

WHAT'S ON IN LONDON July 22 1998

DANCE OF THE WIND

Certificate U; 85 mins; subtitled

One of the most beautiful films ever to emerge from India, *Dance of the Wind* is a delight for the eye. Technically, Rajan Khosa's picture is a German-British co-production, but it belongs to India as assuredly as any work by Satyajit Ray. That said, it must be admitted that the picture doesn't quite make the breakthrough which would turn a specialised attraction into a universal one.

It's not that *Dance of the Wind* is a difficult film; simply that its material remains rooted in the world of Indian music. It tells the story of a singer, Pallavi Sehgal (Kitu Gidwani), whose career reaches a crisis after the death of her mother (Kapila Vatsyayan), who had also been her teacher.

When Pallavi breaks down while performing, it is partly a reaction to this loss. But her tensions, if hardly eased by a young rival, a caustic critic and a husband (Bhaveen Gosain) who is unable to help, also stem from another source. For Pallavi has come to feel that her art is not really valid.

She had copied her mother's style without truly finding her own voice, and she comes to believe that she can only get back on the right track if she can locate her late mother's own teacher and guru, Babu (B C Sanyal). In her quest for both him and the truth, she is encouraged by the sight and sound, either real or imagined, of a young girl (Roshan Bano), whose voice has the soul and beauty which she seeks.

Pallavi's search for her own true musical role as an inheritor of tradition involves a philosophy of life and art that is specifically Indian. But although Gidwani has won a Best Actress Award for her efforts, her acceptable performance lacks the emotional depth needed

REVIEW

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