

NCPA presents the Fourth edition of Vasant: Gujarati Natya Utsav

~ 5 plays over 3 days | 21st to 23rd March, 2014

Mumbai, March 2014: After the success of the previous three editions, **The National Centre for the Performing Arts, India's premier arts and culture institution, presents the fourth edition of Vasant Gujarati Natya Utsav from 21st March to 23rd March, 2014.** With this festival, the NCPA aims to capitalize on the creative evolution of Gujarati theatre and provide an impetus to growth of regional talent. Vasant brings to the forefront the offbeat and inventive side of Gujarati theatre – something that has been gaining a gradual momentum.

Plays ranging from powerful manifestation to friendship to thriller to love, this year's edition of **NCPA Vasant Gujarati Natya Utsav** has an enriching and enlightening mix of fresh, experimental and off beat plays for Gujarati theatre aficionados in the city

This year the festival brings in plays from Surat, Navsari and Ahmedabad for Mumbaikars. One of the plays has stories penned by renowned authors of Gujarati literature like Moti Prakash, Ahmad Nadeem Kazmi, Jyotindra Dave to name a few. Two plays are adaptations of renowned French and Italian, plays, *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* respectively. Overall an eclectic mix that is sure to enthrall one and all.

Deepa Gahlot, Head Programming (Theatre and Film) says *“NCPA has always been supporting off beat and experimental theatre; with Vasant we aim to encourage and nurture new talent from across cities to showcase their fresh ideas and expression to Mumbai audience. We are extremely excited with the line-up and hope the audience enjoys the same.”*

Highlights

- The fourth edition of the festival presents Gujarati plays travelling from Surat, Navsari and Ahmedabad
- NCPA provides a platform to offbeat Gujarati plays
- Two of the plays featured are adaptations of renowned French and Italian plays -- *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

Holi (90 mins)

Experimental Theatre

Friday, March 21st – 7.00 pm

The lives of a group of young friends take a dreadful turn on the fateful day of 'Holi'- a festival that signifies the victory of good over evil. Who is responsible when a youth commits suicide? He himself out of guilt for betraying his friends? His friends who ragged him? The college management that misuses its power? Adapted from Mahesh Elkunchwar's iconic 1969 play Holi (1969), this version is set in a college in 2014 and is a powerful manifestation of the angst of college students disenchanted with the prevailing system of higher education.

Directed by Hussaini Dawawala

Adapted by Hussaini Dawawala, Prayag Dave and Prarthi Dholakia

Directed by Hussaini Dawawala

Cast: Krutika Desai, Bakul Thakkar, Yogesh Upadhyay(all 3 special appearances), Darshan Pandya, Naimish Dave, Pratik Kothari, Paresh Babaria, Prarthi Dholakia, Amit Bhanushali, Suyash Joshi, Sanjeet Dhuri, Nitish Choubey, Bhagyesh, Nikhil Parmar, Akshay Makwana, Bhavin Thakkar.

A Roop Rekha Production

Haji Ek Varta (100 mins)

Godrej Dance Theatre

Saturday, March 22nd – 5.00 pm

This is a series of seven different stories penned by renowned authors of Gujarati literature. *Zeni* by Moti Prakash gives a picture of pure innocence in true friendship untouched by communalism; *Be Maa* by Ahmad Nadeem Kazmi depicts the bond of familiarity and concern hidden behind the daily hilarious fights between two neighbours; *Chhakdo* by Jyotindra Dave is about the unique attachment a human has with his vehicle, *Soy Doro* also by Dave is about a tiny needle and thread stitching a piece of cloth compared to relationships as seen from the point of view of a child; *Maro Asbaab* by Saroj Pathak examines the depth of the relationship between a husband and wife brought out by their dependence on each other; *Maaru Baalpan* by Abhinay Banker portrays the tiny joys of childhood to their slowly fading tomorrow; and finally, the crazy superstitious omnipresent obsession with the game in *Cricket Ne Kaaman* by Bakul Tripathi.

Directed by Abhinay Banker

Cast: Abhinay Banker, Brinda Trivedi, Gopal Parmar, Harsh Thakkar, Hemang Dave, Mayur Chauhan, Megha Vyas, Mehul Parmar, Mohit Mehta, Pauravi Joshi, Riya Shah, Viral Nayak.

A Darpana Arts Academy (Ahmedabad) Production

Encounter (140 mins)
Experimental Theatre
Saturday, March 22nd -7.00 pm

A bomb blast in the Garib Rath Express train leads to the police arresting Kamal Hasanmohammad Rangrej an employee of the Railways and torturing him into owning up to the crime which he has not committed. During the interrogation, Kamal fall from fourth floor and dies, the cops say its suicide, the inquiry commission concludes that it was an accident. The Supreme Court hands over the inquiry to the CBI to find out what really happened. Passing through various twists and turns, the story creates thrill and suspense while also taking up the cause of justice and truth. This play won several Gujarat State Awards.

Original Play by Dario Fo (Accidental Death of an Anarchist)

Adapted by Vilopan Desai

Directed by Pankaj Pathakji

Cast: Sanjay Parmar, Kaustubh Bhatt, Bhushan Desai, Zainul Hakimji, Salil Upadhyay, Himanshu Bhatt, Rakshit Bhavsar, Prarthana Sav, Udita Thakkar

A Swaram Entertainer Production

Chello Parsi (50 mins)
Godrej Dance Theatre
Sunday, March 23rd – 5.00 pm

This is a pathetic cry of the writer who is deeply moved to learn that kind, benevolent, generous, intelligent, jolly, courteous and gentle Parsi Community is on the verge of extinction. According to the writer's imagination, two hundred years from now, there will be only two Parsis left in the world. The play starts with one of them (Sohrab) giving an interview to an International Network on the death of his friend Kersi, who has died just a couple hours ago. As he hounded by the media, a flashback tells of how Sohrab and Kersi used to live their life without getting disturbed by the fact that they were the last two Parsis left. The play is humorous and thought-provoking. This one act play has won dozens of awards at every Gujarati drama competition.

Written by Piyush Bhatt

Directed by Rumi Baria

Cast: Piyush Bhatt and Rumi Baria

A Jehangir Group (Navsari) Production

Shukdan (120 mins)
Experimental Theatre
Sunday, March 23rd – 7.00 pm

In love with Mankunwar, a Rajput princess, since his childhood, Shukdan never gathers the courage to tell her, because he is not good looking. She falls in love with a handsome soldier, Indrajit. Unaware of Shukdan's feelings, Mankunwar asks for his help to meet Indrajit, who in turn makes Shukdan write romantic letters on his behalf. Loosely adapted from the classic *Cyrano de Bergerac*, this costume musical takes on the vibrant colours of Gujarat.

Original Playwright: Edmond Rostand (Cyrano de Bergerac)

Written by Chinu Modi

Directed by Chintan Upadhyay

Cast: Margey Raval, Raunag Kamdar, Brinda Trivedi, Hemang Dave, Kuntal Vaidya, Bharat Molker, Pratik Bhatt, Rahul Raval, Pupesh Baviskar, Aman Agarwal, Bhargav Purohit, and Chintan Pandya

A Fanatika (Ahmedabad) Production

Schedule – Vasant 2014

Date	Time	Play	Tickets	Venue
21-03-2014	7.00pm	Holi	Rs 270, 225 & 200/- (for Members) Rs 300, 250 & 200/- (for Public)	Experimental Theatre
22-03-2014	5.00pm	Haji Ek Varta	Rs 250/-	Godrej Dance Theatre
22-03-2014	7.00pm	Encounter	Rs 270, 225 & 200/- (for Members) Rs 300, 250 & 200/- (for Public)	Experimental Theatre
23-03-2014	5.00pm	Chello Parsi	Rs 250/-	Godrej Dance Theatre
23-03-2014	7.00pm	Shukdan	Rs 270, 225 & 200/- (for Members) Rs 300, 250 & 200/- (for Public)	Experimental Theatre

Box Office: 25th February for Members and 28th February for Public

Call **66223724/ 66223754** to book tickets.

To use the online booking facility, visit the www.ncpamumbai.com

About the NCPA:

Opening its doors to the world in 1969, the NCPA became the first multi-venue and multi-purpose cultural centre to be built in South Asia. Vibrant and diverse, the NCPA today is recognized by artistes, patrons and media alike as India's premier performing arts institution. The Centre provides a fine showcase for India's rich performing arts traditions, all thanks to the institution's training and research initiatives.

The NCPA presents over 600 events each year across all major art forms, most notably Indian Music, International Music, Theatre and Film, Dance, and Literature, Visual Arts and Photography. There are Heads of Programming for each of these art forms who curate innovative events and festivals; representative of everything from classical to contemporary throughout the year. The NCPA produces its own programmes as well as collaborates with leading cultural promoters from around the world.

About Vasant - Gujarati Natya Utsav:

In 2011, the NCPA Centre for the Promotion of Arts and Culture (CPAC) started Vasant Gujarati Theatre Festival. The NCPA is known to support and encourage theatre in all languages. Vasant, or Spring, is a time for celebration and renewal. This festival celebrates the colours of Gujarati theatre by presenting a selection of the best offbeat plays.

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