

AVID Online's next fascinating session will explore Shakespeare's influence on Indian Music, Performative and Poetry Traditions

For Immediate Release

"I have a reasonable good ear in music."

- William Shakespeare, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

The legendary playwright, William Shakespeare has always had a significant influence on various fields within the arts; and his literary and theatrical legacy is pervasive and evident even today – extending across and beyond several disciplines and geographies. Over the years, we have seen many contemporary adaptations of his works across the globe, but it is India that shares one of the most unique and complex associations with the iconic and prolific literary figure.

Bangalore Literature Festival and **Avid Learning** present **Sounds of Shakespeare**, an intriguing lecture presentation led by *Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of English at Ashoka University* **Jonathan Gil Harris** in which he will examine India's unique artistic relationship with William Shakespeare; his impact and influence on Indian art and culture – with a special focus on music and sound – and how his legacy continues to play a major role in contemporary times.

Please read on for more details:

'The Bard' – as he was commonly referred to – has left a special imprint on Indian arts and culture – most prominently in Bollywood and Indian Cinema. Acclaimed films such as *Angoor* (1982), *Maqbool* (2003), *Omkara* (2006) and *Haider* (2014) are among those whose plotlines have reimagined Shakespeare's plays, while strands of his inspirations can also be seen in many other blockbusters and regional performing arts traditions. Though it was colonialism that brought him to the subcontinent; Shakespeare has been utterly absorbed into the Indian imagination.

However, Shakespeare's influence does not just end there. His impact on Indian film and theatre has been well documented and accepted; but, beyond plotlines, narratives and characters, many are unaware about the other synergies – with respect to music, cadence, rhythm and sound – that Indian arts and culture have shared with Shakespeare's distinct styles and techniques.

Jonathan will look at the different ways in which Shakespeare has directly influenced leading personalities in Indian performing arts, while examining elements of his distinct style and creativity and identifying their prevalence in an Indian context. He will further draw an overarching parallel between Shakespeare's use of poetic devices and verse (e.g., the iambic Pentameter), and the use of music, lyrics and songs in Indian film – showcasing how there are common strands between their conceptual applications. Using case studies and examples, he will explore the different adaptations of Shakespeare's works in Indian performing arts and critically analyse its cross-disciplinary and future impact – in this respect.

Join us to further explore India's unique artistic and musical relationship with 'The Bard'!

When: Thursday 24th June 2021 | 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

RSVP: www.avidlearning.in

Press Email: Ayesha Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com




We all know about William Shakespeare's influence on Indian film and theatre. However, have you ever found traces of his inspiration in music and sound? Join us for an intriguing lecture presentation – led by *Professor of English at Ashoka University Jonathan Gil Harris* – which examines how Shakespeare uses the sounds and rhythms of words to generate powerful effects of character and emotion; how Indian film adaptations have responded to these acoustic dimensions of his plays in unexpected and interesting ways; and why the best Indian adaptations have been helmed by musicians.

#AVIDONLINE **LIVE**



Professor of English
at Ashoka University
Jonathan Gil Harris

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TIME: **6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (IST)**
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About the Speaker

Jonathan Gil Harris is a scholar, teacher and director of Shakespeare. He has written many books on Shakespeare, including Shakespeare and Literary Theory (Oxford University Press, 2010) and, most recently, Masala Shakespeare (Aleph Book Company, 2018). He is best known to Indian readers as the author of the best-selling The First Firangis (Aleph Book Company, 2014). Formerly the associate editor of Shakespeare Quarterly, Harris was also a trustee of the Shakespeare Association of America and President, from 2014 to 2018, of the Shakespeare Society of India. After immigrating to India to 2013, he became founding Dean of Academic Affairs at Ashoka University, where he is Professor of English.

Partner Information

Bangalore Literature Festival

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