravan’s sister Surpanakha came in the form of a beautiful lady asking the hand of Ram in marriage, but the request was declined by Ram. After being rejected, Surpanakha insulted Sita which enraged Lakshman, who sliced off her nose.

Narrator - Surpanakha returned to Lanka weeping to her brother Ravan. She explained everything that happened in the forest to Ravan. This enraged Ravan, who then planned to abduct Sita after hearing about her incomparable beauty.

Narrator - Ravan sent Marich, his distant relative to disguise as a magical golden deer to entice Sita. To please her, Ram and Lakshman went to hunt the deer down. Before they did though, they drew a protective circle(Lakshman Rekha) around Sita and told her that she would be safe for as long as she did not step outside the circle. After Ram and Lakshman left, Ravan appeared as a holy man begging alms. The moment Sita stepped outside the circle to give him food, Ravan grabbed her and carried her to his kingdom in Lanka.

Narrator - Ram then sought the help of Sugriv and his band of monkeys to help him find Sita. Hanuman, the general of the monkey army, can fly since his father is the god of wind. He leaped to Lanka and, finding Sita in the Ashok vatika, comforted her and offered to rescue her,but she denied and told him she will wait for Ram to take her away. Ravan’s men captured Hanuman, and Ravan ordered them to wrap Hanuman's tail in cloth and to set it on fire. With his tail burning, Hanuman escaped and hopped from house-top to house-top, setting Lanka on fire but leaving the ashoka Vatika unlit because Sita was staying there . He then flew back to Ram to tell him where Sita was.

Narrator - After Hanuman went back and told Ram, they built a bridge using rocks, writing Sri Ram on it. They walked over the bridge towards lanka, declaring war.

Classical dance

Narrator - The war went on for 13 days and Ram and Ravan fought for 7 days. After Vibhishan’s advice Ram shoots an arrow into Ravan's stomach, killing him.