**MEDIA RELEASE**

**INDIA BY THE BAY -  14th to 19th February 2020**

**Co-Presented by Teamwork Arts**

**in partnership with Asia Society Hong Kong Center,**

**supported by: the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong**

**India by the Bay** returns for its **sixth edition** from February 14 to 19, 2020.

Co-presented by Teamwork Arts and Asia Society Hong Kong Center and supported by the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong, **India by the Bay**has put India firmly on Hong Kong’s cultural landscape on the strength of its rich and diverse palette of programming. The week-long celebration of the arts includes the classical and contemporary, across genres of music, theatre, dance, food, wellness, film, and literature.

The Festival reaches out to a wide audience, across a diaspora of communities.

This year sees a week of diverse events every evening and a weekend of multiple programming with Saturday the 15th of February dedicated to literature and Sunday the 16th of February dedicated to wellness, with events that include yoga, meditation, music and, food and inspirational stories.

* **Film - SPOTLIGHT**:  A riveting conversation with one of India's finest film personalities in a tale of grit and success in a conversation with Festival director Sanjoy K. Roy.
* **Literary Saturday:** Sessions and interactions with a diverse mix of writers to celebrate books, ideas, creativity, dialogue, diversity and intellectual discourse.
* **Gala Dinner:** Celebrity Chef Picu serves up delicacies from regions across India and Raw Mango’s Sanjay Garg talks to guests about India’s spectacular textile legacy. Models showcase quintessentially Indian Raw Mango attire inspired by different parts of India in synchrony with the cuisine being served.
* **AIA Vitality Holistic Sunday:** A day of meditation, yoga, music, Ayurveda, mindfulness and storytelling to celebrate mindful living.
* **Music:** East West - A legacy. Renowned sitar player, Shubendra Rao, disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar, celebrates the centenary of his Guru’s birth in a performance that showcases the collaborative elements of his Guru’s legacy. With Saskia Rao-de Haas on the cello, the evening will include the classical and traditional and also have collaborative performances with musicians playing the local *pipa* and the guitar.
* **Dance:** One of India’s oldest dance forms, Odissi, an ode to the divine, will enthrall audiences at India by the Bay with performances by the country’s premier Odissi dance school **SRJAN**.
* **Theatre:** *Nothing like Lear by Vinay Pathak* will portray Shakespeare’s *King Lear* through the eyes of a clown, played by one of India’s most powerful stage actors.

Speaking of the forthcoming edition of **India by the Bay**, says **Priyanka Chauhan, Consul General of India**, “We are delighted to bring the sixth edition of the annual India by the Bay cultural festival to Hong Kong in February 2020, in partnership with Teamwork Arts and Asia Society Hong Kong Centre. The festival has been growing steadily over the past five years as an immensely popular and much-anticipated event in Hong Kong’s cultural calendar, making ‘IBB’ a household name. This has been made possible because of the people behind IBB – the organisers, partners, sponsors, performers, and participants – whose cooperation and support have earned the festival the warmth and affection of its audiences. India is a diverse nation and its plurality is demonstrated in its arts, culture, cuisine, cinema, languages and literature. IBB celebrates this multi-culturalism, bringing a week-long panorama of Indian arts and culture to Hong Kong. We hope that you will all enjoy IBB 2020!

“I am grateful for the community support and continued success of India by the Bay in its 6th year.  It is through building the bridges of understanding that we can truly appreciate each other’s culture and also appreciate where we come from and know who we are.  I applaud IBB for its dynamic inclusive programming and look forward to another successful collaboration,” says **Alice S. Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

**Sanjoy K. Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Arts & Festival Director says**, “India by the Bay has come a long way in the past six years traversing a vast breadth of India and her essence. The Festival has brought India’s personality to life with vigour in the heart of Hong Kong. These are the ties which bind the strongest as they are founded on the strength of art, literature, wellness and food – languages which are truly universal. We are utterly delighted to bring the Festival back year after year and are grateful to the love and support of all our partners and audiences.”

**Programme for the 6th edition of India by the Bay**

**14th to 19th February 2020**

**FILM - SPOTLIGHT**: A unique opportunity to be part of a riveting session with one of India's finest film personalities in a tale of grit and success.

Date: 14th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**LITERARY SATURDAY:** A Saturday dedicated to a wide array of ideas and literary stories which will stir up the imagination and set off conversations. Five sessions and interactions with a diverse mix of writers celebrate books, ideas, creativity, dialogue, diversity and intellectual discourse.

Date: 15th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**SESSION 1**

**Jadoowallahs, Jugglers and Jinns: A Magical History of India: John Zubrzycki**

Join **John Zubrzycki**’s as he travels down magical roads in his session at India by the Bay where he discusses *Jadoowallahs, Juggler and Jinns*, a book that traces the evolution of Indian magic. The diplomat and author’s new book tracks fakirs and rope tricks and explores how Indian enchanters and their traditions have had a huge influence on the rest of the world.

**John Zubrzycki’s** first experience of India was a dorm bed at the Salvation Army Guest House in Calcutta 40 years ago. Since then, he’s chalked up a degree in Indian history, travelled to every corner of the subcontinent, worked as a diplomat and foreign correspondent in New Delhi and written three eclectic books on India.

Date: 15th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**SESSION 2**

**Gandhi in Times of Violence: Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee in a Conversation with Festival Director, Sanjoy K. Roy.**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was destined to be the conscience and political catalyst of his age. His distinguished granddaughter, Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, speaks to Sanjoy K. Roy of the vision of the Mahatma, his genius, his vulnerability, and the enduring legacy of non-violence that he bequeathed to a troubled world

**Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee** was born in 1934 in New Delhi. She is vice-chairperson of the Gandhi Smriti, an activist who works extensively with rural women and children, and the author of *Reflections of an Extraordinary Era*. For over 25 years, she has worked for the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, founded by Mahatma Gandhi in the memory of his wife, a trust that serves women and children of rural India.

Date: 15th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**SESSION 3:**

**Khooni Vaisakhi a poem from the Jallianwala Bagh massacre 1919:**

**Navdeep Suri in conversation with Sanjoy K. Roy**

Written originally in Punjabi by former diplomat Navdeep Suri’s grandfather who survived the brutal Jallianwala Bagh massacre, *Khooni Vaisakhi* is not only a poignant piece of protest literature but also a historical artefact and a witness to how Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims came together to stand up to colonisation and oppression during one of India’s darkest moments.

Featuring the poem in translation and in its original, this bilingual book is accompanied by essays by Navdeep Suri, Punjabi literature scholar H.S. Bhatia and BBC correspondent Justin Rowlatt.

**Navdeep Suri** recently retired as India’s Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates and has earlier held diplomatic assignments in Australia, Egypt, South Africa, the UK and the United States. After *The Watchmaker* and *A Life Incomplete*, he has translated *Khooni Vaisakhi*, an epic poem written in 1920 by his grandfather Nanak Singh.

Date: 15th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**SESSION 4:**

**Close to The Bone – A Memoir: Lisa Ray in conversation with Professor Richard Allen**

One of India's first supermodels, Lisa Ray is an actor, a cancer-survivor, and a mother of twins through surrogacy. *Close to the Bone* is Ray’s deeply moving account of her nomadic existence: her entry into the Indian entertainment industry at sixteen; her relationship with her Bengali father and Polish mother; life on the movie sets and her brush with the Oscars; her battle with eating disorders; being diagnosed with multiple myeloma at thirty-seven; her spiritual quest; lovers and traitors, mentors and dream-makers; and her heartaches and triumphs along the way. Lisa’s story is brave and inspiring and about a life lived on one’s own terms.

**Lisa Ray** is an Indian-Canadian actor, author, columnist, model, performer, philanthropist, social activist, television and theatre personality. Ray begun her modelling career in the early 1990s, appearing for leading Indian brands like Bombay Dyeing and Lakmé. Alongside, she made her acting debut in 1996 in the Tamil film *Nethaji*. Her first Bollywood appearance was in 2001.

Date: 15th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**SESSION 5:**

**Operation X - an untold History of India’s covert naval war in East Pakistan: Sandeep Unnithan.**

Join Sandeep Unnithan as he discusses his bestselling book, *Operation X*, an authentic account of the guerilla operation that contributed towards India’s ultimate victory in the December 1971 Indo-Pak war.

**Sandeep Unnithan** is Executive Editor with *India Today*, where he writes on issues of national security. His first book, *Black Tornado: The Three Sieges of Mumbai 26/11*, deals with the military aspects of the November 26 Mumbai terrorist attack.

Date: 15th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**THE GALA DINNER - A CULINARY JOURNEY & A TASTE OF INDIA**

**A FIVE-COURSE DINNER WITH A TALK FEATURING SANJAY GARG AND A RAW MANGO APPAREL SHOWCASE**

On the India by the Bay calendar, the much-awaited ‘Gala Dinner’ is always an irresistible draw. A flavourful mix of exotic and subtle cuisine and inimitable style against a backdrop of elegance, this year India by the Bay takes you on a culinary and a sartorial journey across the country.

**A CULINARY JOURNEY**

Chef Picu of Jamun will be in conversation with Sanjay Garg of Raw Mango on the rich textile legacy of India followed by an exquisite show highlighting India’s bounty of weaves. Models wearing quintessential Raw Mango attire will present outfits that reflect the beauty of Indian textile as Chef Picu serves up delicacies from the states they represent in their textile choices. Of

**THE CHEF:** Acclaimed Indian chef, Rahul Gomes Pereira or Chef Picu, will provide the perfect gastronomical experience in Indian fine dining and delight guests with authentic flavours from across India. His well-known restaurant Jamun in Delhi is an eclectic food destination, embracing India’s vast range of flavours with recipes from Kashmir to the Deccan.

**THE FOOD**: Indian cuisine reflects a 5000-year history of regions, cultures, and communities that have resulted in a vast range of flavours and a host of indigenous traditions. Chef Picu has created a menu with handpicked dishes from Bengal, Goa, Kashmir, Kerala and Rajasthan. A medley of spices, aromas and taste awaits you.

**RAW MANGO**: The textile brand Raw Mango is known for its signature colours and motifs which draw from the philosophies and cultures of India to create a unique perspective through design. With roots in craft and community, Raw Mango’s relationship with handloom began in 2008 as an investigation of possibilities. As a design house, it continues to create new conversations in textile, culture and politics through a range of saris, garments and objects. Created with artisans across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Varanasi, Raw Mango’s designs innovate upon centuries-old skills to define a new aesthetic vocabulary.

Date: 15th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**AIA VITALITY HOLISTIC SUNDAY:**

India by the Bay brings you a day of music, yoga, meditation, Ayurveda, mindful eating and art therapy to celebrate wellness.

**Morning Ragas**

Start the day with positivity and calm with soothing ragas.

**Dynamic Yoga with Daniel Simpson**

**Postural Practice**

Join Daniel Simpson as he teaches yogic postures sequenced with breathing techniques. A scholar and teacher of yoga, Daniel draws on traditions that have shaped modern practices, touching on Ashtanga and the Iyengar methods.

**The Power of Breathing with Daniel Simpson**

**Yoga and Transformation**

“When the breath is unsteady, the mind is unsteady,” says the *Hatha Pradipika*, a fifteenth-century manual. This session with Daniel Simpson will explore how *pranayama* transforms people’s lives.

**MUSIC with Harpreet**

Harpreet’s deep and soulful voice will take you on a mystical journey of making new perspectives.

**AYURVEDA AND YOUR BODY with Dr Ramkumar**

This special workshop on the ancient science of Ayurveda, presented by Dr Ramkumar, Founder-Director of Punarnava Ayurveda, will demonstrate how Ayurveda can be applied to daily life.

**VEGETARIAN LUNCHBOX**

**By Spicebox Organics**

A specially-designed lunchbox by Spicebox Organics will be available for sale to all participants

**CONNECT THROUGH STORYTELLING:**

**Discovering India through stories**

Storytelling is in our DNA. It is how we have connected since the dawn of history and shared knowledge and lived-experiences through generations.  Join Hong Kong Stories for an hour of true stories on the theme of India - stories that may remind you that you are not alone, and we are not that different after all!

**ART THERAPY WITH PUNEETA ROY**

Spend an hour immersed in the deeply meditative space of art in a workshop conducted by Puneeta Roy. Using art as tools for self-exploration, Puneeta encourages creative visualisation and pushes the boundaries of one’s imagination.

Date: 16th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**MUSIC - EAST WEST – A LEGACY:**

Renowned sitar player, Shubendra Rao, disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar, celebrates the centenary of his Guru’s birth in a performance that showcases the collaborative elements of his legacy. With his wife Saskia Rao de Haas on the cello, the evening will include the classical and traditional and also have collaborative performances with local *pipa* performers and guitarists.

Date: 17th February 2020

Venue: City Hall

**Dance – ANWESHANAA BY SRJAN ENSEMBLE**

**Indian Classical Dance (Odissi)**

The Srjan ensemble is one of India’s leading Odissi dance repertory groups. Under the artistic direction of Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Srjan performs extensively within India and abroad, presenting compositions in the neo-classical Odissi style, which includes new and improvised movements from the *Natyashastra*. Trained in the legendary Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra’s style, the ensemble members perform *Anweshanaa,* a bouquet of neo-classical Odissi dances which feature - ***Vinayaka Smarane***, ***Synthesis, Jatayu Mokshya***, ***and Kirwani Madhurima,*** concluding with ***Vande Mataram.***

Date: 18th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

**THEATRE –**

**NOTHING LIKE LEAR**

**Directed by – RAJAT KAPOOR Acted by - VINAY PATHAK**

Date: 19th February 2020

Venue: Asia Society Hong Kong Center

A devised performance based on Shakespeare’s *King Lear,* this solo act sees King Lear through the eyes of a clown and views him as a man, a father, an outcast, and as a child. A fool is seen through the eyes of a fool with a single actor on stage, an old clown: an entire life is lived within the tempest of theatre.

The search for Lear brings us to the eye of the storm - the self. Memories are unravelled, stories half-sung, a whirlwind ensues where Shakespeare’s pages are strewn about only to resurface as a murky collage, a flight of dreams is plunged into darkness, a daughter is lost to the mountains of the past and so many lifetimes are re-lived to arrive at one single moment of preciousness. This is a search for a contemporary tale of a father and daughter.

**FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **EVENT** | **TIME** | **Venue** |
| 14th Feb 2020 (Fri) | **SPOTLIGHT** | 7:00pm - 8:30pm | Asia Society Hong Kong Center |
|   |  |   |   |
| 15th Feb 2020 (Sat) | **LITERARY SATURDAY** |   | Asia Society Hong Kong Center |
| John Zubrzycki - Jadoowallahs, Jugglers & Jinns: A Magical History of India | 10:00am - 11:00am |
| Tara Gandhi Battacharjee: Gandhi in Times of Violence  | 11:15am - 12:15pm |
| Navdeep Suri: Jalianwala Bagh | 12:45pm - 1:45pm  |
| Lisa Ray: Close to the Bone | 2:00pm - 3:00pm |
| Sandeep Unnithan: Project X | 3:15pm  - 4:15pm |
|   |  |   |   |
| 15th Feb 2020 (Sat) | **GALA DINNER & Textile Show- Chef Picu and Sanjay Garg with Raw Mango** | 7:00pm-9:30pm | Asia Society Hong Kong Center |
|   |  |   |   |
| 16th Feb 2020 (Sun) | **AIA Vitality HOLISTIC SUNDAY** | 9:00am – 4:30pm | Asia Society Hong Kong Center |
|   |  |   |   |
| 17th Feb 2020 (Mon) | **MUSIC - East West - A Legacy by Shubhendra and Saskia Rao** | 7:15pm - 8:45pm | Hong Kong City Hall |
| 18th Feb 2020 (Tues) | **DANCE – Anweshnaa by SRJAN Ensemble** | 7:00pm - 8:00pm | Asia Society Hong Kong Center |
| 19th Feb 2020 (Wed) | **THEATER - Nothing Like Lear by Vinay Pathak** | 7:00pm - 8:45pm | Asia Society Hong Kong Center |

Co-presented by



**For information, please contact:**

**Lakshmi Mahey Laroia**

+852 91518808

lakshmilaroia@gmail.com

**Paru Vohra**

+852 98565383

paru\_vohra@yahoo.com

**Media and Press:**

**Sonali Laul**

+852 98102667

sonalilaul@gmail.com

**Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

**May Tam**

+ 852 2103 9559

mediahk@asiasociety.org

**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](http://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 centres, 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.