



Slice of Gujarat

Witness the folk arts of Gujarat in NCPA's Living Traditions: Gujarat Gaurav series

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Mumbai, August, 2010: On **September 3rd and 4th**, the city's grey monsoon evenings will be awash with bright colours, music, dance and full-throated vigour of the folk tradition. The vibrant culture of Gujarat will come to life at the **Tata Theatre in NCPA** with '**Living Traditions: Gujarat Gaurav**'. The two-day festival programmed and produced by the NCPA will pay tribute to the sheer beauty and timeless quality of Gujarat's folk traditions.

The first day will showcase Gujarat's two most popular dance forms. **Garba** will be presented by **Abha Desai's group**, and **Raas**, by **Amardeepsinh Jadeja and troupe**. Due to its association with the fertility cult, *Garba* (comes from 'garbha' or womb) is practiced by women, whereas *Raas* is usually restricted to men. However, at the NCPA the Raas will be performed by both men and women.

The second day will see artistes such as **Hemant Chauhan, Jayshree Bhojavia, Ashit, Hema and Alap Desai** make a musical presentation of some of the celebrated works of 15th and 16th century poets such as Narsinh Mehta (1415 - 1481) Premanand (1649-1714), Mirabai (1498-1547) and others, who contributed to Gujarati literary works. The themes will range from pure devotion and romantic lyricism to narrative poems that sang the glory of the land. The event will also showcase instruments associated with this region.

Speaking on the occasion in all her excitement **Dr. Suvarnalata Rao, Head — Programming (Indian Music), NCPA**, said, *“The NCPA started Living Traditions two years ago, as a series aimed towards acquainting urban audiences with India’s vast and dynamic folk traditions. This month’s event, Gujarat Gaurav, focuses on a state that is truly rife with living folk traditions. There is a special emphasis on the word ‘living’ because folk art — particularly singing, dancing and drama — is constantly evolving, incorporating elements of contemporary life. Classical music is a sort of classified medium. There are a lot of do’s and don’ts but that is not the case with folk. It is more connected to the masses.”*

The Living Traditions over the last two years has showcased folk traditions of Rajasthan, Assam and Bengal.

There is a surprise introductory interaction for school children. As a part of its **‘Know your Heritage’** series, the NCPA will be organising a lecture demonstration on *Garba* and *Raas* for over 100 students from 5 schools (including 4 gujarati schools) before the **Living Traditions: Gujarat Gaurav** performance on September 3rd. This interaction with artistes from Gujarat followed by their performance is meant to expose children to the "authentic" elements in these traditions and make them aware of the deeper relevance of these artistic pursuits beyond the element of pure "entertainment". This is an exercise in young audience building as well as a step towards 'knowing your heritage'. *To get your school enlisted for this event e-mail nkotwal@ncpamumbai.com.*

Dr Rao elaborates, *“Although various regions in India are abound with distinct local folk traditions, the urban masses at large, especially children, are mostly unaware of this cultural heritage. Garba and Raas are no doubt known outside Gujarat. Nonetheless they are practised within a cosmopolitan milieu away from its original socio-cultural and religious contexts, and hence show influence of popular genres including Bollywood.”*

About the NCPA:

Inaugurated in 1969, the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, exists to provide leadership on a national level as India’s premier performing arts, research and training centre through the presentation of Indian and international art forms, the promotion of excellence and the preservation of Indian & International cultural heritage.

Tickets:

**Rs. 225, 150, & 75/- For members
Rs. 300, 200 & 100/- For public**

Box Office: August 26 for Members and August 29 for the Public

To use the online booking facility simply log on to the NCPA official website

<http://www.ncpamumbai.com> / buy-tickets or visit www.bookmyshow.com.

For further information please log on to www.ncpamumbai.com

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