



NCPA gears up for a fun-filled 'NCPA Summer Fiesta' for kids

The nine-day festival of children's plays, workshops and films is scheduled to take place from May 22-30, 2010 at the NCPA

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Mumbai, May 22, 2010: The National Centre for the Performing Arts, India's premier arts and culture institution, presents the **"NCPA Summer Fiesta"**, a mini-festival for children that encourages development through the performing arts. On the platter is nine days of children's films, workshops and plays, designed to educate and entertain your child. The NCPA Summer Fiesta will be held **from May 22 to May 30, 2010, at various venues within the NCPA complex.**

Conceived to be an annual cultural event, the activities are aimed to inspire creativity, encourage learning skills and provide entertainment at the same time. Summer Fiesta is ideal for children on vacation and will occur on a seasonal basis through the year. The newly-appointed Programming Head for Indian Film and Theatre at the NCPA, Deepa Gahlot, has designed this festival keeping in mind the demand for more children's activities at the NCPA and in South Bombay. "The summer vacations are a good time to begin. Children are receptive to new ideas, and enjoy fun activities that encourage them to imagine and create — which is what the series of workshops aim to do. They will also get to see some delightful films made just for them. The NCPA is

conceptualizing activities such as these to encourage a summer that is well-spent," she said.

The film section of the festival titled **Summer Bonanza, will be held in collaboration with Children's Film Society of India (CFSI)**. There will be an **opening of the Summer Bonanza on 24nd May at 12 pm, for which the CFSI Chairperson Nandita Das and director Santosh Sivan** will be present. Santosh Sivan's film Halo will be screened on the same day at 12 pm.

The mini-summer fiesta will showcase plays for kids along with a number of workshops focusing on acting, theatre, music, simple and fun exercises with diction, projection and enunciation through prose and poetry, creative writing and a lot more.

***Workshop Details:**

Admission on Registration. Children in the age category of 7- 12 years are eligible for participation. Registration Fees: Rs. 500/-
Contact: 66223749/ 66223802 to register.
On the spot registration available at the venue.

***All plays** are ticketed.

***Film screenings** are free. Admission on first-come-first-served basis.

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.

About CFSI

CFSI is a nodal Government of India organisation dedicated to providing wholesome entertainment for children through film and television, with the objective of broadening

their horizon and justifying **Right to Entertainment**. Several talented and committed filmmakers like Mrinal Sen, Shyam Benegal, Tapan Sinha, Sai Paranjpye have been associated with CFSI in the production of films for children. Moreover, CFSI also deals with producing animation, puppet films, short documentaries and news magazines on subjects of special interest to children. It houses an enviable library of original films for children.

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

**For media queries please contact:
Hanmer MS&L Communications Pvt. Ltd.**

Shawna Dsilva

Email: shawna@hanmermsl.com

Mb: 098200-84045

Preeti Doiphode

Email: preeti@hanemrmsl.com

Mb: 096191- 61307

NCPA Summer Fiesta Schedule:

May 22, Saturday & May 23, 2010:

Hindi Plays:

Badmash Kahin Ka

Badmash Kahin Ka is the story of a naughty village boy who does not like to study. He is always getting into trouble with the villagers. One day, after failing in the school exams, he goes to a farm to avoid getting a beating from his mother. He decides to

take his studies seriously and improve as a human being. There he meets a scarecrow that decides to help him out. Watch this fun-filled drama to find out next.

Chitronki Kamal Machi Dhamal

Chitronki Kamal Machi Dhamal is a one-act play set in a classroom. The play emphasises the importance of giving art as much attention as other subjects. Because of his monotonous style of teaching, one day all the students decide to draw something from their own imagination. Watch this comedy to find out what happens on those canvases.

May 24, Monday:

Workshop:

Let The Imagination Soar: With Manisha Lakhe

Travel to imaginary places with fantastical friends and let words take you on a super adventure...stringing words, making up fabulous stories creating room in your lives for creativity.

Manisha Lakhe is a writer, journalist and a mom. She has conducted the children's open mic event for the last two years at Prithvi, and loves working with kids. Her first novel *The Betel Nut Killers* has just been released to great acclaim.

Film:

Halo (1996/92 mins/Kannada-Tamil/Director: Santosh Sivan)

This is a story of the zany quest of a seven year old girl Sasha for her lost puppy named "Halo" through the terrifying streets of Bombay. We are guided through the tale by an orthodox nun, a nosey press reporter and a "Donahue" kid with a video camera. The city of Bombay spins out of control as the hilarious film zooms to a knuckle-chewing climax.

Santosh Sivan, the FTII graduate is a National Award Winning cinematographer. His credits as cinematographer include 'Raakh', 'Roja', 'Dalapathi', 'Perunthachan', 'Rudaali', 'Kala Pani' and 'Gardish'. As director; 'Halo' is his first feature film.

May 25, Tuesday:

Workshop:

Clowning and Improvisation with Puja Sarup

Unleash your imagination and your creative powers by finding the hidden stories and characters in everyday objects around us, in a fun-filled workshop of theatre games, clowning and improvisations.

Puja Sarup is a theatre practitioner based in Mumbai. Bitten by the theatre bug in 2003, she went on to do her MA in theatre arts from Mumbai University. She has worked with international theatre companies such as Footsbarn Travelling Theatre Company and Buchinger's Boots in France, attended and conducted theatre related workshops across the country.

Film:

Chutkan Ki Mahabharat (2006/87 mins/Hindi/Director: Sankalp Meshram)

A *nautanki* team (a Musical folk theatre) sets up camp in a village and the whole village is abuzz with excitement. Ten year old Chutkan after watching the *nautanki*, dreams of the evil Shakuni Mama and Duryodhan confessing to their villainy and relinquishing all claims to the kingdom. Find out what happens as the *nautanki* artistes start behaving exactly as Chutkan had dreamt.

Sankalp Meshram is a law graduate and has a Diploma in Film Editing from the Film & TV Institute, Pune. He has won the National Award for "Best Editing" in the non-feature film category in 2001. He has also directed over 60 episodes of TV shows and a crime thriller. "Chutkan Ki Mahabharat" is his debut film as a feature Film Director.

May 26, Wednesday:

Workshop:

Theatre Madness with Sunil Shanbag

Introducing young people to the basic art and craft of theatre and makes connections for them between their selves and theatre. In a session packed with games that help "self-discovery" young people get a glimpse of how theatre is an integral part of life itself.

Sunil Shanbag is one of Mumbai's foremost theatre directors. His work is marked by original texts, innovative staging, and string performances by actors. He has worked extensively with young people, introducing them to the world of theatre through theatre in education projects.

Film:

Lilkee (2007/69 mins/Hindi/Director: Batul Mukhtiar)

Lilkee is a 10 year old domestic help from Nainital brought to Mumbai by a young architect Bela. Lilkee finds it difficult to adjust to the city life. The film traces the little girl's experiences in the fast paced urban jungle.

Batul Mukhtiar graduated in 1994 from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune, specializing in film direction. She directed two short fiction films as diploma projects for the Film Institute and has worked as a researcher, producer coordinator and associate producer with international documentary crews shooting in Mumbai. In 2002, she made 150 Secends Ago, a documentary on the survivors of the earthquake that devastated the city of Bhuj (Kutch) in 2001.

May 27, Thursday:

Workshop:

Bhasha Ka Tamasha with Kumud Mishra & Gopal Datt

Language is a vibrant tool of dramatic expression. Through simple and fun exercises with diction, projection and enunciation through prose and poetry, we will explore how the spoken word energises theatre.

Kumud Mishra is a senior theatre actor who graduated from The National School of Drama in 1994. He has since moved to Mumbai and has worked extensively in television, films and theatre. Kumud has been an active conductor of theatre workshops for both young adults and children at Prithvi Theatre, IIT etc. Gopal Datt is also from the NSD, actor, poet and musician.

Film:

Krish, Trish and Baltiboy2 (Animation/ 2009/ 60 mins/ Hindi/Director: Munjal Shroff)

Krish a monkey, Trish a cat and Baltiboy a donkey are 3 minstrels who take you on an exotic journey of Indian folk tales and music through three different regions of India - Rajasthan, Kerala and Punjab. Discover folk wisdom presented in an artistic manner through magnificent folk art and watch how this magnificent art comes alive through the medium of animation.

Munjal Shroff's passion for the visual medium drew him to the field of animation and visual effects. He co-founded his animation studio, Graphiti in 1995. With more than 13 years of experience in directing and producing but also creating tools for achieving

excellence in animation, he has been instrumental in moulding Graphiti into one of the most formidable players in the Indian animation industry. In his role as a producer he has developed and co-produced shows such as "J bole toh Jadoo" with Nickelodeon and is currently developing an animated feature with Turner.

May 28, Friday:

Workshop:

Open Up Creative Channels: With Tarun Singh Negi

Theatre is a therapeutic experience for children and helps develop confidence, overcome stage fear, develops leadership and team skills and opens up creative channels, using theatre as a tool for personal growth.

Tarun Singh Negi is a trained actor from Barry John Acting Studio and had been one of the faculty members there. Besides pursuing acting both professionally and academically, he also runs a production company which has its roots in performing arts and social actions.

Film:

Mahek Mirza (2007/75 mins/Hindi/ Director: Kranti Kanade)

11-yr old Mahek wants to be the best in everything, but she doesn't know what she's best at. To complicate things further, an old, magic-less Modern Fairy walks into her life. Will Mahek ever realize her true strength?

Kranti Kanade studied Film Direction from the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune and has also completed the Producer's Program from UCLA. His thesis film "Chitra" won several prestigious awards. His films deal with the world of children, their imagination and the respect they deserve. "Mahek Mirza" is his debut feature film.

May 29, Saturday:

Workshop:

Gadbad Ghotala: With Shaili Sathyu

Explore the world of Hindi poetry for the young-- a wonderful mix of traditional rhymes, folk songs, contemporary translated and original works, poetry by youngsters themselves and even nonsense rhymes. The text shall be explored through improvisations and, games.

Shaili Sathyu is a Director, Production Designer and honorary Vice President of IPTA. She also works as an education and training consultant with Akshara High School.

She has established Gillo, an independent children's media group with the focus to produce material and organize activities that help children, parents and teachers to make learning fun and enriching.

Film:

Foto (2007/91 mins/Hindi/Director: Virendra Saini)

This is the journey of an eleven-year-old boy called Foto who lives in a quaint little town set in the hills. Join him on a journey from his shell of isolation to his flight on the wings of imagination, across the multi-hued sky of 'Cinema'. Will the two worlds of Foto- his reality and imagination ever meet?

Virendra Saini graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India with a diploma in cinematography in 1976. He has been intimately and consistently connected with the New Cinema Movement in India, working for both feature films and full-length documentaries with several major directors including Mani Kaul, Saeed Mirza, Sai Paranjpye, Kundan Shah, Vinod Chopra and Bhimsain. In 1990 he won the National award for Best Cinematography for the film, *Salim Langde Pe Mat Ro*. In 1999 he directed his first feature film, 'Kabhi Pass Kabhi Fail' production by CFSI which won the National Award, for the Best Children's Film.

Hindi Plays:

Bhim and Hanuman

This puppet show is based on a story about the Pandavs from the *Mahabharata*. Once, during their exile, Bhim, the strongest of the five brothers, was passing through the forest when he saw a frail, old monkey lying on the ground. Bhim felt insulted when the monkey did not get up to make way for him. The monkey said, "I am Hanuman, the servant and worshiper of the great Lord Ram who killed the demon Ravan." As he spoke, the old monkey grew into the huge form of Hanuman. Bhim was astonished and embarrassed.

This play premiered at the Festival of India in France in March 2
May 30, Sunday:

Workshop:

Leap Into A Story: With Chatura Rao

Examine those stubby growths on your shoulders. Could they be Wings? Dust them off and leap from real life, straight into Story.

Chatura Rao is a journalist and the author of the children's fantasy novel *Amie and the Chawl of Colour* (Puffin Books, 2004). Subsequently her short stories have appeared in several collection of stories for kids. Her first book for adults, *Meanwhile Upriver* (Penguin Books, India), was published in 2008. A collection of short stories (co-

authored by her sister), called *Growing Up in Pandupur*, will be published by Young Zubaan later this year.

Film:

Sunday (1993/60 mins/Hindi/Director: Pankaj Advani)

Junior is a fun loving, carefree and highly imaginative little boy and a seeker of adventure. One Sunday, mother and son make plans to receive his father who is returning from a business trip at the station and spend an exciting holiday together. Little do they know what adventures lie in store for them. A film about separations and reunions, arrivals and departures, slapstick and magic.

Hindi Plays:

Bhim and Hanuman

This puppet show is based on a story about the Pandavs from the *Mahabharata*. Once, during their exile, Bhim, the strongest of the five brothers, was passing through the forest when he saw a frail, old monkey lying on the ground. Bhim felt insulted when the monkey did not get up to make way for him. The monkey said, "I am Hanuman, the servant and worshiper of the great Lord Ram who killed the demon Ravan." As he spoke, the old monkey grew into the huge form of Hanuman. Bhim was astonished and embarrassed.

This play premiered at the Festival of India in France in March 2010.

---ends---