

Mumbai Preview of the Jaipur Literature Festival 2020 at the Royal Opera House, Mumbai

For Immediate Release

The largest and greatest free litfest in the world returns to Royal Opera House to host its 2020 Mumbai Preview!

Please read below for more details:

Namita Gokhale, William Dalrymple, Sanjoy K. Roy, The Royal Opera House Mumbai and Avid Learning proudly present the **Mumbai Preview - Jaipur Literature Festival 2020**, an evening celebrating the spirit of Jaipur right here in Mumbai! The directors of this prestigious festival will give us a teaser of the various exciting programmes lined up for the main event in Jaipur in January 2020 and make compelling presentations on aspects related to their respective books. The evening will open with *Singer and Musician Harpreet Singh* singing a commemorative tribute to Jallianwala Bagh. His original compositions are inspired by the poetry of Hindi and Punjabi poets like Baba Bulleh Shah, Avatar Singh 'Pash' and Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'.

Jaipur Literature Festival Co-Director and Author Namita Gokhale will present a session on her new book **Jaipur Journals** - a wryly funny, pacey novel told from multiple perspectives, set against the backdrop of the vibrant multilingual Jaipur Literature Festival. Diverse stories of lost love and regret, self doubt and new beginnings come together in a narrative as varied as India itself.

Jaipur Literature Festival Co Director, Author and Historian William Dalrymple - will present a session on Art - **Forgotten Masters**. As the East India Company extended its sway across India in the late eighteenth century, many remarkable artworks were commissioned by Company officials from Indian painters who had previously worked for the Mughals. These hybrid paintings explore both the beauty of the Indian natural world and the social realities of the time, exhibiting astonishing brilliance and originality.

This year marks our seventh year collaborating with the Jaipur Literature Festival and is a continuation of our long-standing association with the festival. In keeping with our attempts to be more deeply involved in the arts and culture ecosystem in India, we believe it is imperative to show our support and partner with festival platforms that showcase a variety of disciplines ranging from music and literature to the visual arts, design and heritage. AVID partners with several major Pan-India festivals such as JLF.

AVID shares sister concerns and passions for the future trajectory of literature with the festival. **Asad Lalljee, SVP, Essar Group, CEO of Avid Learning and Curator, Royal Opera House Mumbai** says, "AVID has long admired and supported the festival's uncompromising vision to serve as a democratic, non-aligned platform offering free and fair access to the finest literary minds here in India and finds synergy with its aims to make literature inclusive, educational and accessible whilst maintaining rigour and depth. We are honoured to continue our annual tradition to host this iconic festival's Mumbai curtain raiser, which we have done for a few years now and present panel discussions at the main event in Jaipur."

The Royal Opera House, Mumbai provides a unique platform in the city for people to encounter the breadth of the performing and visual arts and has become a preferred venue within the festival circuit. To truly be a cultural hub, means to work closely with Festival Platforms. This will be the third year that we lend our stage to this iconic festival, having also hosted curtain raisers, cultural events and day-long activities for other major festivals. We are also delighted to announce that for the first time, the Royal Opera House will be extending its encouragement beyond the stage by presenting a panel in Jaipur as well.

Maharanisaheba Kumudkumariji of Gondal says, "We are happy to collaborate with this global literary phenomenon that is the Jaipur Literature Festival! The Gondals have a long legacy of supporting education and further learning through our schools and programs and we are glad that the Opera House can help further this agenda in Mumbai by supporting programs such as these to create further awareness of books, literature and reading."

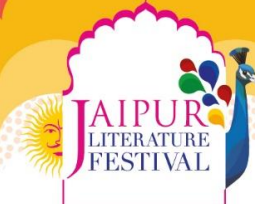
Where: Royal Opera House, Mama Parmanand Marg, Mumbai - 400 004

When: Tuesday, 10th December 2019 | 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM - Registration | 7:30 PM onwards – Session

RSVP: www.avidlearning.in

Press Email / Call: Ayesha Dadachanji on ayeshah.avid@gmail.com / +91 9820155297

PREVIEW
MUMBAI


JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Namita Gokhale, William Dalrymple, Sanjoy K. Roy
&
Citibank
with
Royal Opera House, Mumbai
invite you to the preview of






◆ **Jaipur Literature Festival 2020** ◆

on
10th DEC 2019, 7.00PM
at
The Royal Opera House
MAMA PARMANAND MARG, MUMBAI





Evening includes:
An exclusive JLF 2020 sneak peek and highlights by **Festival Directors**
Performance by Singer and Musician **Harpreet Singh**
Namita Gokhale will present a session on her new book, **Jaipur Journals**
William Dalrymple will present a session on Art, **Forgotten Masters**

RSVP: _____
www.avidlearning.in

visit www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org
For Free Registration and Festival Delegate Packages

#JaipurLitFest2020

 @avidlearning  /avidlearning  @avidlearning  /avidlearning

About the Speakers

Namita Gokhale is a writer, publisher and festival director. She is the author of 16 works of fiction and non-fiction. Her acclaimed debut novel, *Paro: Dreams of Passion*, was published in 1984. The recent *Things to Leave Behind*, the third in her Himalayan trilogy, has been described as her most ambitious novel yet. Other books include, *A Himalayan Love Story*, *The Book of Shadows*, *Shakuntala: the Play of Memory*, *The Book of Shiva*, *In Search of Sita* and the edited anthology *Himalaya*. Her latest work of fiction, *Lost in*

Time, Ghatotkacha and the Game of Illusions, is a novel for young readers. The Himalayan Arc – East of South East, an anthology of writings on the eastern Himalayas, will be released in January 2018. She is also one of the founder directors of Yatra Books, a publishing house specialising in translation. Gokhale is a founder and co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival and Mountain Echoes, the Bhutan Literature Festival and director of Yatra Books, a publishing house specialising in translation.

William Dalrymple is the bestselling author of *In Xanadu*, *City of Djinn*s, *From the Holy Mountain*, *Age of Kali*, *White Mughals*, *The Last Mughal*, *Nine Lives*, *Return of a King* and *Kohinoor*. He has won many awards, including the Wolfson Prize for History, the Hemingway, the Kapuscinski, the Thomas Cook, the Duff Cooper Memorial Prize, and has, prior to the shortlisting of *Return of a King*, been longlisted four times for the Samuel Johnson /Baillie Gifford Prize. He has also been awarded the prestigious President's Medal by the British Academy. His new books are *The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company* and *Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company*. Dalrymple is one of the founders and a co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival.

Sanjoy K. Roy, an entrepreneur of the arts, is Managing Director of Teamwork Arts, which produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals in multiple cities across the globe, including the world's largest free literary gathering — the iconic annual Jaipur Literature Festival. Roy is a founder-trustee of Salaam Baalak Trust working to provide services for and rehabilitate street and working children in Delhi. Roy works closely with various industry bodies on policy issues within the cultural space in India and is Co-chair of the Art and Culture Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICC), President of the Event and Entertainment Management Association (EEMA) and part of the Earth Day Network's official Global Advisory Committee for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020.

About the Musician

Harpreet Singh is a versatile artiste, who sings original musical compositions in Hindi, as well as, in regional Indian languages and dialects such as Punjabi, Bengali, Assamese, Rajasthani and Haryanvi. He is known for his rich sonorous voice and a vivid, light classical style of singing. His creative talent fuses both the modern and traditional when he composes tunes to his own lyrics and to classical poetry that he loves. With a powerful stage presence, he is best known for creating musical scores for epic works of humanist poets like Kabir and Bulleh Shah. Credited for taking celebrated poets to the masses, Harpreet has also composed popular tunes to words of poets such as Pash (Avtar Singh Sandhu), Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Nirala (Suryakant Tripathi). His rhythmic blend of soulful poetry to the pulsating sounds of guitar and percussion are at once unique and innovative, familiar and foreign. On his musical journey with poetry, he has delivered a TEDx talk in Jaipur in 2016. He has also composed lyrics for films.

About Partners

Described as the 'greatest literary show on Earth', the **Jaipur Literature Festival** is a sumptuous feast of ideas. The past decade has seen it transform into a global literary phenomenon having hosted nearly 2000 speakers and welcoming over a million book lovers from across India and the globe. Our core values remain unchanged: to serve as a democratic, non-aligned platform offering free and fair access. Every year, the Festival brings together a diverse mix of the world's greatest writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers on one stage to champion the freedom to express and engage in thoughtful debate and dialogue. Writers and Festival Directors Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple, alongside producer Teamwork Arts, invite speakers to take part in the five-day programme set against the backdrop of Rajasthan's stunning cultural heritage and the Diggi Palace in the state capital Jaipur. Past speakers have ranged from Nobel Laureates J.M. Coetzee, Orhan Pamuk and Muhammad Yunus, Man Booker Prize winners Ben Okri, Margaret Atwood and Paul Beatty, Sahitya Akademi winners Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, M.T. Vasudevan Nair as well as the late Girish Karnad, Mahasweta Devi and U.R. Ananthamurthy along with literary superstars including Amish Tripathi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Vikram Seth. An annual event that goes beyond literature, the Festival has also hosted Amartya Sen, Amitabh Bachchan, the late A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Oprah Winfrey, Stephen Fry, Thomas Piketty and former president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai. The 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.

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 His Highness, Maharaja Shri Jyotendrasinhji of Gondal. 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 575-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:* MumbaiOpera *Twitter:* @MumbaiOpera *Instagram:* @mumbaiopera

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 1150 programs and connected with more than 140,000 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; Twitter : www.twitter.com/Avidlearning; Instagram: @avidlearning

