



MEDIA RELEASE

Shared History 2015 –The Indian Experience in South Africa

Leading Indian performance arts company Teamwork Arts, in collaboration with the High Commission of India in South Africa, is proud to present the ninth edition of the annual festival Shared History, The Indian Experience in South Africa, from September 7 - 25, 2015.

Shared History, begun in 2007, is now a regular feature on the South African cultural scene. This festival of Music, Dance, Theatre, Comedy and Exhibitions showcases the best of contemporary arts and culture from India and South Africa, and explores the shared artistic bond and cultural history of the two countries and their recent pasts.

The hallmark of the festival is its focus on events that offer South Africans the magic and allure of India.

The festival opens with the **Food festival** at the Classic India Restaurant in Fourways from September 7 to 14. Chefs from India will provide the titillating gastronomical experience of Indian street food. The Musical *must-see* of the Festival is the unique collective of Rajasthani folk musicians highlighting **Kutle Khan**, a multi-talented world musician; in the Theatre slot is **C Sharp C Blunt** a play that looks at traditional gender roles as engrained by culture and classical performance training versus the woman as the globalised consumer living in a new market that caters to her every want and need; and to bring in a lighter mood there is **Papa CJ**, an established international comedian and **Simmi Areff**, the local comedian who spent a year undercover as a Wits Journalism student. Dance is represented by one of the foremost dance companies of India, **The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble**. Also on offer are a **Wellness Workshop: Yoga** and **Sand Sculpting** on Durban's beach. The festival closes with the **Photo Exhibition**, *Memory against Forgetting* - a solo collection that chronicles the work of photojournalist, Ranjith Kally on September 25.

The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble, regarded as one of the foremost dance companies of India, takes to the stage at the Wits Theatre, Braamfontein on September 10 and 11 and then moves to The Playhouse Company, Durban on September 13 and 14.

This highly sought-after Ensemble has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, from New York to Hawaii in the US and in Denmark, Holland, Portugal, the Middle-east, Singapore and Japan. Nrityagram blends Odissi, a classical Indian dance, with contemporary concepts to transport viewers to enchanted worlds. *Odissi* is characterised by sensuousness and lyricism and with movements that reflect the motifs of Orissa temple sculpture, it captures drum rhythms, melodies, as well as the poetic meaning of songs taken from the vast canon of Oriya music.

At The Playhouse Company Theatre, Durban on September 10 and 11, is the latest offering by Germany's Flintheater **C Sharp C Blunt**, the Indo-German collaboration that explores the realms of digital dramaturgy, repetition and user choices to create a new, hybrid form of theatre-meets-performance art. This one-woman show is a witty, humorous and satirical interrogation of what it is like being a woman in the entertainment industry today. *C Sharp C Blunt* will have one performance in Johannesburg at the Auto & General Theatre on the Square on September 14.

Shared History's Comedy offering, featuring the established, international comedian Papa CJ and local comedian Simmi Areff, will have a performance at the Suncoast Supernova Cinema, Durban on

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September 12 and at the Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City, on September 13. Papa CJ, widely recognised as the global face of cutting-edge Indian stand-up comedy will present his show *Naked* again at GIBS on September 15.

On September 12, **Sudarsan Pattnaik**, a world renowned Indian Sand Artist from Orissa will be down at the beach in Durban starting at 10:30 throughout the day, sand sculpting. Pattnaik started sculpting images on sand at the age of seven and has since designed hundreds of sand sculptures and won many national and international awards for his creative designs. His sand sculpture on 'Black Taj Mahal' earned him world-wide accolades. He has represented India at 50 international Sand Sculpture championships, of which he won 27. Most recently he was awarded the Padma Shri.

The Kutle Khan Project, is a unique collective of world musicians. Kutle Khan is a multi-talented world musician who has performed on various stages across the world. His music is as seductive as it is rhythmically complex. The Kutle Khan Project features Kutle Khan as singer, multi instrumentalist and artistic director, Champe Khan on the harmonium and vocal Sarangi player, Dayam Khan with the Khartal, Gafur Khan playing the Bhapang and Morchang, Roshan Khan with the Tabla and Dholak and Laxmi Sapera as a Sufi dancer.

The Kutle Khan Project will have one performance in Johannesburg on September 13 at the Lyric Auditorium, Gold Reef City at 15:00.

The Food festival will run from September 7-14 at the Classic India Restaurant, Fourways, Johannesburg. In India, street food is legion and savoured by locals and overseas friends and visitors with equal gusto. Specialised chefs from India will provide the perfect gastronomical experience of Indian street food with carefully selected items that will reveal the diverse range of culinary delights from the delectable array of dishes that are available at roadside cafes, street corners, alleys and lanes in every village and city across the country.

Bringing the festival to a close on September 25 is the **Photo Exhibition, *Memory against Forgetting*** - a solo collection that chronicles the work of photojournalist, Ranjith Kally at GIBS University, Johannesburg. Kally, one of the most prolific and important photojournalists on South Africa's recent past, gives a first-hand, on the ground perspective of a country in upheaval and a society divided between the favoured and the dispossessed. This thoughtfully curated collection of images by the writer Kalim Rajab, highlights the unique contribution this artist has made to the understanding of the tensions of our past as South Africans.

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Bookings:

The Playhouse Company, Wits Theatre & The Lyric, Gold Reef City - Computicket 0861 915 8000 / www.computicket.com

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Supernova Suncoast Cinema – www.cinecentre.co.za or call our callcentre on 0861246300

Theatre on the Square - Strictly Tickets - 082 553 5901 or online at www.ticket.co.za or call the theatre's box office: 011 883 8606.

For more information please visit www.sharedhistory.co.in

Twitter handle: @SharedHistorySA

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For media accreditation, interviews, images and queries, please contact Di Sparks at 011 640 1500 / 073 208 8483 or Jacques Verster and Nicole Karsten at 011 996 2833 / 083 276 9009.

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Notes for Editors:

The High Commission of India in South Africa prides itself on promoting and propagating Indian culture and building relations between India and rest of the world. By hosting this exhibition it hopes to provide an avenue for dialogue between India and South Africa.

Teamwork Arts - For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India. Each year, Teamwork produces 26 annual festivals in 30 cities across 12 different countries, including UK, USA, Canada, Egypt, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea, South Africa & Spain. Teamwork produces one of the world's largest literary gatherings, the annual Jaipur Literature Festival. Its musical extravaganza, Bollywood Love Story - A Musical, continues to tour the world and has had sold out shows in Austria, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland. Its international festivals in India have included the Festival of France in India, Bonjour India - with more than 200 events across 18 cities in India and featuring over 250 artists, designers, researchers and entrepreneurs and the OZ fest - a festival of Australia in India. www.teamworkarts.com

Schedule: Shared History 2015 7 - 25 September

07 September - Food Festival, The Classic India Restaurant, Jhb

08 September - Food Festival, The Classic India Restaurant, Jhb

09 September - Food Festival, The Classic India Restaurant, Jhb

10 September

Theatre - C Sharp C Blunt, The Playhouse Company, **Durban** - 19:00

Dance – Nrityagram, Wits Theatre, Jhb - 20:00

Food Festival, The Classic India Restaurant, Jhb

11 September

Theatre - C Sharp C Blunt, The Playhouse Company, **Durban** - 19:00

Dance – Nrityagram, Wits Theatre, Jhb - 20:00

Food Festival, The Classic India Restaurant, Jhb

12 September

Yoga - Consul General's Residence (by invitation) Jhb

Sand Sculpting - Sudarsan Pattnaik Durban Beach, **Durban** - 10:30 onward

Comedy - Papa CJ - *Naked* + Simmi Areff, Supernova Sun Coast Cinema, **Durban** - 19:00

Food Festival, The Classic India Restaurant, Jhb

13 September

Music - The Kutle Khan Project, Lyric Auditorium, Jhb – 15:00

Comedy - Papa CJ - *Naked* + Simmi Areff, Lyric Auditorium, Jhb – 18:30

Dance – Nrityagram, The Playhouse Company, **Durban** - 19:00

Food Festival, The Classic India Restaurant, Jhb

14 September

Dance – Nrityagram, The Playhouse Company, **Durban** - 19:00

Theatre - C Sharp C Blunt, Theatre on the Square, Jhb - 18:30

Food Festival – The Classic India Restaurant, Jhb

15 September - Comedy - Papa CJ - *Naked*, GIBS Business School, Jhb – 18:30

25 September - Photo Exhibition - *Memory against forgetting* – GIBS, Jhb

*Schedule/time is subject to change. Please log on to www.sharedhistory.in for more information and updates.

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