

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 – Day 4

Event: 'Poetry Cafe'

Third and last day dedicated to actor poets and songwriters

Kolkata, 17th January, 2016: Multiple sessions on poetry with distinguished personalities and back-to-back intense musical performances marked the third and closing day of what was a literary innovation at Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2016 hosted at Goethe Institut /Max Mueller Bhavan.

The third day session commenced with '*Poet as Performer*' by actor-poets **Vinay Sharma** and **Jayant Kriplani** where they depicted and read out excerpts from their poetry pieces. This was followed by '*Ghare Pherar Gaan*' an engaging music performance by **Gaurav (Gabu) Chatterjee** and his band paying tribute to the pioneering Bengali rock band Mohiner Ghoraguli.

In the evening the Café' jazzed up to the tune of songwriter **Rahul Guha Roy, Neel Adhikari** and others singing their popular compositions with '*Music and Lyrics*' – a complete musical rendezvous for the music and poetry lovers of the city. The three day Poetry Café' featured remarkable, exclusive and unconventional rendition of the art called poetry and attracted not only poets but the poetry and music enthusiasts of Kolkata.

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

Jayant Kripalani - Jayant Kripalani is an acclaimed actor, theatre director and producer. He has worked at JWT, Grant Kenyon & Eckhardt, and as Senior Creative Director with RKS Swamy BBDO. Jayant was one of the first small screen stars in India featuring in TV serials like Khandan, Mr. Ya Mrs and later in Ji Mantriji. He has played character roles in movies like Heat & Dust, Rockford and Alag. Jayant has directed and produced a number of films for multi nationals and is actively involved with theatre. He also wrote the screenplay for Shyam Benegal's film, Well Done Abba (2009). Jayant has written the scripts for the original Ghar Jamai which was aired on Doordarshan. He has also written and produced PC aur Mausii - a mini TV series which explored the prejudices a 'Mausii' (maternal aunt) had with the advent of the 'dreaded' "PC" or Personal Computer in the mid-eighties in India.. His 'New Market Tales' (2013), a collection of short stories, brings to life the 139 yr old New Market in Kolkata and its various facets.

Neel Adhikari - Neel Adhikari is a music director/ singer songwriter from Kolkata. Fiercely independent, Neel has steered clear of the mainstream music industry. A rocker at heart he hosts the Open Mic in Kolkata and plays with two bands 'Neel and the Lightbulbs' and 'Gandu Circus' while helping and inspiring younger musicians in the city. He has played in several bands in Kolkata, and through his journey in music of many years, he has collaborated with some award-winning world famous musicians. Asian Dub Foundation, Susheela Raman and Sam Mills. He is also a professional music director and a composer for films. His contribution to the film 'Gandu' by Q, earned him fame through the international film and music circuit. His next project Q's film 'Tasher Desh' was done via his Indo-British Music Production House called MANA.

Rahul Guha Roy - Rahul Guha Roy, is the frontman of alt-rock band Cassini's Division, turned to country music for his debut solo album, Midnight Train (Rooh Music).

Gaurav (Gabu) Chatterjee – Gaurav Chatterjee is the son of Gautam Chattopadhyay, the frontman of Moheener Ghoraguli. He's been the drummer of Lakkhichhara for years. He is also a background score composer and music director of Kolkata Tollywood Bengali movies including Kagojer Bou and Necklace.

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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