# Welcome Zindagi

**THE PLAY**

Welcome Zindagi examines the relationship between a Mumbai family- a father, son, and mother. An ordinary head clerk, Arun Ganatra, is on the verge of retirement. His wife, Bhanu Ganatra, is a simple but sensible woman. Their son, Vivek Ganatra, has recently completed his Masters in Business Administration. At the heart of the story is the father-son relationship. While secretly caring for each other, they have different mindsets that prevent them from communicating. The play delves into the complex emotions and psychological interplay that prevents people from accepting another's point of view. In all of this the mother is the bridging factor, doing her best to set things right. She is also a tongue-in-cheek Sutradhar (narrator) with the keenest sense of humor.

**Director’s Note**

Welcome Zindagi is written by Saumya Joshi, a successful young playwright from Gujarat. I believe that theatre enthusiasts typically watch original Hindi plays and, translations and adaptations of western plays. Unfortunately, regional plays are no longer being translated into Hindi and tend to not get the recognition they deserve. The 1970’s-80’s were a time when Indian theatre was introduced to many plays written in regional languages and translated or adapted into Hindi. These plays enriched the theater scene and I feel it is time we reintroduced translations and adaptations from regional languages. Welcome Zindagi is my attempt at this goal.

**The Director**

Suresh Bhardwaj graduated from National School of Drama in 1980. He recently retired as Professor of Theatre Lighting from National School of Drama. He is the former Technical Director of Rangmandal, Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal. He is the founder member of Sambhav- a theatre group of Delhi. Along with theater he has also worked in films and television. He created and directed popular programmes like Aap Ki Adalat and Lekhu. He has conducted a number of theatre workshops throughout the country and abroad. He served as a member of the International Jury for UNESCO's meet of World Drama School in Sinaia. His major theatre productions includ Adhe Adhure, Prem Samvaad, and Chatushkon. He is recipient of prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Rosco (UK) award of Chaman Lal Memorial Society.

**The Playwright**

Saumya Joshi is a Gujarati poet, writer, playwright, director and actor. Joshi founded the Fade-In Theatre in 2010 and in September 2011 quit his job to pursue the theatre full-time. He is best known for his plays Welcome Zindagi, 102 Not Out and Dost Chokkas Ahin Ek Nagar Vastu Hatu, a musical black comedy based on the 2002 Gujarat Riots. In 2013 he was awarded the Chandravadan Chimanlal Mehta Award for his contributions to Gujarati theatre. He has also received the Yuva Gaurav Puraskar (2007), the Takhtasin Parmer

Prize (2008- 09), the Ravji Patel Award, the Balvantray Thakor Prize and the Sadbhavna Award (2014).

**The Translator**

Rahil Bhardwaj did his graduation in theatre from M. S. University, Baroda and got his PG diploma from National School of Drama in 2016 with specialization in Acting.

**The Group**

Akar Kala Sangam (AKS) is a group of artists interested in innovative drama. Many of them have studied at institutes like NSD, Bhartendu Natya Akademi, and Shri Ram Center. AKS participates in many workshops to keep its members up to date with different styles of contemporary theatre. Their artists also get an opportunity to work with global pioneers and leading theatre experts.

AKS has participated in Bharat Rang Mahotsav (2002 and 2003) with their productions Prem Samvaad and Saari Raat. Aur Agle Saal performed in 2004 was viewed as one of the best plays in Delhi and included in the Bhartendu Natya Mahotsav of Sahitya Kala Parishad. AKS has an extensive repertoire, which it performs throughout the country.

**Cast & Credits**

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| Arun Ganatra | Ramesh Manchanda |
| Bhanu Ganatra | Anju Jaitley |
| Vivek Ganatra | Rahil Bhardwaj |
| Lights | Kiran Kumar Sharma |
| Set Execution | Ram Pratap |
| Music | Suman Vaidya |
| Photography | S. Thyagrajan |
| Video Recording | Sahil Bhardwaj |
| Costume and Properties | Veena Sharma |

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| Make-Up | Ramesh Manchanda, Anju Jaitley & Rahil |
| Poster and Brochure | Rahil Bhardwaj |
| Asst. Director | Suman Vaidya |
| Playwright | Saumya Joshi |
| Translator | Rahil Bhardwaj |
| Design & Direction | Suresh Bhardwaj |