



## NCPA & Vinod & Saryu Doshi Foundation presents the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of *Centrestage Festival of Premiering Plays*

~15 new plays, 10 days, 4 languages...and more

29<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December

### Press release | For immediate dissemination

**Mumbai, November, 2013:** The National Centre for the Performing Arts, in partnership with the Vinod & Saryu Doshi Foundation, is all geared up to present the Fourth edition of its annual theatre festival *Centrestage*. From **November 29 to December 8, 2013**, the city of Mumbai will get a chance to watch **15 premiering plays in Hindi, Marathi, English and Gujarati, presented by theatre groups from across India**. Apart from phenomenal theatre, NCPA will also present a **workshop and an outdoor performance**.

Three years ago, **The National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA)**, India's premiere arts and culture institution, rejuvenated the theatre scenario in Mumbai by introducing its first-ever, major, multi-lingual annual theatre festival of premiering plays – **Centrestage**. The festival aimed to create a platform for new/different works and encourage the birth of new groups. As a result, plays showcased over the last three editions of *Centrestage*, have performed at various prestigious national and international festivals and won multiple awards and accolades. Some plays that premiered in the first edition are still running to full houses!

The fourth edition of *Centrestage* has an eclectic and exciting mix of styles and genres ranging from family dramas with a twist to Gen Next love stories, from a Commedia Dell'Arte inspiration to an Alfred Hitchcock hat tip. This multilingual theatre festival will present **6 English, 1 Marathi, 1 Hindi and 3 Gujarati, 3 multilingual and 1 street play**. Theatre groups such as **Akavarious**,

### Centrestage 2013 - Highlights

- NCPA partners with Vinod & Saryu Doshi Foundation for the Fourth edition of NCPA Centrestage
- 15 premiering plays in four languages
- A workshop on Commedia Dell 'Arte, an Italian form of physical theatre
- Evam(Chennai) present Ali J, that comes with great reviews from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- Street play by the Winners of the Waves Drama Contest at Bits, Pilani
- Famous Bollywood actress Kalki Koechlin is the co-writer and actor of the play Colour Blind which is based on Rabindranath Tagore's relationship with Argentinian writer Victoria O Campo
- Jhoom makes its professional debut with Centrestage
- Schitzengiggles present a hilarious satire on the works of Shakespear that covers all 37 plays in 97 minutes

**Awishkar, Aranya, Utopia** and **Tram Theatre** come back to the festival, **Yatri, Pundalik, stand-up comedy group Schitzengiggles, Cartel, Jhoom** enter Centrestage for the first time, while **Evam** visits from **Chennai** and **Stagecraft** from **Nagpur**.

The festival will commence **on 29<sup>th</sup> December** with a **Street Play** by the winners of the Waves Drama Contest at BITS, Pilani followed by a presentation of Chennai based group, Evam's play **Ali J** which delves into the many freedom struggles still underway in India.

**On 30<sup>th</sup> November** two plays will be showcased: Tram Theatre Productions present **Khidki**, the story of two girls looking into each other's lives through their windows and the play **It's Not Waht You Tihnk!** will present fast paced, physical humour.

**On 1<sup>st</sup> December** are two **plays, Status Quo** which explores a love story in the time of technological overreach, while director Manoj Shah will bring a comic version of Romeo and Juliet set against a contemporary background in **Laxmipoojan**.

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> December**, Awishkar Production will present the Marathi play **Prakaran Pahile**, Sushama Deshpande's exciting new production.

**On 3rd December** Stagecraft from Nagpur will bring an adaptation of Patrick Hamilton's nerve-stretching thriller and based on Alfred Hitchcock's critically acclaimed film, **Rope**.

A Schitzengiggles Production on **4th Dec**, is **The Complete Works of Shakespeare** also known as The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr (abridged). This is a parody of the plays written by Shakespeare with all of them being performed in shortened form by only three actors.

Famous Bollywood actress **Kalki Koechlin – co-writer and actor in the play** - presents the audience with **Colour Blind** -- a play based on Rabindranath Tagore's relationship with Argentinian writer Victoria Ocampo -- **on 5th December**. **On 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.**, **Yatri** will present **Teri Meri Prem Kahani**, an unusual one-sided love story based on Harishankar Parsai's short story **Das Din Ka Anshan**.

With **Common People**, **on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.**, the festival moves on from litterateurs and small town India towards a more Urban space. The play revolves around four people who are related but rather distant. On the same day **Dharmendra Gohil** Production will present **Blackout** a play which is based on a young couple going through a troubled phase in their marriage.

The theatre group Utopia will bring nerve-wracking suspense to the stage with **Manchha**, while stage actresses **Suruchi Aulakh** and **Faezeh Jalali** will step into the producer's arena with **Ladies Special**.

Speaking on the occasion, **Deepa Gahlot, Head—Programming (Theatre and Film)** says, *“Over the years, NCPA has received overwhelming response, not only from the theatre community, but also from the audience. Centrestage has become one of the most awaited theatre festivals in the city and we promise to keep up to expectations by providing a platform to new and aspiring talent across India.”*

**Speaking on their partnership with NCPA, Dr. Saryu Doshi, Trustee of the Vinod & Saryu Doshi Foundation, says,** “*Centrestage is one of the landmark theatre festivals of Mumbai and we are extremely proud to be associated with NCPA. This initiative fits in very well with the Foundation’s objectives of supporting the Arts. Over the years, NCPA has played the role of a catalyst in encouraging new creative work and in promoting theatre. Together, we are committed to bringing some of the best and brightest talent from across the country to the audiences.*”

Apart from the diverse fare of plays, Centrestage co-promoted by NCPA and the Vinod & Saryu Doshi Foundation will also have a **Workshop on 7th & 8th December conducted by Deepal Doshi.** Comedian Dell ‘Arte is an Italian form of physical theatre which uses masks as the primary medium of playing comic characters.

Witness the best of theatre starting 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013 only at the NCPA!

### Schedule

**Street Play by Waves**  
**English Play (30 mins)**  
**Sunken Garden**  
**Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> – 6.00 pm**

A Performance by the winners of Nukkad Natak, The Street Play, Waves 2013  
**Admission on a first-come-first-served basis**

**Ali J**  
**English Play (60 mins)**  
**Experimental Theatre**  
**Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> – 7.00 pm**

Ali J’s story navigates the terrain of individual desire and national suspicion. It breaks down a man into his component parts, none of which stick. In a time when bodies are being hanged and mauled, it maintains that this body holds all identities and yet, holds none. The play talks of the Indian identity today, in the light of the shadow cast upon it from the Partition in 1947. Ali J is not the story of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, but the story of Azim Ali J, a Muslim in India.

Written by **Shekinah Jacob**

Directed & Performed by **Karthik Kumar**

**An Evam(Chennai) & Richard Jordan Productions Ltd. in association with Pleasance**

**Tickets:**

**Rs. 250/- (Members)**

**Rs. 300/- (Public)**

**Khidki**  
**English & Hindi Play (70 mins)**

**Godrej Dance Theatre**

**Saturday, 30th – 5.00 pm**

It follows the story of two girls looking into each other's lives through their windows. The play is inspired by the urban landscape photography of Gabriele Basilico and is performed largely to music.

Written by **Siddharth Kumar**

Directed by **Sananda Mukhopadhyaya**

**Performed by Shweta Tripathi & Dipna Dariyanani**

**A Tram Theatre Production**

**Tickets:**

**Rs.180/- (Members)**

**Rs.200/- (Public)**

**It's Not Waht You Tihnk!**

**English & Hindi Play (80 mins)**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Saturday, 30th – 7.00 pm**

A bank heist by bumbling thieves, an off-key classical music performance, lovers spurned and reunited, cooks whipping up a storm, obedient servants and braggarts – all in one evening of fast paced, physical humour that will knock audiences off their seats with side splitting laughter. A frenzied performance of *Commedia dell' Arte* sketches with characters and stories drawn from the classic Italian form and everyday Indian society, the production is an original, contemporary version.

Directed by **Deepal Doshi**

Cast: **Yuki Ellias, Kathryn Doshi, Siddhant Karnick & Deepal Doshi**

**A Cartel Production**

**Only 12 years and above**

**Tickets:**

**Rs. 250/- (Members)**

**Rs. 300/- (Public)**

**Status Quo**

**English Play (90 mins)**

**Godrej Dance Theatre**

**Sunday, 1st December – 5.00 pm**

The play explores the funny, complex, and sexy online and offline life of a couple in today's social media driven world. It discovers how a new level of intimacy and fragmentation has changed romantic relationships between people. Love, betrayal and multiple relationships, both real and imagined, are given a vicarious new dimension.

Written & Directed by **Zubin Driver**

Cast: **Heeba Shah & Asif Basra**

**A Pundalik Production**

**Tickets:**

**Rs.180/- (Members)**

**Rs.200/- (Public)**

**Laxmipoojan**

**Gujarati Play (90 mins)**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Sunday, 1st December – 7.00 pm**

The destinies of Sonali and Viraj are tied together since they were kids with the note of one song that haunts them for years. Ultimately, they discover each other after two decades when the same note brings them together. But, their families are staunch enemies. So love is in peril and has to survive many trials and tribulations. A laugh riot, the story is teeming with more than 22 strange and weird characters.

Director by **Manoj Shah**

Written by **Uttam Gada**

Cast :**Pratik Gandhi,Satchit Puranik,Vaishaki Shukla,Ishaan Dhoshi,Trupti Thakkar**

**An Ideas Unlimited Production**

**Tickets:**

**Rs. 250/- (Members)**

**Rs. 300/- (Public)**

**Prakaran Pahile**

**Marathi Play ( 90 mins)**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Monday, 2nd December – 7.00 pm**

Jeeja is a 55-year-old writer whose boyfriend, Eknath, dies in her house. Jeeja sends the body to his wife, but she wants to place the traditional lamp in the place where Eknath died. She sends her son Ravi to Jeeja's residence. Now, Ravi and Jeeja are caught in an exciting conversation.

Written & Directed by **Sushama Deshpande**

Presented by **Arun Kakade**

Cast: **Sushama Deshpande, Deepak Rajadhyaksha**

**An Awishkar Production**

**Tickets:****Rs. 250/- (Members)****Rs. 300/- (Public)****Rope****English Play ( 90 mins)****Experimental Theatre****Tuesday, 3rd December – 7.00 pm**

An adaptation of Patrick Hamilton's nerve-stretching thriller and based on Alfred Hitchcock's critically acclaimed film, *Rope* begins with a shriek and ends with a shot.

The plot concerns two well-read students who, under the Nietzsche's influence, kill a fellow student for thrills. They, then, hold a dinner party, serving the food and drink from a chest that contains the corpse, and in a further twist, include the dead boy's girlfriend and father among the guests.

Directed by **Vikash Khurana**Cast: **Nandan Majumdar, Varun Vij, Vikash Khurana, Anamika Sawarkar, Anuj Hamilton & Anurag Kulkarni****A Stagecraft Theatre (Nagpur) Production****Only 16 years and above****Tickets:****Rs. 250/- (Members)****Rs. 300/- (Public)****The Complete Works of Shakespeare****English Play (100 mins)****Experimental Theatre****Wednesday, 4th December – 7.00 pm**

Also known as *The Compleat Wrks of Wllm Shkspr* (abridged), this is a parody of the plays written by Shakespeare with all of them being performed in shortened form by only three actors. The actors use their real names and play themselves. The fourth wall is nonexistent with some scenes involving audience participation. The director and stage crew may also get involved in the performance and become characters themselves. It is notable for holding the (self-proclaimed) world record for the shortest-ever performance of Hamlet, clocking in at 43 seconds, as well as the fastest performance of Hamlet backwards at 42 seconds.

Performed by **Aadar Malik, Brij Bhakta & Neville Shah****A Schitzengiggles Production****Tickets:****Rs. 250/- (Members)**

**Rs. 300/- (Public)**

**Colour Blind**

**Multi-lingual Play (75 mins)**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Thursday, 5th December – 7.00 pm**

The image that Tagore evokes is like an impenetrable and larger than life sculpture of poise, calm, beauty, intellect and romance. *Colour Blind* is an attempt to seep into that and rediscover him through his life events, relationships and writings. As the play goes deeper, the grand image of Tagore is replaced with images of a lonely child, a vulnerable poet, a misunderstood patriot and an ageing lover, and he emerges in flesh and blood.

Written by **Dwijottam Bhattacharjee, Kalki Koechlin & Manav Kaul**

Directed by **Manav Kaul**

Cast: **Swanand Kirkire, Satyajeet Sharma, Ajitesh Gupta, Amrita Bagchi, Kalki Koechlin, Chitragada Chakraborty & others**

**An aRANYA Theatre Production**

**Only 12 years and above**

**Tickets:**

**Rs. 250/- (Members)**

**Rs. 300/- (Public)**

**Teri Meri Prem Kahani**

**Hindi Play (120 mins)**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Friday, 6th December – 7.00 pm**

What happens when Mannu, a street goon falls in love with Savitri, a married woman? All his overtures are rejected. He decides to take help from local politicians who suggest a fast unto death. Mannu is scared but ultimately agrees and the politicians start their game plan. An unusual one-sided love story based on Harishankar Parsai's short story *Das Din Ka Anshan*.

Written & Directed by **Om Katare**

Cast: **Om Katare, Sanjeev Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Soman Singh, Paromita Chatterjee, Ashok Sharma, Tasha Kapoor, Prashant Updhayay, Mohit Maghnani, Rakesh Ranjan, Sonali Wval & others**

**A Yatri Production**

**Tickets:**

**Rs. 250/- (Members)**

**Rs. 300/- (Public)**

**Blackout (120 mins)**

**Gujarati Play**

**Godrej Dance Theatre**

**Saturday, 7th December – 5.00 pm**

A young couple Siddharth and Maitri are going through a troubled phase in their marriage. Siddharth is on a sabbatical from work and busy putting together a book that he has been longing to write and Maitri is working quite successfully as an interior decorator. She has suffered a miscarriage and the grief of losing a child is constantly chewing on their lives. Now they both suffer in quiet silence and are used to putting up pretences of normalcy. One day there is a notice on the society board which says that between 7-9 every evening there will be an electricity cut in the area due to some repair work. They make some minor changes in their otherwise fixed schedules to incorporate the electricity cut. They are now forced to share sparse and functional candlelit dinners and are faced with the prospect of talking to each other in the absence of escapist gadgets like their TV and computers. They both decide to share a hitherto unshared secret with each other on every night. From seriously funny to hidden demons and skeletons in the closet, words come tumbling out in the comforting darkness and they both stand at crossroads waiting to decide if they are really a couple or a divorce on standby.

**Written by - Sneha Desai**

**Directed by – Dhiraj Palshetkar**

**Cast: Sneha Desai , Dharmendra Gohil**

**A Pheonix Company Production**

**Tickets:**

**Rs.180/- (Members)**

**Rs.200/- (Public)**

**Common People**

**English Play (100 mins)**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Saturday, 7th December – 7.00 pm**

Soon after the death of a patriarch, two couples spend an evening idly chatting at his seaside bungalow in Bandra. As her cousin and husband prattle on about their nouveau-riche lifestyle, Maya makes a devastating claim that could change their lives forever. Could they all really become millionaires overnight? Or has Maya lied only to save face?

**Directed by Akarsh Khurana**

**Cast: Abir Abrar, Akarsh Khurana, Aseem Hattangady, Chaitnya Sharma, Dilshad Edibam, Himanshu Sitlani, Shriya Pilgaonkar**

**An Akvarious Production**

**Adults Only**

**Tickets:**

**Rs. 250/- (Members)**

**Rs. 300/- (Public)**

**Ladies Special**

**English Play (90 mins)**

**Godrej Dance Theatre**

**Sunday, 8th December – 5.00 pm**

This free-wheeling adaptation of Arthur Shnitzer's play **Reigen** is set in contemporary Mumbai, the play is a merry-go-round of sexual encounters with a special focus on the mysterious and tangled world of the modern Indian woman. The prostitute who seeks momentary relief by reversing roles, a village girl whose dreams of Mumbai include its sexual freedom, a young woman who finds herself alone with a man on an overnight train journey, an adventurous housewife who makes a tentative choice and finds herself transformed and an unapologetic journalist who wears her sexuality on her sleeve - the play brings fascinating vignettes of women who are pushing the boundaries. In a stifling society where the loud metronome of mainstream drowns out individual songs of desire, these women bravely seek spaces and opportunities to discover parts of themselves in private confines, which the world would condemn if brought out in the open. The play takes women's sexuality from the space of repression and loaded value judgments to their complete assertion and non-judgmental celebration.

Adapted by **Abhishek Thakore**

“Compartment” by **Annie Zaidi**

Directed by **Faezeh Jalali**

Cast – **Suruchi Aulakh, Shyam Kishore, Trimala Adhikari, Hitesh Malukani, Ankit Challa, Isha Talwar**

**A Jhoom & FAT Production**

**Adults only**

**Tickets:**

**Rs.180/- (Members)**

**Rs.200/- (Public)**

**Manchha**

**Gujarati Play (110 mins)**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Sunday, 8th December – 7.00 pm**

A lawyer hires an actor to tutor him in recounting to his loved ones a story that has long troubled him. It concerns events that transpired when he attended the funeral of an elderly recluse in an eerie and almost abandoned village called Lakhpat in Kutch. There he sees a woman named Manchha, the mere mention of whom terrifies the locals and makes their faces go pale.

Directed by **Pritesh Sodha**

Written by **Sejal Ponda**

**Presented by Utopia Communications & Kamlesh Mota**

**Cast - Paresh Vora, Shivang Thakkar & Dr. Hemlata Shingala**

**Tickets:**

**Rs. 250/- (Members)**

**Rs. 300/- (Public)**

### **Workshops @ Centrestage**

**Commedia Dell 'Arte: Masked Characters Workshop by Deepal Doshi**

**Sea View Room**

**Saturday, 7th December – 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm**

**Sunday, 8th December – 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm**

**In collaboration with Cartel Productions**

*Commedia Dell'Arte* is an Italian form of physical theatre which uses masks as the primary medium of playing characters and physical comedy as the underlying genre to communicate a virtuosic story-telling.

**The goals of this workshop shall be:**

1. To introduce the students to the world of masks and teach them the principles and techniques of mask work
  2. To introduce them to the genre of physical theatre and physical comedy through masks
  3. To teach them character work and timing which forms the basis of comedy
  4. To guide the students through an explorative process of improvising through the exercises of Commedia Dell'Arte.
  5. To introduce and explore the concept of expressing through body and breath using character masks
  6. To share the relevance of a 16<sup>th</sup> century Commedia Dell'Arte to a 20<sup>th</sup> century India through the exploration of archetypes and their dynamic relationship in the society
- **Other conditions:** Participants must be willing to explore and invest themselves in the physical study of the character through the mask. The participants are not required to show any particular level of physical condition but must be available to jump in all the exercises we shall explore during the workshop.

**Max. Participants: 16**

**Fees: Rs.2, 500/-**

**Age limit: 16 & above**

**For registrations, please contact Rajeshri on 66223749 between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm on weekdays or write to [ncpaworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:ncpaworkshops@gmail.com).**

**Box Office: 26th October for Members & 29th October for Public**

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

To use the online booking facility, visit the NCPA official website

<http://www.ncpamumbai.com/buy-tickets>

Or visit [www.bookmyshow.com](http://www.bookmyshow.com).

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NCPAMumbai](http://www.facebook.com/NCPAMumbai)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/NCPAMumbai](http://www.twitter.com/NCPAMumbai)

### **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 the Vinod and Saryu Doshi Foundation:**

The 'Vinod & Saryu Doshi Foundation' is a non-profit, charity trust that aims at promoting Art, Culture, Education and Community. It fosters emerging talent in the visual and performing Arts through fellowships, performances, exhibitions and festivals. It empowers bright but financially challenged young individuals to catapult themselves to a higher economic and social orbit by providing scholarships for their entire college career. It is committed to improving the community by funding initiatives in environment protection and social upliftment. The Foundation believes in enriching the mind through education, and the spirit through art and culture.

It articulates the lifelong passions of Vinod and Saryu Doshi who have dedicated a considerable part of their lives supporting these causes.

### **For media queries ONLY please contact:**

MSLGROUP

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