



Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 3 & 4

Event: 'Apeejay Children's Literary Festival'

Kolkata, 16th& 17thJanuary, 2016: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 organized an activity-packed and fun filled children's literature festival curated by and presented in association with Ramanjit Kaur and The Creative Arts. This children's festival aimed at promoting, reading, creativity and critical thinking amongst the children and nurturing their artistic skills. The festival spread over a day and half witnessed participation of 5 to 16 year old students from La Martiniere For Girls and Boys, Modern High School, Calcutta International, Apeejay School, Delhi Public School and Loreto and others.

The festival was inaugurated by renowned percussionist **Tanmoy Bose** and his sons **Shiladitya** and **Shauryaditya Bose** performed a musical tribute to teachers and gurus. Featuring talks, interactive reading sessions, discussions, plays, workshops on creative writing & bookmaking, sessions on rhyming and poetry, theatre, songs and singing, the sessions were conducted by renowned personalities and eminent theatre actors like **Ramanjit Kaur, Baishali Chatterjee Dutt and Suktara Lal**.

The Festival also featured a very special book launch by well-known child specialist, **Dr. Anupam Sibal - 'Is your Child Ready to face the World?'**, a book on parenting with foreword by Amitabh Bachchan. The book launch was followed by a special session by Dr. Sibal on parenting. In the book, Dr Sibal, detailed how he has used inspiring icons, world events and personal anecdotes to communicate to his own child, and mentions about the values he feels all children need, to face the world.

The Apeejay Children's Literary Festival also included theatre performance by children's group **Jhalapala** who performed the Bengali play '*Tai Se Jatoi Chhoto Hok*' and reading by Australian author **Jeanne Ryckmans**, from her book '*The Two Acrobats*'. The festival also showcased a unique activity by facilitator **Raju Raman** where students and teachers participated and performed extempore activity together.

The second day saw a plethora of vibrant activities ranging from teacher – student activity on folk tales, Story writing to singing songs for children and rhyming poetry. Some of the highlights of the second day were **Excerpts of Shakespeare's plays** by children of The Creative Arts, directed by Baisali Chatterjee Dutt and Shuktara Lal titled as '*All the World's a TCA Stage*'. Other activities are **Sing me a Story**, where folk tales are performed in a song format - teachers and students

perform together, lullabies being sung from all over the world, mobile film on Kolkata, to be used as inspiration for story writing activity and a parent child story enactment activity as a tribute to grandparents.

About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) 2016

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) is Kolkata's pioneering literary festival. Instituted in 2010 by the Apeejay Surrendra Group and its heritage Oxford Bookstore on Park Street, AKLF grew out of the bookstore's year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the seven years since Kolkata saw her first literary festival in AKLF, literary festivals have mushroomed across the country, but AKLF stands apart with its unique identity as the only one with a nearly 100 year old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favours depth over size, and includes a variety of subjects, from history to the environment. AKLF also celebrates Kolkata's magnificent public monuments and heritage sites as settings for Festival events, and eminent literati and cultural stalwarts from across India and overseas join the festival scheduled every year in the second week of January. In 2016 AKLF celebrates diverse themes encompassing books, theatre, the arts and cinema. AKLF's focus is on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. The 7th edition of AKLF is poised to scale new heights, with an outstanding and meticulously curated programme, bringing the world and the nation to Kolkata. Continuing to celebrate the city's magnificent public monuments and heritage sites the festival rediscovers the quaint and hidden charms of the city through heritage walks. AKLF highlights several unique concepts with a fresh approach that reflects current concerns such as diversity, gender equality, continuities across borders and youth engagements, which are also broad themes running through the festival. AKLF signature heritage sites include Nandan, Town Hall steps, The Indian Museum, Presidency University, Tollygunge Club and Victoria Memorial. AKLF 2016 has participation from Australia, Israel, Scotland, Italy, Nigeria, Portugal as well as England, France, Germany, Pakistan, Bhutan and others. Some of the prominent personalities who will be part of the literary extravaganza are Ben Okri, Meera Syal, Christine Manfield, Ashis Nandy, Vir Sanghvi, Bharathi S Pradhan, Shatrughan Sinha, Shobhaa De and more. The four day long, multi-faceted event has several stimulating components designed to give visitors and the audience an enriching experience, with a great blend of literature, culture, art and heritage. And all of this is absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

Notes to Editors

Dr. Anupam Sibal, (MD, FIMSA, FIAP, FRCP {Glasg}, FRCP {Lon}, FRCPCH, FAAP) has been a paediatrician for twenty years, trained in India and the UK. In 1998, he helped set up the first successful paediatric liver transplant programme, the Apollo Solid Organ Transplant Program, in India at Apollo Hospitals, Delhi. Prof. Sibal has been the Group Medical Director of the Apollo Hospitals Group since 2005. Prof. Sibal is an Honorary Clinical Professor at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. He has more than ninety-five publications in medical literature, serves on the editorial board of three journals and has edited a text book of paediatric gastroenterology and hepatology. Prof. Sibal lives in Delhi with his wife, Nandini, and son, Devaang. 'Is your child ready

to face the world?' is his new parenting book about getting kids ready to face the world with a foreword by none other than Amitabh Bachchan.

Ramanjit Kaur has been working as the lead Actor with Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry's 'The Company' for over two decades. Her performance career has taken her all over India and to Festivals worldwide. She has trained at Centre School of Speech and Drama, UK; London Academy of music and Dramatic Arts, UK; Birmingham School of Speech and Drama, UK; Improbable Theatre, UK and Theatre du Soleil, France. Her Film Credits include Deepa Mehta's 'Videsh - Heaven On Earth' and 'Fire'. In 2002, Ramanjit branched out on her own as Artistic Director of 'The Creative Arts', a company she founded with the aim of offering Theatre training and now known for exploring experimental genres such as Site-Specific Theatre. She made her directorial debut at the Lylian Baylis Studio, UK in 2008, with the play 'Crab Soup', as part of the International Theatre Science Festival. She has also conceived and directed many plays including Site-Specific productions like 'Is Job Charnock coming to dinner?', 'Upon A Yarn' and 'The Merry Go Round'. Ms. Ramanjit has won numerous Awards including Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Sanskriti Award, French Embassy Scholarship and The Charles Wallace Award

AKLF 2016 Partners and Associations:

The AKLF 2016 edition has forged several new, prestigious associations, following its impressive collaborations in first year in 2010. We are proud to welcome on board both our new and regular partners including the Victoria Memorial Hall, Indian Museum, Australian High Commission, Embassy of Italy in India, Bloody Scotland, British Council, Calcutta Debating Circle, Crime Writers Festival, Embassy of Israel in India, Alliance Française, Portugal Embassy, Presidency University, Jaipur Literary Festival, Yes Foundation, FACES, Open Doors, FREED, The Creative Arts, Poetry Paradigm, MAKAIAS, Tollygunge Club, Max Muller Bhavan - Goethe Institute, The Park, Modern High School for Girls, Rakshak Foundation, Aishee, Streets of Calcutta, Calcutta Instagrammers, Wikipedia, Caravan, BEE books, GIBL.in, Bulk Email SMS India, Presto, She and Griffith Review. We also have 91.9 friends FM as radio partner, The Times of India as Print Media Partner, Anderson as Printing Partner, Selvel as Outdoor Partner, Typhoo as Refreshment Partner, Mera Tiffin as Food Partner, IndisMart and Anon Production as special partners. A wide cross section of publishers, which include Niyogi Publishers, Future Publishers, OM Books and others will showcase their authors at AKLF 2016. AKLF is proud of these associations and hope they keep growing year on year.

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