

An Evening of Art, Performances and Readings celebrating the launch of Chandrahas Choudhury's new book with a special appearance by **Naseeruddin Shah**

For Immediate Release

Simon and Schuster, Literature Live! , Royal Opera House, Mumbai and Avid Learning invite you to celebrate the release of Clouds by Novelist **Chandrahas Choudhury** with an evening of readings and music.

Clouds is, in the author's own words, "a double-sided story about man and woman, earth and sky, city and village, the present moment and the deep Indian past, Clouds is a grand vision of Indian life today." Being a quintessentially Bombay novel and having a quintessentially Bombay protagonist, this is a story which every mumbaikar is sure to relate to.

Actor Naseeruddin Shah will launch the book and give a set of readings from the book and Vocalist Himali Vyas will perform a set of Gujarati songs about clouds and rain. Vocalist **Geetu Unplugged** will also perform contemporary folk music based on the theme.

Attendees will be in for a visual treat with a cloud-themed pop-up art exhibition featuring installation, sculpture and paintings on display at the venue brought in collaboration with Sakshi Gallery.

Read on for an exclusive excerpt from the book by clicking on the link below:

<https://granta.com/honk-honk-to-udvada/>

Do not miss this evening of literary anecdotes, musical interludes and artistic musings celebrating Mumbai.

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

When: Tuesday, 13th February 2018; 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM - Registration and Refreshments | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM – Reading and Performance

RSVP: www.avidlearning.com/ avidlearning@essarservices.co.in / +919769937710; prior registration required

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

About the Author:

Chandrahas Choudhury is the author of the novel Clouds, published in January 2018 by Simon & Schuster. His first novel, Arzee the Dwarf, was published by HarperCollins, shortlisted for the Commonwealth First Book Prize, translated into German and Spanish, and chosen by World Literature Today in 2010 as one of "60 Essential Works of Modern Indian Literature in English". He was a visiting fellow at the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa in 2010. He is also the editor of a short introduction to the pleasures of Indian literature called India: A Traveler's Literary Companion.

About the Performers:

Naseeruddin Shah One of India's best-known actors, Naseeruddin Shah has worked extensively in theatre and cinema in a variety of memorable roles for over four decades. He was a prominent face of India's "New Age" cinema in the 1970s with his powerful roles in Shyam Benegal's Nishant, Bhumika and Manthan, and also won wide acclaim for comic part in Kundan Shah's Janne Bhi Do Yaaro and his lead character in the Doordarshan TV series "Mirza Ghalib". He appeared in the title role of "Cyrano" at the National Theatre in 1985, and recently at

the Young Vic in Peter Brook's "Hamlet." He is the winner of two National Awards, three Filmfare Awards, the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan. He also runs his own theatre company, "Motley".

Himali Vyas Hailing from a family with a strong background in arts and academics, Himali inherits music from both her parents. She started getting trained in Indian classical vocal at the tender age of 4. Himali is a Sangeet Visharad and is also trained in Pop and Rock styles of singing from Trinity College, London. She has several state and national level awards to her name. Her music has been release by labels such as Universal, Sony, Times music and on popular TV channels like MTV.

She has performed semi-classical, regional, folk and Bollywood music all over the world and majorly in India, USA and the Middle East.

Geetu Hinduja is a Mumbai based Contemporary Folk Singer-songwriter, whose stage name is Geetu Unplugged. She has released three albums: Dancing Free, in 1993, Hope Faith Time & Me, in 2012 and It's About Time in 2016. Geetu has performed solo as well as with accompanists from varied musical backgrounds. Her performances include appearances at the prestigious Kala Ghoda Festival in Mumbai, Jadhavgad Music Festival, 18 Degrees Festival - Shillong, Performing live for Anita Dongre at LFW 2014 - Mumbai, Celebrate Bandra Festival, and the International Aids Conference in Mumbai, The Blue Frog - Mumbai, TLR Café - Delhi, Max Mueller Bhavan for the Pune Jazz Club, the NGMA - Mumbai, the Jaipur literature Festival 2014 & 2017, The Piano Man & Depot 29 & Depot 48 in Delhi, concerts in Amsterdam, Netherlands & more recently at the Holistic Yoga Festival in Manchester, UK in June 2017. She is currently working on new material as she continues to perform.

About Partners:

Simon and Schuster a part of CBS Corporation, is a global leader in the field of general interest publishing, dedicated to providing the best in fiction and nonfiction for consumers of all ages, across all printed, electronic, and audio formats. Its divisions include Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, Simon & Schuster Audio, Simon & Schuster Digital, with international companies in Australia, Canada, India and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit our website at www.simonandschuster.co.in Literature Live! is dedicated to celebrating the written word in all its glorious forms. From book launches, thought-provoking talks, literary evenings and author interactions to performances, book swaps, fiction and haiku contests, it offers Mumbai a chance to participate in the many joys of literature.

Sakshi Gallery is one of the premier galleries of India. It has over the last 30 years, endeavored to develop a strong program, working closely with important Indian and international artists as well as introducing many emerging ones. It has held exhibitions of Indian art all over the world and has introduced to the Indian audience work of illustrious international artists such as El Anatsui, Gregory Crewdson and Julian Opie.

Avid Learning, a public programming platform and cultural arm of the Essar Group, has conducted over 800 programs and connected with more than 95,000 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.

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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/ Twitter: @MumbaiOpera Instagram: @mumbaiopera