

## NCPA Cheer! Comedy Festival 2014: The biggest laugh riot this June

~ First and the only multi-style comedy festival comes back with hilarious plays, stand-up comedy, commedia dell'arte and musical comedy

~ Third edition of the festival starts on June 5, 2014, spread over two rib-tickling weekends

**Mumbai, May 2014:** The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) Mumbai, India's premiere arts and culture institution presents NCPA Cheer! Comedy Festival 2014, featuring some of the country's best and funniest comedians. Back with its third edition, this only complete, holistic comedy festival showcases variety of acts like stand-up comedy, commedia dell'arte, comedy plays and even musical comedy.

The opening weekend of the festival brings to stage premiering comedy plays. The plays 'Two Adorable Losers' and 'Bombed' are written especially for NCPA Cheer! The Open Couple travels from Hyderabad after being shortlisted at the META Awards, Delhi. The sound of laughter only gets louder and louder as some of the best names in contemporary Indian comedy such as Kunal Roy Kapoor, Anuvab Pal, Tanmay Bhat, Rohan Joshi, Sorabh Pant, Aditi Mittal and many more come to perform live at one venue.

The fun includes comedy set to musical tunes as well as sketch, stand-up and improv performances by the leading ladies of Indian comedy. What more?

A special show of Papa CJ the only Indian comic to feature

on NBC's Last Comic Standing, performing live with Anuvab Pal exclusively for NCPA Cheer! 2014.

**Ms. Deepa Gahlot, Head — Programming (Theatre and Film), NCPA** says, “We at NCPA take immense pride in presenting the third edition of NCPA Cheer!, which is the first and only comedy festival of its kind in the city...and country. It attracts some of the biggest names in comedy and pulls them together for two weekends of the most hilarious shows. The festival has set a precedent in presenting best of meaningful comedy. Some shows that were staged at NCPA Cheer! have won accolades and awards across India and we just hope that the trend continues. This year we are proud to associate with Homegrown, who bring on board their huge roster of comedians—India's finest!”

### HIGHLIGHTS

- First and only holistic comedy festival showcasing variety of acts like stand-up comedy, plays, musical comedy etc.
- An all women comedy act featuring Aditi Mittal, Anu Menon and Kaneez Surka and others
- 18 of the best comedians on one stage in 'Homegrown Comedy Weekend' as the festival's climax
- Papa CJ and Anuvab Pal, come together exclusively for the NCPA Cheer!

## NCPA CHEER! '14 SCHEDULE

### **Two Adorable Losers (80 mins)**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Friday, 6th – 6.30 pm**

A professor from Odisha and his Mumbai student suffer from the same problem – an inferiority complex. The two are depressed and their self-esteem has hit an all-time low. In an attempt to regain their lost confidence, they approach each other. This results in an unusual alliance between the two victims. As the coaching class progresses, the two try to maintain a code of ethics in their professional relationship, but often end up breaking the code.

Written By **Abhishek Pattnaik**

Directed By **Murtuza Kutianawala**

Cast: **Abhishek Pattnaik & Karan Bhanushali**

### **An Out Of The Box Production**

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### **The World is Enough (90 mins)**

**Godrej Dance Theatre**

**Friday, 6th – 8.00 pm**

*License to Travel* is a night of explosive stand-up comedy that will take you around the world and bring you back. **Papa CJ** and **Anuvab Pal** come together exclusively for the Cheer! Festival with a new show. Calcutta boys who took their unique brand of humour to far corners of the globe, they have come back to tell you hilarious stories of their travels. Papa CJ is the only Indian comic to feature on NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and has performed around the world. Anuvab Pal is a playwright of several well-known plays (*Chaos Theory*, *The President Is Coming*), screenwriter (*Loins of Punjab*) and stand-up.

**For 15 & above**

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### **The Open Couple**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Saturday, 7th – 6.30 pm**

Antonia has coped for years with her husband, who has been trying to get her to agree to his idea of an open marriage. A madcap masquerade, a roller coaster circus ring – or rather, just a normal relationship between a man and a woman. The play opens with Antonia as a suicidal emotional wreck and through a series of funny, poignant vignettes, concludes with a complete role reversal. Known for his witty political satires, what draws one to Dario Fo's *The Open Couple* is the interplay of dualities in the politics of relationships. The choice of a yin-yang treatment towards the production design was made in order to do justice to Fo's even-handed text. A *Commedia dell'arte* style was chosen because of its exaggeration of the mundanity of life.

Playwright: **Dario Fo written with Franca Rame**

Directed by **Faraz Khan**

Cast: **Anuj Gurwara & Vaishali Bisht**

**For 18 & above**

### **A 71mm (Hyderabad) Production**

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### **Funny Women (90 mins)**

**Godrej Dance Theatre**

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8.00 pm**

## **A Homegrown India Presentation**

Let India's funniest women entertain, enthrall and engage you through 90 minutes of sketch, stand up and improve performances. Catch Aditi Mittal (the queen of stand up), Anu Menon (the characters chameleon) and Kaneez Surka (the improv wonder woman) as they take you through all the styles of comedy at one single show.

Cast: **Aditi Mittal, Anu Menon, Kaneez Surka and others**

**For 15 & above**

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### **Bombed**

**Experimental Theatre**

**Sunday, 8th – 6.30 pm**

Zameer likes to be called Zed. He also likes smoking pot, playing on his PS3, playing cards with his eccentric landlady Fiona (a temperamental Catholic widow) and discussing popular culture with his neighbour Yogi (a struggling actor from Bihar). Life is pretty good till inspector Sudarshan Damle lands up at his door, asking questions about long-lost relatives and terror attacks. *Bombed* is a light-hearted look at today's weed-loving urban youth, the city we live in, religion, and how our paranoia about terrorism warps our lives and relationships with neighbours and friends.

Written by **Asha Duggal & Bobby Nagra**

Directed by **Adhaar Khurana**

Cast: **Aseem Hattangady, Chaitnya Sharma, Lucky Vakharia and Amey Wagh**

**For 18 & above**

## **An Akvarious Production**

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**Music of Comedic Proportions (90 mins)**

**Godrej Dance Theatre**

**Sunday, 8th – 8.00 pm**

A Homegrown India Presentation

Everybody likes to listen to music and a few people like to listen to jokes. How do comedians become popular? Mixing the two and scamming the audience to believe its music with comedy. We want to welcome you for the biggest rip off of your life, where a bunch of comedians do their jokes while playing a musical instrument in a rhyme scheme. P. S. Comedians have low self esteem!

Cast: **Kenneth Sebastian, Kanan Kill, Aadar Malik & Abish Mathew**

**For 15 & above**

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**Homegrown Comedy Weekend**

**Jamshed Bhabha Theatre**

**Saturday, 14th & Sunday, 15th – 7.00 pm**

After a sold out two year run the "Naked Comedy Festival" is finally coming to NCPA as the "Homegrown Comedy Weekend." A show which is handpicked and curated by Homegrown India promises to deliver the craziest comedy festival and amazing material from all the top comics as they perform for the NCPA crowds. A two day comedy extravaganza will showcase the antics of India's top homegrown comedians that have gotten India laughing their posteriors off. With a lineup that features **Anuvab Pal, Kunaal Roy Kapoor,**

**Sorabh Pant, Tanmay Bhat, Rohan Joshi, Aditi Mittal, Sahil Shah, Sapan Varma, Rajneesh Kapoor, Atul Khatri, Kenny Sebastian, Kanan Gill, Kunal Rao, Ashish Shakya, G. Khamba, Abish Mathew,** overdosing on comedy just might become a reality.

**For 15 & above**

**Box Office: 15th May for Members & 17th May for Public**

<b>Date/Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Show</b>	<b>Tickets</b>
Friday , 6 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Experimental Theatre	Two Adorable Losers	Rs. 450, 270 & 180/- (Members) Rs. 500, 300 & 200/- (Public)
Friday , 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Godrej Dance Theatre	The World Is Enough	Rs. 540 /- (Members) Rs. 600 /- (Public)
Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Experimental Theatre	The Open Couple	Rs. 450, 270 & 180/- (Members) Rs. 500, 300 & 200/- (Public)
Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Godrej Dance Theatre	Funny Women	Rs. 540 /- (Members) Rs. 600 /- (Public)
Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Godrej Dance Theatre	Bombed	Rs. 540 /- (Members) Rs. 600 /- (Public)
Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Godrej Dance Theatre	Music of Comedic Proportions	Rs. 540 /- (Members) Rs. 600 /- (Public)
Saturday, 14 <sup>th</sup> & Sunday, 15 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Jamshed Bhabha Theatre	Homegrown Comedy Weekend	Rs. 1125, 900, 750, 570 & 375/- (Members) Rs. 1500, 1200, 1000, 760 & 500/- (Public)

### **About NCPA Cheer!**

Cheer! is a celebration of comedy, wit and laughter, featuring new comic plays, workshops and stand-up acts. Comedy today is not just serious business but a demand for entertainment that is increasingly met by live acts. Started in 2012, the Cheer! Comedy Festival at the NCPA, the first and only festival of its kind in the country, explores various ways of spreading joy.

### **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.

**For media queries ONLY please contact:**

MSLGROUP, India

Parina Parekh; Mob: 09773518679; Email: [parina.parekh@mslgroup.com](mailto:parina.parekh@mslgroup.com)