

## The Zee Jaipur Literature Festival 2018 Mumbai Preview at The Royal Opera House Mumbai

### For Immediate Release

Namita Gokhale, William Dalrymple, Sanjoy K. Roy, The Royal Opera House Mumbai and Avid Learning proudly present the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival 2018 Mumbai Preview.

The description of the event is below:

The evening will include a reading from *White Mughals* by author William Dalrymple along with renditions by vocalist Vidya Shah. Dalrymple will read from a section on the celebrated and tragic love story of James Achilles Kirpatrick, 18th-century British Resident to the Hyderabadi court, and noblewoman Khair-un-Nissa, while Shah will punctuate the compelling narration with lilting music from the courts of colonial Hyderabad and the poetry of Mah Laqa Bai Chanda, the great poet and courtesan of that time whose diwan is one of the treasures of the British Library India collections. *White Mughals* is a story of love and betrayal, it shines a spotlight on a period of colonial history before the racism of the Raj came into being and attitudes between races were more open.

Since its inception in 2009, AVID has always supported literature- one of its key verticals, through various formats including festival platforms. This year marks AVID's fifth year collaborating with the Jaipur Literature Festival. It has become somewhat of a tradition to host the prestigious festival's Mumbai curtain raiser, which we have done for a few years now and present panel discussions at the main event in Jaipur. AVID believes that the Jaipur Literature Festival shares many sister concerns and passions for the future trajectory of literature in India and the world and is proud to partner with this venerable institution of the contemporary literary world.

Join us for an evening of music, history and romance while celebrating the spirit of Jaipur right here in Mumbai.

**Where:** The Royal Opera House, Mumbai, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400 004

**When:** Thursday, 7th December 2017; 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM - Registration and Refreshments | 7:15 pm - 8:00 pm – Reading and Performance

**RSVP:** [www.avidlearning.com/](http://www.avidlearning.com/) [avidlearning@essarservices.co.in](mailto:avidlearning@essarservices.co.in) / +919769937710; prior registration required

**Press Email / Call:** Dhvani Vyas on [dhvani.avid@gmail.com](mailto:dhvani.avid@gmail.com) / +91 9769877928

### About the Author:

**William Dalrymple** is a bestselling author of *"In Xanadu"*, *"City of Djinns"*, *"From the Holy Mountain"*, *"White Mughals"*, *"The Last Mughal"*, *"Nine Lives"*, and most recently, *"Return of a King: An Indian Army in Afghanistan"*. He has won the Thomas Cook Travel Book Award, the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award, the French Prix d'Astrolabe, the Wolfson Prize for History, the Scottish Book of the Year Award, the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize, the Asia House Award for Asian Literature, the Vodafone/Crossword Award for nonfiction, and has, prior to the shortlisting of *"Return of a King"*, been longlisted three times for the Samuel Johnson Prize. The Italian edition of *"Return of a King"* won the 2015 Hemingway Prize and the prestigious Kapuściński Prize for Literary Reportage. In September 2016, a Hindustani translation of *"The Last Mughal"* was released as *"Aakhri Mughal"*. His latest book is

“Kohinoor”, co-written with Anita Anand. Dalrymple is one of the founders and a co-director of the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival.

### **About Partners:**

**ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival:** Described as the ‘greatest literary show on Earth’, the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival is the world’s largest free event of its kind. Celebrating writers from across the globe, the Festival has hosted some of the best regarded and loved names, ranging from Nobel Laureates and Man Booker Prize winners to debut writers including Amish Tripathi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Eleanor Catton, Hanif Kureishi, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Ian McEwan, J.M. Coetzee, Mohammed Hanif, Oprah Winfrey, Orhan Pamuk, Pico Iyer, Salman Rushdie, Stephen Fry, Thomas Piketty, Vikram Seth and Wole Soyinka along with renowned Indian language writers such as Girish Karnad, Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, M.T. Vasudevan Nair, Uday Prakash as well as the late Mahasweta Devi and U.R. Ananthamurthy.

Writers and Festival Directors Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple invite authors from across the globe to take part in the five-day programme set against the backdrop of Rajasthan’s stunning cultural heritage and the Diggri Palace in the state capital Jaipur. Equity and democracy run through the Festival’s veins, placing some of the world’s greatest minds, humanitarians, historians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers from all walks of life together on stage. This free and egalitarian access to these renowned thinkers and writers is a powerful statement in a country where access to such individuals remains the privilege of a few. The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival provides a potentially life-changing opportunity for audiences from Rajasthan, across India and the world to learn from and exchange ideas with contemporary literary stalwarts. In 2014, ZEE JLF spread its wings beyond the borders of India with an annual event in May in London. In 2015, it headed across the pond to Boulder, Colorado where it hosts a similar event every September.

Website: [www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org](http://www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org)

**The ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival** is a flagship event of Teamwork Arts, which produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities globally, and is produced by Sanjoy K. Roy.

**Avid Learning**, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 750 programs and connected with more than 85,000 individuals since its inception in 2009. Driven by the belief that Learning Never Stops, AVID’s multiple formats like Workshops, Panel Discussions, Gallery Walkthroughs, and Festival Platforms create a dynamic and interactive atmosphere that stimulates intellectual and creative growth across the fields of Culture & Heritage, Literature, Art and Innovation. Facebook : [www.facebook.com/Avidlearning](http://www.facebook.com/Avidlearning); Twitter : [www.twitter.com/Avidlearning](http://www.twitter.com/Avidlearning); Instagram: @avidlearning

**The Royal Opera House, Mumbai** is widely touted as Mumbai’s Cultural Crown Jewel and India’s only surviving Opera House. The original idea for the space was conceived of in 1908, inaugurated in 1911 by King George V, and eventually completed in 1916. The design incorporated a blend of European and Indian detailing. The space became a cinema in later years before falling into disrepair and shutting by the 1990s. Fittingly, the space has been owned by the Royal Family of Gondal since 1952 and was eventually restored by conservation architect, Abha Narain Lambah under the leadership of the current Maharaja of Gondal, Shri Jyotendrasinhji. The Royal Opera House Mumbai, now one of the last remaining Baroque structures in the city, reopened after 23 years in October 2016. The building was included on the 2012

World Monuments Watch to raise awareness about its history and significance, and support preservation efforts. The building has since been recognized with an Award of Merit in the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The restored facilities feature a 574-seater 3-level auditorium with an orchestra pit and state of the art technological upgradations, including acoustics, stagecraft, lighting and air-conditioning, alongside retaining the old world charm of the proscenium stage, the royal boxes and the magnificent regal chandeliers. Some more enhancements to the venue include a motorized screen, co-axial ceiling speaker system, Four-zone volume control and all round wifi access. Today, it stands as a key performance and creative hub in the city's cultural landscape, while being a premier heritage landmark. Facebook: [www.facebook.com/royaloperahousemumbai/](https://www.facebook.com/royaloperahousemumbai/) Twitter: @MumbaiOpera Instagram: @mumbaiopera