

NATYA DHARA - The Resurgence of Regional Theatre at the Royal Opera House

Theatre has always been an inseparable part of Mumbai's rich cultural heritage. The city on its journey from Bombay to Mumbai has seen the evolution, growth, and steady relocation of the theatre industry from the south of Mumbai across the suburban parts. After a period of short slumber, the Southern region of Mumbai is once again ready to revive the beaming history of drama and relive theatrical performances.

For Immediate Release:

After the grand success of 'Natya Velhal', the first-ever Marathi Theatre Festival at the Royal Opera House, Mumbai, we are back with 'Natya Dhara- A Presentation of Regional Performative Art', a unique line-up of multilingual regional theatre performances from diverse genres once every month presented in collaboration with **Astitva, Avid Learning, Curated Classics, and Mumbai Theatre Guide.**

Over the years, Mumbai has seen a drastic shift in theatre patronage towards the suburban region, Natya Dhara is an initiative to bring back the charming era of theatre to 'Girgaum' on the stage of the Opera House. **Natya Dhara** envisions a long-term celebration of traditional, culturally rich, and modern dynamic theatre practices of Mumbai.

The **Royal Opera House** emerged as an inclusive cultural hub of the city since it reopened in 2016 and has been nurturing, supporting, and promoting not just visual and performing arts, but also a dynamic range of programs in design, literature, and other domains. It looks forward to hosting regional theatre with a wide range of technological upgrades, including acoustics, stagecraft, and lighting along with introducing the audience to the experience of grandeur old world charm of the proscenium stage, the royal boxes, lots of gilt, and the magnificent regal chandeliers.

We open our doors with a riveting lineup of performances in Hindi, Gujarati, and Marathi starring some of the most prominent artists from the theatre industry like **Atul Satya Koushik, Latika Jain, Hemangi Kavi, Girish Kulkarni, Ojas Rawal, Mehul Buch, Alpna Buch,** and many others.

The grand opening of the first day will showcase the 'Epic' stories from Ramayana with **Prem Ramayana - A Musical Dance Drama.** The next day houses **Janmavaari** - a unique blend of dance, music, and philosophical depiction, followed by a rendezvous with the only successfully running **Gujarati Dastaangoi** in the country and winding the day with the humorous script of **Ishara Ishara Ma.** The last day stages a psycho thriller story, **Whole Body Massage.**

The above-mentioned plays are brought forth by **Ravi Mishra** and **Bhavik Shah** from Curated Classics. Get ready to once again engross yourself in real-time captivating theatrical experiences, at Mumbai's most iconic theatre stage, the Royal Opera House.

Ashish Doshi, Honorary Director of the Royal Opera House, Mumbai, says, "The Royal Opera House has always promoted and supported a diverse range of performing arts and we aim to further encourage more regional artists. Mumbai has been a fan of watching and celebrating plays in multiple regional languages. After a great response to Natya Velhal, we are back to once again open hearts and doors of the Royal Opera House to a diverse new audience with Natya Dhara-A Presentation of Regional Performative Art."

Mr. Asad Lalljee, Curator of the Royal Opera House, Mumbai says, "Royal Opera House celebrated the passion of regional drama with new opportunities and a fresh approach this April with Natya Velhal. We received immense love and support from the audience as well as the theatre production houses who were extremely delighted to perform as a part of Natya Velhal. There has always been a lack of theatres in South Mumbai, so the Royal Opera House has decided to open its doors to more regional theatrical performances with a Natya Dhara, a monthly program representing regional performative art in various languages including Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati. We look forward to exploring and embracing a new direction in the field of regional performances on our stage."

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

When: 1st to 3rd Sept 2023 | 8.30 PM onwards

Tickets: www.insider.in

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