

## **NCPA appoints new Programming Art Vertical Heads**

***Deepa Gahlot joins as Head — Programming (Theatre and Film) and Amrita Lahiri as Head Programming (Indian Dance) at the NCPA***

Media Release

For Immediate Release

**Mumbai, June (date), 2010: The National Centre for the Performing Arts, India's premier arts and culture institution, has announced the appointment of Ms. **Deepa Gahlot as Head — Programming (Theatre and Film)** and Ms. **Amrita Lahiri as Head — Programming (Indian Dance) of the NCPA.****

Deepa Gahlot is a critic, columnist, editor, author and has in-depth knowledge of the workings of the theatre and film industry. She writes extensively on cinema, theatre, the arts, women's issues. She has worked with an NGO in the field of tribal development, directed and written short documentaries, radio features and run print features as well. She also won the National Award for Best Film Criticism in 1998 and has edited a number of cinema journals.

Prior to joining NCPA, Amrita has worked in arts management in Kalakshetra, the Kennedy Center, the American Festival in Durham and the Museum Rietberg in Zurich. Amrita Lahiri began dancing in Washington, D.C. with Anuradha Nehru and later learnt Bharata Natyam from Leela Samson in New Delhi, continuing her training in Kuchipudi under Swapnasundari.

Welcoming the new addition, **Mr. Khushroo Suntook, Chairman, NCPA**, says, "The NCPA intends to move towards a professional style of management, with good

governance, so that our activities attract young professionals to join us. This month is one of consolidation of the NCPA's new management team, which will now be fully in place. We are fortunate in having Ms Deepa Gahlot, guiding the destiny of our Theatre and Film programming and Amrita Lahiri, an accomplished Kuchipudi dancer, taking over the Indian dance portfolio— two very important positions now filled by persons who are poised to bring in new ideas and thoughts on programming and expansion of activities of their departments."

Commenting on her appointment **Deepa Gahlot, Head — Programming (Theatre and Film), NCPA**, said, "I am looking forward to attracting a younger audience and introducing films and theatre productions from other parts of the country and widening the NCPA's reach exposing Mumbai's audiences to a great variety. I am ready to take on the challenges this prestigious assignment brings forth." Prior to Ms Gahlot, theatre veteran **Mrs Vijaya Mehta** (Former Executive Director of the NCPA) was heading this department. Mrs Mehta has now retired.

**Ms. Amrita Lahiri Head — Programming (Indian Dance), NCPA**, adds, "A great challenge lies ahead, and moving forward I would like to maintain the interest levels seen in dance and also supplement the same with quality information. I hope the NCPA will be the place where people will come not just to see dance, but also to develop a deeper interest in the field." Ms Lahiri takes over from Poet and dancer **Arundhati Subramaniam**, who was handling the Indian Dance portfolio for over a year and was single-handedly responsible for rejuvenating the Indian Dance programming at the NCPA.

The NCPA produces many of the programmes held at its venues and has a full-fledged programming department comprising of five main art verticals — Indian Music (currently headed by Dr Suvarnalata Rao), Western Music (currently headed by Khushroo N Suntook), Indian Dance, Photography (Mukesh Parpiani, Head — Piramal Art Gallery) and Film and Theatre.

### **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. For more info, visit [www.ncpamumbai.com](http://www.ncpamumbai.com)

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