

MEDIA RELEASE

INDIA BY THE BAY – 2nd to 9th February 2018

**Presented by Teamwork Arts in partnership with Asia Society Hong Kong Center
Supported by: The Consulate General of India in Hong Kong**

Teamwork Arts, with the support of the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong, is proud to present the fourth edition of **India by the Bay**, the only festival of India in Hong Kong, held in partnership with Asia Society Hong Kong Center. The 2018 chapter of the festival will take place from 2nd to 9th February at multiple venues.

India by the Bay was conceived in 2015 as a first-of-its kind festival to bring India's rich cultural heritage to Hong Kong. It has now become a much-awaited event on the city's cultural calendar.

The festival has firmly established itself backed by the strength of its rich and diverse palette of programming that fuses the classical and the contemporary across the genres of music, theatre, dance, food, wellness, film, and literature – all essential ingredients of India's cultural identity.

2018 promises an eclectic mix of artistic expression through a week-long exposition featuring:

- **Food: A Gala Dinner** by Chef Anahita N Dhondy who will serve up Parsi culinary delights following a talk by Jason Wordie about the fascinating history of the Parsis and their deep-rooted relationship with Hong Kong;
- **Bollywood Dance Workshops:** A Bollywood dance class with **Gilles Chuyen**;
- **Bollywood:** An introduction to and a conversation with a famous and acclaimed Bollywood personality.
- **Theatre Workshops:** A collaborative event with **Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation** and the **Yuva Ekta Foundation**, India;
- **Family Day:** A multi-programmed **Family Day** with various events and activities.
- **Literature:** In conversation with **Shrabani Basu**, journalist and author whose book *Victoria and Abdul* has recently been adapted into a feature film. She will be in dialogue with festival director Sanjoy K. Roy
- **Art:** An exhibition and presentation of Gond artist **Bhajju Shyam**. He will talk about his art in a conversation with **Edward Wilkinson**, Executive Director of Bonhams;
- **Music:** A concert featuring Grammy Award winner **Vishwa Mohan Bhatt**, disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar and creator of the Mohan Veena;
- **In Conversation:** A talk on film and script-writing with well-known

- screenwriter and photographer, **Sooni Taraporevela**; She will be in conversation with international news correspondent Mallika Kapur.
- **Theatre:** A powerful contemporary theatre production, the solo play **Elephant in the Room** - a coming-of-age story with eccentric characters, whose destinies intertwine in a plot of many twists and much adventure;
 - **Dance:** A dance piece by **The Rhythmosaic Dance Company** in collaboration with the students of the School of Dance, **Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts**;

Speaking of the forthcoming edition of **India by the Bay**, says **Puneet Agrawal, Consul General of India to Hong Kong**, "We are pleased to bring the fourth edition of the India by the Bay cultural festival to Hong Kong in February 2018. Over the past 3 editions, the festival has been received with warmth in Hong Kong and has gained immense support and traction. We would like to thank the Hong Kong community for welcoming this festival to Hong Kong and for its generous support. The festival is a fragrance exuberated by various cultural dimensions of India combined to give the sense of oneness in pluralism that India truly represents. Like we celebrate diversity in India, Hong Kong is also a mix of different people, ethnicities and nationalities. This is a very strong connection, which binds us two together. We hope that you will enjoy the festival and we are happy to partner with Teamwork Arts and Asia Society Hong Kong Center for India by the Bay 2018."

"We are proud and honoured to stage '**India By the Bay**' at Asia Society Hong Kong Center for the fourth consecutive year in 2018. This multidisciplinary arts festival offers a unique window into India's rich cultural dynamism, and helps to enhance the social fabric of Hong Kong by showcasing its heritage of harmonious cultural diversity. Our continued collaboration with the Consul General of India to Hong Kong and Teamwork Arts in this fabulous endeavour is testimony to our commitment to promote cross-cultural understanding in Hong Kong as an arts and cultural educational institution," said **S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center**.

"I am looking forward to our annual celebration of India's rich and many-layered cultural diversity in Hong Kong with **India by the Bay**. The forthcoming edition comes with more depth in themes and covers what forms the basis of India's cultural matrix, both classic and contemporary: dance, music, theatre and film,' says **Sanjoy K Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts Pvt. Ltd.**

Programme for the 4th edition of India By the Bay
2nd to 9th February 2018

Cuisine - A Parsi Culinary Experience by Chef Anahita Dhondy: India by the Bay invites Hong Kong to a unique experience - a Persian Wedding Dinner (Lagan nu Bhonu). The festival's rich and diverse palette will be showcased in the opening gala dinner which brings you exquisite culinary flavours from the unique Zoroastrian community that came to India from the Persian Gulf as early as the 8th century CE.

Feast against the backdrop of an unfolding tale about the fascinating history of the Parsis and their deep-rooted relationship with Hong Kong told by the established local historian **Jason Wordie**. The first of the Parsis arrived in Hong Kong in the late 18th century to trade. Snapshots of Hong Kong's Parsi legacy are still abundantly visible.

Date: Friday, 2nd February 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Film – An introduction to and a conversation with a famous and acclaimed Bollywood personality They will be in conversation with Sanjoy K. Roy.

Date: Saturday, 3rd February 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Dance workshop – Gilles Chuyen returns for the third time to Hong Kong by popular demand to conduct another dance workshop, close on the heels of his sold-out show last year, that will have everyone dancing to his tunes!

Trained in France in folk, modern jazz, ballet and contemporary dance styles, Gilles has been working in India since 1994. He has been teaching Bollywood dance styles extensively in India, U.K. and South Africa.

Date: Saturday, 3rd February 2018

Venue: Ovolo Southside

Family Day: After the 2017 event that saw 830 attendees, we bring Family Day back with a specially curated event for children and parents. 'Family Day' will feature fun-filled activities that will fire up the imagination of children of all ages. The day will include an exclusive storytelling session and various workshops in theatre, crafts, cuisine, yoga, and dance, giving children the opportunity to learn and "ideate" with versatile mentors outside the walls of a classroom and explore their creativity.

Date: Sunday, 4th February 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Theatre Workshops – Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and the **Yuva Ekta Foundation, India** come together for a two-day theatrical workshop for youth. The workshops include physical theatre and paper-puppet theatre.

Date: Saturday, 3rd February & Sunday, 4th February 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Literature –Author and journalist **Shrabani Basu**, whose book *Victoria and Abdul* has recently been adapted to film with Judi Dench in the role of Victoria, started her career as a journalist in 1983 with the *Times of India*. She moved to London in 1987, and has since been the correspondent of the Kolkata-based newspaper *Anand Bazar Patrika* and the *Telegraph*. She has always combined journalism with her love of history and all her books have evolved from her observations about the shared histories of India and Britain. Shrabani will be in conversation with Sanjoy K. Roy.

Date: Sunday, 4th February 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Art - Bhajju Shyam: One of the most talented Gond artists we have today, Bhajju Shyam is from the tribal village of Patangarh in Central India. His talent and drive have propelled Gond art from the village to the international art arena.

Bhajju will talk about his art in a conversation with Edward Wilkinson, Executive Director of Bonhams Asia, a specialist in Indian, Himalayan, and Southeast Asian Art. Bhajju will also be exhibiting his Gond collection at the Bonhams Gallery and will be conducting workshops at the Festival.

Date: Monday, 5th February 2018

Venue: Bonhams Gallery

Music – Vishwa Mohan Bhatt: A 1994 *Grammy Award* winner, disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar and creator of the Mohan Veena (a hybrid slide guitar), Vishwa Mohan Bhatt has performed extensively all over the world and comes to Hong Kong for an exclusive concert as part of India by the Bay.

He is equally well known for his performances as he is for his compositions. With blinding speed and faultless legato, Bhatt is undoubtedly one of the most expressive, versatile and greatest slide players in the world.

Date: Tuesday, 6th February 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Talk - Sooni Taraporevala is a well-known screenwriter and photographer, best known for her screenplays of *Mississippi Masala*, followed by *The Namesake* and the Academy Award-nominated *Salaam Bombay*, all of which have been directed by Mira Nair. She directed her first feature film, based on a screenplay of her own, an ensemble piece set in Mumbai in spring 2007, titled, *Little Zizou*. Sooni will be in conversation with international news correspondent Mallika Kapur who has spent a majority of her career with CNN.

Salaam Bombay & Little Zizou will be screened on 23.01.2018 & 30.01.2018.

Date: Wednesday, 7th Feb 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Theatre - Elephant in The Room: Inspired by mythology, *Elephant in the Room* plays homage to Lord Ganapati in this quirky and poignant reinterpretation of his story. The protagonist is a young boy interestingly named Master Tusk, who has been given a new head – that of an elephant's! Tusk gets lost in a forest and encounters many dangers, both literal and metaphorical – this is a coming-of-age story in which Tusk emerges with his head firmly on his shoulders.

Date: Thursday, 8th Feb 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Dance - The Rhythmosaic Sengupta Dance Company is on a constant tryst of pushing boundaries in the field of classical & contemporary movement art; their experimental movements retain traditional nuances while exploring contemporary possibilities. Based on the techniques of classical Kathak and jazz, their performers have trained for years in these two forms with Ronnie and Mitul Sengupta.

Rhythmosaic will be presenting a dance piece in collaboration with the students of the School of Dance, Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.

Date: Friday, 9th Feb 2018

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Schedule at a Glance: India by the Bay – 2nd to 9th February 2018

Gala Dinner

Chef: Anahita Dhondy
Speaker: Jason Wordie
Date: Friday, 2nd February 2018
Time: 1900 – 2200 hrs.
Venue: Jockey Club Hall, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Bollywood Dance Workshop

Dancer: Gilles Chuyen
Date: Saturday, 3rd February 2018
Time: 1100 - 1300 hrs.
Venue: Ovolo Southside Hotel

Film – In conversation with a Bollywood Personality

Artist: Bollywood personality
Performer: several
Date: Saturday, 3rd February 2018
Time: 1900 – 2030 hrs.
Venue: Jockey Club Hall, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Theatre Workshops

Conducted by: Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation and the
Yuva Ekta Foundation, India

Performer: several
Date: Saturday & Sunday, 3rd & 4th February 2018
Time: 1000 - 1300 hrs. and 1400 - 1700 hrs.
Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Family Day

Artist: several
Performer: several
Date: Sunday, 4th February 2018
Time: 1100 – 1600 hrs.
Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Literature

Author: Shrabani Basu
Interviewer: Sanjoy K Roy
Date: Sunday, 4th February 2018
Time: 1900 – 2000 hrs.
Venue: Miller Theatre, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Art

Artist: Bhajju Shyam
Date: Monday, 5th February 2018
Time: 1900 – 2030 hrs.
Venue: Bonhams, Hong Kong

Music

Musician: Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
Date: Tuesday, 6th February 2018
Time: 1900 – 2030 hrs.
Venue: Jockey Club Hall, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Film talk

Writer/photographer: Sooni Taraporevela
Interviewer: Mallika Kapur
Date: Wednesday, 7th February 2018
Time: 1830 – 2000 hrs.
Venue: Miller Theatre, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Theatre

Performance: Elephant in the Room
Date: Thursday, 8th February 2018
Time: 1900 – 2030 hrs.
Venue: Miller Theatre, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Dance Performance

Performer: Rhythmosaic & HKAPA
Date: Friday, 9th February 2018
Time: 1900 – 2030 hrs.
Venue: Lippo Amphitheatre, Asia Society Hong Kong Center

Co-presented by



Hong Kong Center

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About Teamwork Arts

For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India.

In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts, and literary festivals across more than 40 cities.

Teamwork produces one of the world's largest *free* literary gatherings, the annual ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival.

www.teamworkarts.com

About Asia Society

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in New York, The Asia Society is a leading educational organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, The Asia Society provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future.

As an affiliate of the Asia Society global network with 12 centers, Asia Society Hong Kong Center was established in 1990 by a group of Hong Kong community leaders, led by the late Sir Q.W. Lee, the honorary chairman of Hang Seng Bank.