

UC Berkeley's 'Zahanat' Wins 'Jhoomti Shaam' Dance Contest

By a Staff Reporter

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — As the annual "Jhoomti Shaam" dance competition that features dance teams from across the United States entered its tenth year, this year's overall winner of the contest was U.C. Berkeley's "Zahanat" team, which also won

the Hindi Fusion category. In the Hindi Film section, the winners were Northwestern's "A-NU-Bhav."

The Jhoomti Shaam competition featured a display of talent in two categories: Hindi Fusion (mixing western songs with top hit Bollywood songs) and the Hindi Film section (pure Bol-



Northwestern's "A-NU-Bhav" team, which won the Hindi Film section of the competition.



The overall winning team "Zahanat" from U.C. Berkeley at the "Jhoomti Shaam" dance competition.

lywood-based songs). Winners Mar. 5 here were declared in each category and then an overall winner, who has an automatic entry into the Bollywood America competition.

"When I saw this dance team perform last year, I knew they had the right mix of attitude and energy and I was rooting for them to win. Last year they lost the top spot by a close margin, but this year they pulled all the stops and I knew they were going to be crowned the champs," British actor and dancer Rahul Nath stated in a press release.

"The other plus factor they have

is their lead man, Ravi Shah, is just excellent all over and could give sleepless nights to any top Bollywood hero should he decide to enter the Indian film industry."

For the Hindi Fusion section, "Zahanat" were crowned the winners, but they also celebrated a double victory by being crowned the overall winners.

"The Hindi Fusion section for me is difficult to judge, because ultimately you are trying to judge a group whose first skill is Bollywood, and then everything else is secondary to that," Nath said.

"Zahanat" were clever as performers, because they incorpo-

rated a lot of unexpected twists that did not just involve dancing but stage combat, acrobatics and a stand-out dance sequence which involved one individual with half is body on another and still managing to look amazing and engaging the audience.

"Their key point was it was like watching a Cirque du Soleil show - Bollywood style. It was evident that Karthik Sridhar and his team were being led to victory as they battled it out."

"Zahanat" will now compete in Bollywood America 2011 in San Diego April 23.



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