

**Comedy Takes Center Stage: Anuvab Pal's 'The Nation Wants to Know'**  
**Launches Royal Opera House Comedy Series**

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*“Stand-up comedy and comedy in general is the ultimate form of free speech, because you get to poke holes in all the pretentious bubbles politicians and pundits and popes and pretenders try to float over our heads.”* - Denis Leary, American Actor and Comedian

Comedy is often hailed as the most demanding genre in the realm of entertainment, demanding a mix of cleverness, perfect timing, and originality. Making people laugh is subjective, requiring a delicate balance to avoid crossing boundaries. Achieving the sweet spot between humor and substance is the true test, calling for a deep understanding of human nature and societal nuances. The art lies in delivering punchlines with impeccable timing, all while staying culturally aware.

Stand-up comedy finds its roots in the variety and burlesque shows of turn-of-the-century vaudeville theaters in New York City. As the cinema industry grew, it became more prominent than the theaters, but the comedic style crafted in these venues endured. After the Second World War, stand-up comedy transitioned from theaters and bars to clubs and nightspots. Today, stand-up comedy has transformed into a specialized art form, finding its niche primarily within dedicated comedic venues.

**Royal Opera House, Mumbai**, is excited to launch the **Royal Opera House Comedy Series** with the grand opening by *Stand-up Comic, Playwright, Screenwriter, and Novelist Anuvab Pal's 'The Nation Wants to Know'* in association with **Avid Learning** and **The Entertainment Factory** on the **26th of April (Friday), 7:30 PM onwards**.

**About the Show:**

The Nation Wants to Know is an hour-long very funny look at modern India. From the quirks of different Indian communities to the colonial hangover of The British in India. From the oddity of news headlines to the absurdity of everyday Indian behavior, From the new high-rises that define new India, to the digital India that older people struggle to comprehend, everything is gently laughed at, in a rollicking hour you don't want to miss. Anuvab has performed all over the world to audiences from Oslo to Sydney. This is his South Mumbai homecoming.

The Royal Opera House Comedy Series promises a delightful array of monthly performances, featuring the crème de la crème of the country's leading stand-up artists. Starting with English, the humor extravaganza will diversify by presenting performances in regional languages, adding a multilingual flavor to the comedy scene.

The Royal Opera House, Mumbai, with its rich history and grandeur, constantly strives to present the classic, diverse, and contemporary genres in art attracting patrons of all ages and backgrounds by bringing in leading artists from around the country and across the globe to the maximum city! Being India's only surviving Opera House, we recognize the importance of leveraging the stage to showcase the talents and skill of performing artists from all over while also exposing the audiences to multidisciplinary cross-genre fusions and collaborations.

Avid Learning has demonstrated a keen understanding of Mumbai's comedic pulse, tickling the funny bones of residents through its comedy programming since the early days of joining forces with Anuvab Pal. Having previously presented thought-provoking comedy writing workshops and insightful humor-themed panel discussions, they now take their collaboration a notch above with the kick-off of the comedy series.

This event won't be the first time Royal Opera House Mumbai's stage has seen a standup in action. In the past we have had an exquisite lineup of some of India's leading comedians such as Rohan Joshi, Kenny Sebastian,

Aditi Mittal, Kanan Gill and Amit Tandon to name a few. We have also had a Marathi Standup with BhaDiPa opening our doors to regional comic audiences. We look forward to many more nights filled with laughter! Join us with your loved ones and experience a very clever, very hilarious and a spectacularly funny act that has done over a 1000 shows world over!

**When:** Friday, 26th April at 7:30 PM

**Where:** Royal Opera House Mumbai

**Tickets:** BookMyShow.com

**Press:** Ayesha Dadachanji ([ayeshah.avid@gmail.com](mailto:ayeshah.avid@gmail.com))

**ARTIST BIO:**

The New York Times calls **Anuvab Pal** India's Most Intelligent Comedian. The Guardian calls him 'very brilliant, very funny'. His stand up comedy special The Nation Wants To Know, has had over 1000 shows starting in Mumbai and playing from Sydney to San Francisco to Singapore to sold out houses across 30 cities. He's also the only Indian comedian invited to perform at Harvard University and for the Prime Ministers of India and Great Britain. In the UK, his BBC stand up show titled The Empire has been seen by 6 million people worldwide as part of the BBC World Service New Year's Eve Comedy Special and is featured at The V&A Museum in London, and on Amazon Prime UK. He has also written a sitcom starring British comedy legend Stephen Fry for BBC Radio 2.