

Natsamrat Theatre Festival spreads its wings to Mumbai

By **Shraboni Saha**

After establishing itself in Delhi, Natsamrat is now steadily making a mark in Mumbai as well. It successfully organised the 3rd Mumbai Theater Festival for Maharashtra audience



Natsamrat brought the Kumbh of plays for Mumbaikars i.e. 3rd Mumbai Theater Festival where five different plays were staged on May 26, 27 and 28 at Creative Adda Auditorium, Versova, Andheri West, Mumbai.

On May 26, at 6:30 pm, the play Napunsak, written by Manjul Bhardwaj, was staged and at 8:00 pm, the play Teen Bandar, written by Prabuddha Joshi, directed by Nagendra Kumar Sharma, both plays were staged.

The play Aadhi Raat ke Baad which was written by Dr. Shankar Shesh was staged on 27th May at 6:30 pm and the play Chukayenge Nahi, written by Dario-Fo and adapted by Amitabh Srivastava was staged at 8:00 pm and both the plays are directed by Chandrashekhar Sharma.

On May 28, at 7:30 pm, the play Kambakkht Ishq written by Satya Prakash was staged and the play is directed by Shyam Kumar, director of Natsamrat.

Artists from Delhi, Ambala, Mumbai presented the five different plays at the theater in Mumbai. In these plays, there was humor, adventure as well as social messages for the audience. Seeing the audience of Mumbai, it seemed as if they had a lot of love for theatre, that's why the entire auditorium was packed on all three days. Natsamrat director Shyam Kumar says that if anyone wants to give something to the society, it can be done through drama and the audience definitely pays attention to it because it does not give stress to the mind, instead it gives a beautiful message through entertainment.

**16th Natsamrat Natya Utsav
opens in the Capital 6th**

March '19

16th Natsamrat Natya Utsav

6th to 10th MARCH, 2019
10 Different Plays (In Hindi)

Waiting for Godot
Translation - Krishna Baidya Tripathi
Writer - Samuel Beckett
Director - Mukh Tripathi
Group - Parvati Theatre Society, Delhi
On 06 March, 2019, At 6.30 pm

Beomar
Writer - Saikat Meena Maroti
Director - Pritika
Group - Aakash Theatre Society
On 06 March, 2019, At 8 pm

Chamkaur Ki Garhi
Writer - Dr. Harshman Singh
Director - Harpreet Singh Sidhu
Group - Honey Bee, Patna
On 07 March, 2019, At 6.30 pm

Djinns of Eidgah
Writer - Ashoka Majumdar
Director - Ashfaq
Group - Ashoka, St. Luthero College
On 07 March, 2019, At 8 pm

Salyan Bhaye Kotwal
Writer - Usman Sabir
Director - Ganesh Bharti
Group - Muli A1 Cultural Centre, Kurukshetra
On 08 March, 2019, At 6.30 pm

Chetna
Writer - Tejas
Director - Tejas
Group - Mithun, BSR Aurbindo College (Morning)
On 08 March, 2019, At 8 pm

Gorakhchandha
Writer - Jayvardhan
Director - J.P. Singh
Group - Sangam, Delhi
On 09 March, 2019, At 6.30 pm

The Shadow Box
Writer - Michael Crichton
Director - Chetan Kumar
Group - Nymex, Strand College
On 09 March, 2019, At 8 pm

Sandhya Chhaya
Writer - Jayvardhan
Director - Surabhi Sharma
Group - Theatre for Theatre, Chandigarh
On 10th March, 2019, At 6.30 pm

Einstein
Writer - Mahan Mahapatra
Director - Abhishek
Group - Rangrang, KRSD College
On 10th March, 2019, At 8 pm

Venue:
Mukachara Auditorium
18 -19, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, Gole Market, ND-01

For More Details
www.natsamratdelhi.com, M: 9811232072
E-mail: shyamkumar1979@yahoo.co.in, shyamkr7@gmail.com

Entry Free

Natsamrat is one of Delhi's oldest and most consistent theatre groups. Since its inception in 1998, Natsamrat has presented 1265 shows of 35 renowned plays. Aably led by Actor, Director and Visionary Shyam Kumar, whose philosophy has really been not only to evolve his own group but also to create space for all other theatre groups which are battling heavy odds to survive in theatre. Thus 16 years ago, when Natsamrat was barely four years old, he started the **Natsamrat Natya Utsav** so that other theatre groups also get a platform to perform. Three years ago, again Natsamrat widened its landscape by starting a Natsamrat Mahavidyalaya Natya Utsav, a student theatre festival, providing a parallel platform for the upcoming theatre generation to evolve and grow. Thus despite limited resources such a grand festival has evolved and grown. Natsamrat theatre festival thus begins with a bang on 6th March 2019 at 6.30 pm with the first performance of **Waiting for Godot**. The schedule is given above and the synopsis of the plays are given below.

On 9th March, at the same venue, Natsamrat will award the Thespians who have been supporting Theatre as Practitioners, on Stage, off stage and as promoters and critics. Read more about elsewhere

1. **WAITING FOR GODOT**

Translation by Krishna Baldev, Witten by Samuel Beckett and
Directed by Mohit Tripathi
On 6th March, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.



The plot of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* is simple to relate. Two men, Vladimir and Estragon, meet near a tree. They converse on various topics and reveal that they are waiting there for a man named Godot. While they wait, two other men enter. Pozzo is on his way to the market to sell his slave, Lucky. He pauses for a while to converse with Vladimir and Estragon. Lucky entertains them by dancing and thinking, and Pozzo and Lucky leave. After Pozzo and Lucky leave, a boy enters and tells Vladimir that he is a messenger from Godot. He tells Vladimir that Godot will not be coming tonight, but that he will surely come tomorrow. Vladimir asks him some questions about Godot and the boy departs. After his departure, Vladimir and Estragon decide to leave, but they do not move as the curtain falls. The next night, Vladimir and Estragon again meet near the tree to wait for Godot. Lucky and Pozzo enter again, but this time Pozzo is blind and Lucky is dumb. Pozzo does not remember meeting the two men the night before. They leave and Vladimir and Estragon continue to wait. Shortly after, the boy enters and once again tells Vladimir that Godot will not be coming. He insists that he did not speak to Vladimir yesterday. After he leaves, Estragon and Vladimir decide to leave, but again they do not move as the curtain falls, ending the play.

2. **CHAMKOUR KI GARHI**

Wriiten by Dr. Harcharan Singh and Directed by Harjeet Singh

Sidhu

On 7th March, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.



'Chamkour di Gadi'

play Regarded as one of the most important battle of the Sikh history. It was against the Mughal army led by Nahar Khan; the Muslim commander was killed, while on Sikh side the remaining two elder sons of the Guru – Ajit Singh and Jujhar Singh, along with other Sikh soldiers were killed in this battle.

3. SAIYAN BHAYE KOTWAL

Wriiten by Vasant Sabnis and Directed by Sanjay Bhasin

On 8th March, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.



Saiyan Bhaye Kotwal is a translation of famous Marathi folk play Vichha Majhi Puri Kara, which was written by Vasant Sabnis. The story of the play is focused on the king and his scheming prime minister. As per the hierarchy, the present Havaladar have to be promoted to that post. However, the wronged Havaladar and hi girl Mainavati, a dancer, plans to

frame the new Kotwal. The play is based on traditional tamasha and is a slapstick comedy which brings out the political undercurrents of nepotism.

4. GORAKHDHANDHA

Written by Jayvardhan and Directed by J.P.Singh

On 9th March, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.



When money becomes the be all and end all of one's existence, when money becomes one's religion then all relations, all ethics and morals are rendered meaningless. When one's sole aim is to accumulate wealth then the person's conniving mind keeps on scheming towards that end. There are some people who are adept at extracting something out of nothing. The protagonist of this play is such a character who will resort to any means to hoodwink people out of their money. While seemingly he is being helpful and charitable towards others, however, all he is doing is helping himself in the guise of helping others. He believes that there is a certain honesty to his dishonesty. In his games of deceit, he is forced to tell lies after lies till in the end he is so caught up in his web of untruths that he is neither able to give up nor get out. Gorakhdhandha is a fictional play based on true stories. Its dialogues and anecdotes don't just tickle our funny bone but rather force us to break out into bouts of laughter.

5. SANDHYA CHHAYA

Written by Jaywant Dalvi and Directed by Sudesh Sharma

On 10th March, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.



Sandhya Chhaya is a story about an old couple, an aged couple who spent their lives in the upbringing of their children and they are the ones who live alone and long for the love, affection and togetherness of their children. It is a story about a man and woman fondly called Nana, Nani respectively and it deals with the emotional turmoil the parents have to go through. In spite of having being deprived of love from their children, they still have the courage to fight the melancholy and pathos of their lives. They support and love each other and as the play unfolds, the audience also falls in love with them. Older people who are not so useful in today's materialistic age bear the brunt of the changing values. They get lonelier and lonelier. This play is entertaining and simultaneously it tells us about old age and Loneliness. It is a great play, which can be very easily called a classic of Modern times. They have two sons, Deenu (the elder one) and Nandu (the younger one). Deenu is settled in USA and Nandi is in the Air Force. Deenu very rarely comes to meet his parents. He just sends money at regular intervals, meanwhile as the play progresses, they get to know that Nandu has been killed in the war. The whole play revolves on the nuclear families' concept where in the parents are left alone and their children are settled somewhere else. The whole play is poignant collective mixture of emotions portrayed by an old couple, be it happiness, loneliness, love for kids, their childhood etc. On the whole, the play stresses on the fact and asks the society a very straightforward question that parents who have been there for us the whole life, do they deserve such a lonely old age? Do they really?

3rd Mahavidyala Natya Utsav

1. BEEMAR

Wriiten by Saadat Hassan Manto and Directed by Prince
On 6th March, 2019 at 8 p.m.

2. DJINNS OF EIDGAH

Wriiten by Abhishek Majumdar and Directed by Aadhar
On 7th March, 2019 at 8 p.m.

3. CHETNA

Wriiten and Directed by Team
On 8th March, 2019 at 8 p.m.

4. THE SHADOW BOX

Wriiten by Michael Christopher and Directed by Chandan Kumar
On 9th March, 2019 at 8 p.m.

5. EINSTEIN

Wriiten by Mohan Maharishi and Directed by Abdus Ansari
On 10th March, 2019 at 8 p.m.

**11th Natsamrat Awards,
Stagebuzz Editor Manohar
Khushalani and Theatre
Director Feisal Alkazi
honoured amongst others**



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On 9th March, at the same venue, Natsamrat will award the Thespians who have been supporting Theatre as Practitioners, on stage, off stage and as promoters and critics. The awards have been well established as these were started 11 years ago. This is the 11th edition of Natsamrat Theatre awards and are looked forward to as an acknowledgement to decades of creative efforts put into Theatre. The Awardees this year are:

11th Natsamrat Theatre Award (2019)

1. Best Director – K. Madavane
2. Best Actor – Mohit Tripathi
3. Best Actress – Mona Chawla
4. Best Writer – Danias Iqbal
5. Best Critic – Prof. Manohar Khushalani
6. Best in Back-Stage – Himanshu B. Joshi

7. Lifetime Achievement Award – Feisal Alkazi
8. Best Theatre Promoter – Lalit Jaiswal

Awardees in all previous years starting from the first are listed below

1st Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Director – Lokendra Trivedi
2. Best Actor – Banwari Taneja
3. Best Actress – Suchitra Gupta
4. Best Writer – Dr. Narendra Mohan
5. Best Critic – Kavita Nagpal
6. Best in Back-Stage – Harish Kholia
7. Lifetime Achievement Award- Mohini Mathur

2nd Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Director – Shekhar Vaishnavi
2. Best Actor – Govind Pandey
3. Best Actress – Harvinder Kaur
4. Best Writer – Rameshwar Prem
5. Best Critic – Jaidev Taneja
6. Best in Back-Stage – Amarjeet
7. Lifetime Achievement Award- Naima Upreti

3rd Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Director – Arvind Gaur
2. Best Actor – Suman Vaidya
3. Best Actress – Bharti Sharma
4. Best Writer – Kusum Kumar
5. Best Critic – Diwan Singh Bajeli
6. Best in Back-Stage – Ramesh Manchanda
7. Lifetime Achievement Award- C.D.Sidhu

4th Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Director – Bhanu Bharti
2. Best Actor – Sita Ram Singh
3. Best Actress – Hema Singh
4. Best Writer – Asgar Wajahat
5. Best Critic – Sangam Pandey
6. Best in Back-Stage – R.K.Dhingra
7. Lifetime Achievement Award- Reoti Sharan Sharma

5th Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Director – Bapi Bose
2. Best Actor – Mahendra Mewati
3. Best Actress – Chitra Singh
4. Best Writer – Tripurari Sharma
5. Best Critic – Dr. Utpal K. Banerjee
6. Best in Back-Stage – Ved Pohoja
7. Lifetime Achievement Award- Sushma Seth

6th Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Director – K.S.Rajendran
2. Best Actor – Ravi Taneja

3. Best Actress – Sohaila Kapur
4. Best Writer – J.P.Singh
5. Best Critic – Yograj Tandon
6. Best in Back-Stage – Kajal Ghosh
7. Lifetime Achievement Award- Arun Kukureja

7th Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Writer – Smt. Meera Kant
2. Best Director – Sh. Satish Anand
3. Best Actor – Danish Iqbal
4. Best Actress – Dakshina Sharma
5. Best Critics – Satyendra Kr. Taneja
6. Best in Back-Stage – Raghav Prakash Mishra
7. Lifetime Achievement Award – Smt. Salima Raza

8th Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Writer – Suman Kumar
2. Best Director – Prakash Bhatiya
3. Best Actor – Suresh Sharma
4. Best Actress – Anamika Tiwari
5. Best Critics – Ravindra Tripathi
6. Best in Back-Stage – Moti Lal Khare
7. Lifetime Achievement Award – Rama Shankar Nishesh
8. Best Theatre Promoter – Tapan Sen Gupta

9th Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Writer – Pratap Sehgal
2. Best Director – Avtar Sahni
3. Best Actor – Tikam Joshi
4. Best Actress – Anu Jaitle
5. Best Critics – Manjari Srivastava

6. Best in Back-Stage – Gautam Bhattacharya
7. Lifetime Achievement Award – Aziz Qreshi
8. Best Theatre Promoter – Gyantosh Kumar Jha

10th Natsamrat Theatre Award

1. Best Writer – Ashok Lal
2. Best Director – Surender Sharma
3. Best Actor – Amitabh Srivastava
4. Best Actress – Sajida
5. Best Critics – Mahesh Anand
6. Best in Back-Stage (Music) – Anil Mishra
7. Lifetime Achievement Award – Kusum Haidar
8. Best Theatre Promoter – Vishav Deepak Trikha