

On the occasion of Festival of Brazilian Culture in India

Centre for European & Latin American Studies

Jamia Millia Islamia

&

The Embassy of Brazil

present



a capoeira performance

(Brazilian martial arts dance)

on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 1.00 pm

at Castro Café lawn

(next to English Department)

Jamia Millia Islamia

www.jmi.nic.in

CAPOEIRA



Born almost 500 years ago among the African slaves of Brazil, together with several ethnic groups at that time like the Brazilian Indians, European workman living in Brazil and Brazilian working class people.

Capoeira is a cultural phenomenon unique to Brazil. Transcending dance, fighting and artistic expression, it is a uniquely holistic performance art, pushing practitioners to their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual limits. On its deepest level, Capoeira goes

beyond martial arts, music and ritual and is a philosophical framework for approaching and interacting with the others and the world at large.

GRUPO SENZALA

Grupo Senzala de Capoeira has its origins in 1963. With 17 mestres still leading capoeira work centres and many teachers working teaching Capoeira in Brazil and around the world became one of the most important groups in the modern Capoeira history. Most of the present big Capoeira groups got influences from the teaching method developed by Grupo Senzala.

GROUP HISTORY

Founded in Rio de Janeiro, Group Senzala has been in existence for nearly 40 years. The group is probably the most famous Capoeira group in the world thanks to its many masters and other technicians teaching Capoeira. First introduced to Great Britain in 1971 by Nestor Capoeira but did not flourish until 1989, with the arrival of Fernando C.C. Albuquerque (Mestre Gato).

Group Senzala's history begins in 1963 in Rio de Janeiro. Paulo, Rafael and Gilberto Flores, three brothers, originally from Bahia (hometown of Capoeira) had moved to Rio de Janeiro. They began to study Capoeira, during their school vacations, back in Salvador, Bahia. They trained with two of the most famous masters that ever lived, namely Master Bimba and Master Pastinha. Capoeira had become an important part of their lives that they began to train on a regular basis. Paulo got in touch with other capoeira teachers in Rio de Janeiro and started to lead weekly training sessions in the terrace of their apartment building located at Laranjeiras neighbourhood, in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

In Scotland the group has been running since 2003 with Mestre Gato's son Pedro. The Group keeps regular classes in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

There are nucleos of Grupo Senzala under the guidance of mestres Peixinho, Garrincha, Sorriso, Elias, Itamar, Ramos, Beto, Samara and Arruda, in USA, Portugal, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Denmark, Serbia, Finland.

Nowadays the red cords who represent the Grupo Senzala de Capoeira are Rafael Flores, Paulo Flores, Claudio Danadinho, Gato, Peixinho, Itamar, Gil Velho, Garrincha, Sorriso, Toni Vargas, Elias, Ramos, Amendoim, Feijao, Beto, Claudio Arruda, Claudio Samara and Azeite.

In 1967, the group was enrolled at the Berimbau de Ouro contest in Rio, and won three times consecutively, gaining respect, maturity and national acclaim. Later on the group de-centralized and started teaching in different spaces like universities, gyms, clubs, poor communities, public squares etc. In 1987, the Senzala organized the 1st European Meeting on Capoeira, starting a boom of this style all over the world.