

SMRITI RAJ

INITIATIVES, LEARNING AND JOURNEY OF A CREATOR



CREATOR BEGINS WHERE THE POSSIBILITY ENDS

**25 YEARS OF THEATRE OF RELEVANCE
CULTURAL CONSCIOUSNESS – AWARE
BEGINNING AS AN ORGANISER - 2017
AUGUST 10, 11, 12 – SMRITI RAJ**

Shades of Presence and Perceptions:

Theatre of Relevance

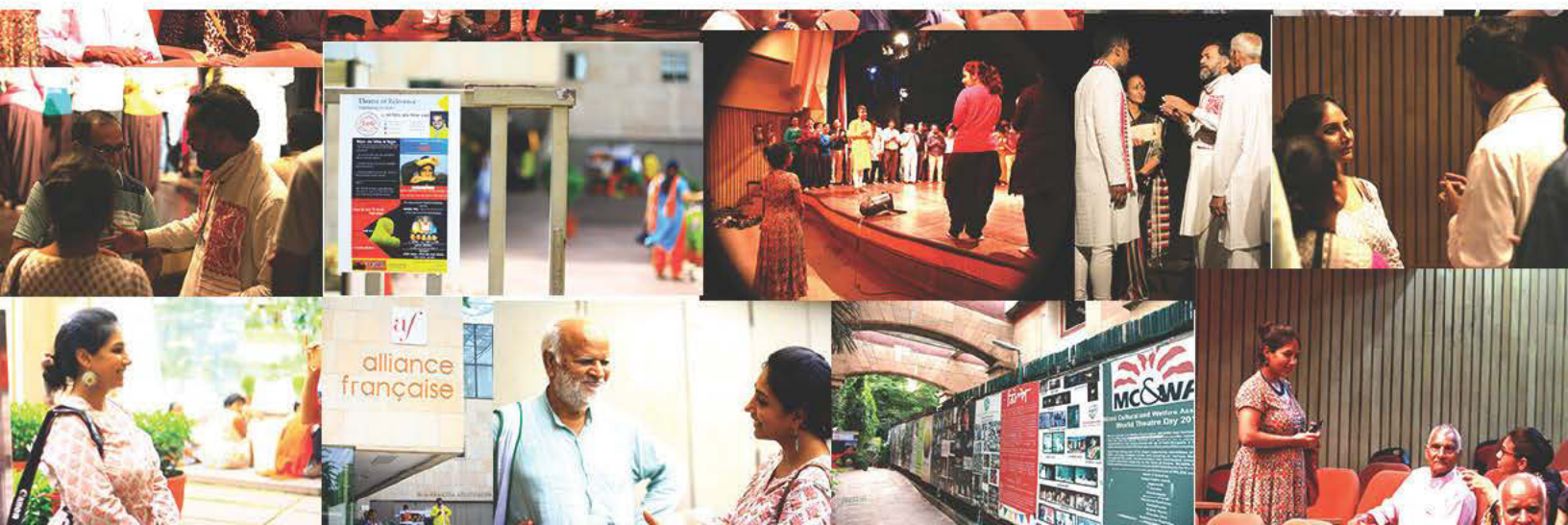
Celebrating 25 Years



25 वर्ष थियेटर ऑफ़ रिलेवंस उत्सव

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As an organiser the experience is unique and enriching as it is an exposure to new processes:

1. Researching
2. Meeting, talking, analysing, assessing – technical requirement, logistics, stage, time
3. Permission, booking, interaction with the authorities and staff, lightmen, watchmen, tea vendor, printer
4. Design, social media reach, invites, posters, volunteers
5. Checking with the management
6. Online circulations, emails
7. Connecting with press and media
8. Reaching through my friends, sister and her network
9. Responses – Expectations – its parameter

Meeting people from intellectual and various fields/class of society equipped me to an innovative view to what already mundanely exists and different to what I had already known. It regained my hope in various shades, vibrant and positive, enthusiastic and rejuvenating. Conversation and interaction with the audience and performers established that audience is undoubtedly first and foremost theatre person.

Various layers:

1. Family-team-festival-war of principles- vision-corrupt market forces-critics-media-audience-supporter-politically inclined youth change makers.
2. A comeback for a dynamic artist, a team member, breaking free, breaking from the usual and the barriers, a leap to explore the new aspect of being an independent veteran artist.
3. Children – Ruhani Suhani Advait Anvesha, Shrishti, all of them experienced the joy around that was reflecting in their expression. The exposure, the challenge that every parent faces today and deeply strives to provide was flowing around the children.
 - Creative Vibes
 - Cultural influence
 - Interaction with many participant of various age group
 - Responsibility of being involved yet being themselves, sense of maturity
 - Sensitivity to the atmosphere and relationships, purpose
 - Understanding the happenings and timing, when to be in cooperative mode to non- cooperative one, understanding of space and respect of it.
 - High level of exposure at auditorium from home – seeing the start and result of a process, witness to joy of completeness

Audience is the first & foremost Theatre Person

Theatre of Relevance Philosophy, Manjul Bhardwaj



- Positivity
- Acceptance
- Pride
- Able
- Confidence

4. My mother, Kanchan was handling the functioning of the overall kitchen and yet one with the purpose and principles, identified the creative, artistic and cultural movement of TOR as her own voice, supported in silence!

5. Sid was concerned and helped me keep my anxieties in check and stay calm, concerned of the availability of resources, understood the importance of the art not for the sake of art but to go beyond the entertainment.

Guidance and Mentoring by Manjul Sir

The festival is for me to find myself and create through it.

What is our objective?!

We, live our thoughts, we don't sell our thoughts. Essentially people's presence is irrelevant, what is important is that we are not living to sell. Commercialism is the rat race. We are evolving the being – purpose of life! people who know themselves, who wants to contribute, participate, connect and who thinks or want to make a difference. Art for artist and art for change! Dignitaries are burden until they join us as an audience without expecting special attention. Mobilize journalists who know themselves and want to make a difference.

Theatre of relevance

The Experimental Theatre Foundation's two fine productions, "Garva" and "Anhad Naad", directed by Manjul Bhardwaj raise voice against exploitation and market forces



Seeking direct dialogue Artists enacting a scene from "Garva"; (below) Manjul Bhardwaj ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

In its pursuit of evolving a theatre of relevance, the Experimental Theatre Foundation (ETF) has completed its 25 years' journey under the creative direction of writer and director Manjul Bhardwaj who defies the concept of conventional dramatic art. According to his artistic credo, theatre has nothing to do with entertainment and treats the concept of the fourth wall as the biggest impediment to the growth of theatre of relevance, seeking to establish a direct dialogue between the audience and the performers. It treats audience as the biggest creative force, seeking to expose existing political and moral values shaped by market economy which brings miseries to the masses. Breaking from the conventional theatrical art is a tall claim. In fact, new trends in the theatre are linked in one way or another to earlier traditions.

Based in Mumbai, ETF brought its three productions to Delhi as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations. It staged two plays at Muktaadhar past week to a packed hall mostly attended by those serious theatregoers who love to see experimental theatre. The Delhi event is organised by Smriti Raj.

Foetal movements

The festival opened with the presentation of "Garva". We watch foetus making movements in its

birth or not in a world where exploitation and vices prevail. The production shifts from one idea to another to illustrate its thesis that the world is being debased by dark forces. We hear references to the Mahabharata's characters like Bhishma, who did not raise his voice against injustice and Abhimanyu, who just listened about the martial art of Chakravyuh and because of his incomplete knowledge of this complicated war strategy, he got killed at the hands of the Kaurava warriors. The foetus reflects on a variety of facets of human life outside the womb of its mother. It resolves to come out of its mother's womb and combat dark forces to uphold its conviction about life which is after all beautiful.

"Anhad Naad" with the subtitle "Unheard Sounds of Universe" is featured on the second evening of the festival. It makes an attempt to liberate artist and his creation from the decaying market forces. Writer-director Bhardwaj uses sketchy and unconnected images from soci-

ety and nature to inspire artists and create a high form of art. The production exhorts creative people to free themselves from the psyche of formless, aimless and chaotic crowd and listen to the fine, tender and life-affirming voice within and to the music of nature. With his will power and sensitivity, creative mind should resolve Shakespearean dilemma "To be, or not to be, that is the question".

Then the production shifts to another point to bring home its inspiring message to the artist. It talks about flowing river beginning from the rocky hills in the shape of a rivulet and gradually acquiring great dimension, finally merging with the vast sea. Like river, artists should not be cowed by social, political and economic obstacles. Then it refers to high sounding phrases like progressive, development and revolution, commenting that these are mere high sounding words meaning little. It ridicules the talk of development and asks whose development?

To express his aesthetic idea, he declares "we are alive, let us celebrate it."

Similar pattern

As far as the structure of the script and the style of presentation are concerned, both the productions follow the same pattern. There is no such thing as storyline and character building. The language is highly Sanskritised. Verbosity

waj's theatrical craft. In fact, it appears that he has penchant for dialogue and wordy narrative. Before the show begins, he tells the audience about the concept of his theatre and why there is need for a relevant theatre. Again, after the show, he invites the members of the audience to the stage to comment on his productions.

However, his form is visually fascinating. The performers create a variety of choreographic patterns. The movements are imbued with lyrical beauty, trying to interpret the high sounding dialogue, describing forest, sweet chirping and twitter of birds among the trees. Other significant aspects of productions are the subtle use of offstage sounds and lighting effects. Bhardwaj's productions are high on the presentational style which creates at places abstract image making viewing tedious. To make his Samvaad with the members of the audience Bhardwaj should impart certain amount of cohesiveness to his content rather than bombarding them with high sounding phrases.

Viewed as a whole, all the five members of the cast – Ashwani Nandekar, Sayali Pavaskar, Komal Khamkar, Yogini Chauk and Tushar Mhaske – give fine performances. Together, they create beautiful poetic images. Though they are all Marathi speaking, they deliver Sanskritised Hindi dialogue in a flawless manner. Their voices are aptly modu-



THE HINDU



**ANIMATE
STORYTELL**

ANIMATED STORYTELLING

Let us get creative through awareness and exploration of Animation, Storytelling, Writing, Being an Author, Publishing, Film Appreciation (learning through films), Theatre through Theatre of Relevance process.

FACILITATED BY SHOBANATH MANSUR, MASKEPI, SMRITI RAI, MANJUL BHARWAL AND TEAM

Theme: Storytelling where participants

FEBRUARY WEEK

LET US TALK: 011-26100000

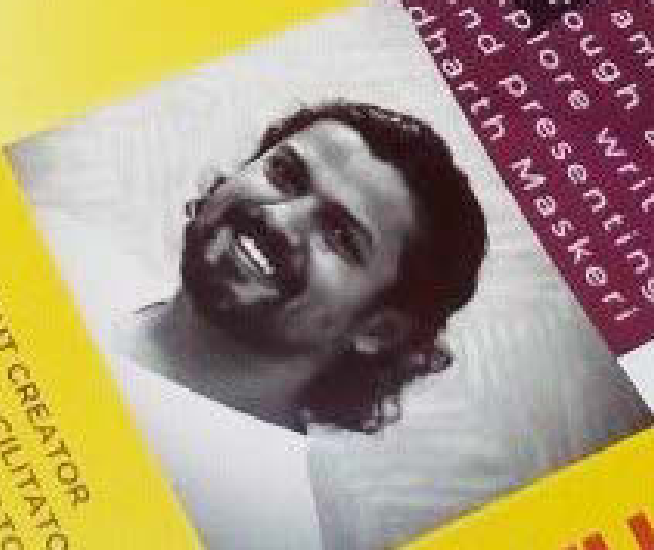
...ss and explore
...g: Being on Author
...content through films
...ance process.
FEBRUARY WEEKEND
Sunday 4 February
10 am to 1 p
...through acting
...and pre writing
...presenting
...Masker!

Theme: Storytelling through films
where participants will explore
...facilitated by Siddharth Masker!

TALK, SHARE!



LET US TALK, SHARE!
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CREATIVE DIRECTOR
AUTHOR, WRITER
ARTIST
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WISCONSIN

The logo for 'CREATORS CONNECT' is displayed on a white circular background. The word 'CREATORS' is in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font, and 'CONNECT' is in a smaller, dark blue, sans-serif font below it.

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WORKSHOPS CREATORS CONNECT

A question intrigues a thought, the thought transforms into action, the action transforms into mission and goals, and this chain reaction processed conviction while connecting with people who spoke the same language looking towards a humane world. My vision further strengthened as I understood that my initiatives are my family's initiative and through that support, I have achieved clarity and path.

Further, we decided that we needed to focus on raising community and work more towards it. Creators Envisioning Forum and various workshops based on Theatre of Relevance philosophy facilitated by Manjul Bhardwaj, built conviction, belief, and confidence, to start from what I have, rather than waiting for an ideal time and resources. I thought that the ideal time is right now, the ideal resource is in front of me, where I am sitting, my house, the people are my resource, my family, which is constantly with me, is indeed my resource, and I realised that I have abundance.

And the feeling of scarcity vanished. My vision made me rich that very moment.

Creators Connect Community is an initiative that starts with my family and extends to the like-minded participants, co-creators and creators. The idea keeps on evolving and achieving greater conviction when we explore, meet, exchange, express, and exercise openness with more creators in the orbit. I met Manish Jain and experienced immense joy knowing his journey and vision, it inspired me to see his family working together towards one vision, that brought me a sense of relief and greatest success. In the world where families don't think twice before going nuclear because we cannot sustain the diversity under one roof, and here we talk about unity in diversity in our country.

This thought made me think more about the system and the way our society is functioning. I understood

that one thought is so phenomenal that it has the capacity to affect and challenge the cultural, political, societal, economic aspects of the country. We are very proud of all the achievements, advancement, development, technology and education today. However, the thought that comes to my mind is whether all of this has actually simplified our life or created complications. Has the system been able to eradicate the social issues? have we become less corrupt? have we become more tolerant? have we become humane? compassionate? We need to think about it.

I understand that there are challenges when we are diverse (that is the beauty), living under one roof, but we don't push, run away, judge, eliminate, ignore or bully each other in a family. Today I have understood that being together as one comes with responsibility and everyone shares that responsibility. The most important aspects are clarity, communication and acceptance and rest evolves itself.

Charity begins at home and so I see that humanity begins with myself extending to my family and community. We identified how we can engage and involve the participation of like-minded creators which gave us more clarity on who are these creators in the community. Learning from the family structure it was simple to understand the community structure and functioning. In a family, we have a grandfather, grandmother, cousins, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, daughter, son, domestic helpers and so on, similarly, the community needs to be built and raised.

The Creators Community provides a ground and space to interact, exploring with a theme all co-creators work together to come up with a constructive creation. In a way, it is a healthy ground for exchanging, expressing, exploring, experiencing, diversity of knowledge, information, learning. The children are the core resource of this community, through whom we all learn to be spontaneous and joyous while creating effortlessly without any anxiety or apprehension. The senior citizen brings in their vast knowledge and experience which is channelized in the thematic exploration. The rest of us get to explore child and wisdom within us while channelizing our energy creatively and constructively.



The home that we need to raise, build and love to return to, is also the home within us, the core. This is the learning that nurtures trust, belief, exchange, sharing, courage, confidence, integrity, clarity, wisdom and peace. As a woman and common person, I can create, nourish, raise! I believe anyone can do that once we decide and envision.

HEAD FULL OF DREAMS
HEART WITH THE BURNING FIRE
MIND ENLIGHTENED
VISION TO BUILD
ARMS OPEN
CREATE



Aurobindo Ashram - 'ORBINDO'

Yesterday – 26th March 2018 was a historical day where I experienced a solar system inside Auribindo Ashram. 35 planets full of life revolved around the sun with their own forces.

Below I would like to share my thoughts on how I experienced the workshop.

LOVE and CONNECT

Smriti wonderfully facilitated the Teachers workshop. She lived her concept of "Understanding Children" She felt every participant and hand held the shy ones encouraging them to open up in front of the group even if it were in their mother tongue.

The group connected with her and her loving gestures and appreciated it and said they would also be as compassionate and patient with students in their class who take time to open up.

She was emphatic to the group on the importance of choosing the correct words as a teacher was brave and honest to share her mistake on usage of the word "LOG" for the participants. She effectively communicated that we use such casual words by habit and take a lot of important contributing elements for granted.

I could see the joy in the eyes of the The Mother and Sri Aurobindo as they experienced the Divine love radiate through Smriti.

CONTENT

Participants had to form groups and share an incident that had challenged / inspired them when they were 10. This activity had a manifold impact on the joy of the participants. And at the end when all were sharing their experience of the workshop, two students specially mentioned how much they loved it. One out of them came and solo performed his memory in the CENTER STAGE.



She effectively shared the concept that a true teacher is a creator through a dynamic exercise where every participant encouraged the other in a slogan "I AM A CREATOR" When one participant circled around in the center confidently shouting I AM, the whole group cheered him / her with "A CREATOR".

One of the students, probably the quietest one of them all surprised us all when she was asked to share what she learned. As Smriti asked her to go back to the state of a child and freely share her feelings, she came to CENTER STAGE and charged at Smriti who she considered to be her mother and startled her with a loud "HO" accompanied with the hand gesture that they all had learnt a couple of hours back. The whole group burst out laughing.

It was a magnificent surprise to me how the quietest girl made the loudest noise.

Many loved various ways through which she connected theater exercise to the art of teaching. And her patience of standing there for so many hours even when the participants were seated intermittently.

I know from the experiences shared by the participants that all our objectives that we had discussed prior to the workshop had been effectively planted in their heart with a vision.

PRESENTATION

Smriti was calm and composed. I thought there might have been a little stage fright as well as it seemed like she was taking time to settle into the fact that she was actually facilitating a group of 35 at Aurobindo.



CAMERA WORK

I thought of focusing my contribution to primarily recording it so that we could see it and learn from it. As a camera person outside the circle, I could sense a connecting energy between the participants and Smriti which I did not want to disturb. Many times I found myself positioned in one place engrossed listening to her and the participants rather than moving around.

An over all enriching experience. Before leaving for the workshop, I told Smriti, that we are going SKYDIVING. Yes, we did jump from the plane and landed on the ground alive and thrilled. Had a few hiccups, but now we know a little better when to open our parachute.



I AM

"Humari Prema - Humara School" Khud Sikho Khud Se Sikho, Hum Hain!!

The participants through the workshops, explore themselves in a creative and artistic surrounding /method, understand and experience innovative ways of interaction, communication, exploration, research and performance. The method exposes the participants to various values of theatre and they explore the concepts of acting, stage, voice modulation, writing, direction.

Theatre based workshop for liberating our energies and channelizing in the direction that we seek, envisioning and carving our future with consciousness. Encouraging the youth and children to empower themselves by nurturing from their own potential, surrounding, family; explored through the methods of theatre philosophy, Theatre Of Relevance.

Transforming our fears, inhibitions, problems, pressures and doubts by seeing it through fresh perspective and overcoming these challenges by initially introducing oneself to positive/conscious perspective and artistically building on the newness by constantly evolving awareness. Participants are the key resource of the methodology.

Challenges of youth and children is worked upon throughout while exploring the theme of the workshop: Building their own space, Comparison, Judgments, Peer pressure, Gender based challenges, Not being able to express, Sensitisation at various levels, confidence, Fears, Identifying special and unique.

LET'S CREATE

WE MEET
CREATORS
THROUGH
OUR
CREATORS
UNITE
TRIPS



MAGAZINE

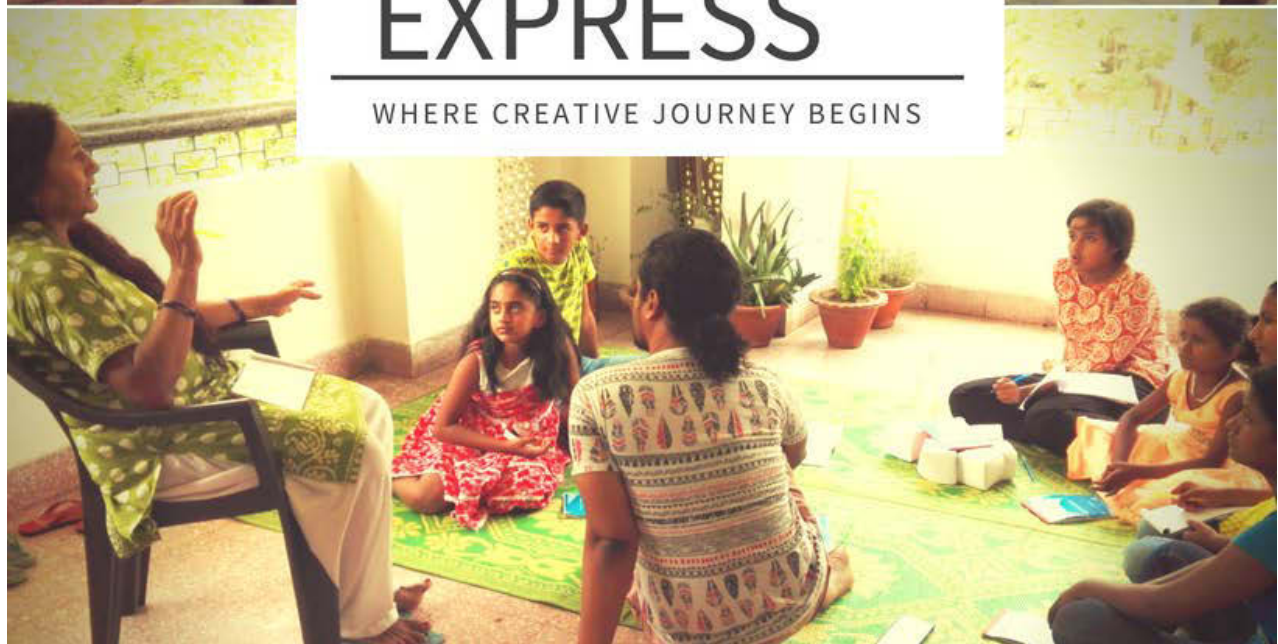
INITIATIVE BY
**CREATORS
CONNECT**

PATNA | JUNE 2018



CREATORS EXPRESS

WHERE CREATIVE JOURNEY BEGINS



परवरीश और होड़



STORY & ILLUSTRATION BY KANCHAN MALA

मैं बचपन से सुनती आई हूँ बच्चों का पहला पाठशाला घर होता है और माँ बाप पहले शिक्षक। जिस घर में किसी बच्चे का जन्म होता है उसे उस घर का माहौल की परवरीश के रूप में मिलता है यह सत्य है। पर जैसे जैसे बच्चे बड़े होते हैं फिर घर के बाहर दोस्तों का साथ और स्कूल का माहौल भी प्रभावित करता है। बात उन दिनों की है जब मैं तीसरी कक्षा की छात्रा थी। तब सिर्फ सरकारी स्कूल ही हुआ करते थे। मैं अपने घर के नजदीक ही श्री कन्हाई लाल माध्यमिक विद्यालय में पढ़ती थी। शिक्षक दिवस 5 सितंबर को होता है यह सभी को पता है जो भी शिक्षित है लेकिन मेरे वक्त में जब मैं स्कूल जाती थी आज की तरह शिक्षकों द्वारा सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम करके शिक्षक दिवस नहीं मनाया जाता था। तब 25 नया पैसा का एक टिकट आता था उसे खरीद कर एक आलपिन की मदद से

अपने पहने हुए कपड़े में लगाया जाता था। तब युनिफार्म भी नहीं हुआ करता था। मेरी कक्षा के शिक्षक ने वर्ग में आकर घोषणा की आज के शिक्षक दिवस पर जो बच्चे अधिक रुपया अपने वर्ग में जमा करेगा उसे कुछ भी इनाम दिया जाएगा। इनाम की घोषणा ने मेरे मन के अंदर हलचल मचा दिया। यह इनाम मुझे ही मिलना चाहिए। मैं घर जाकर अपने बाबूजी से रुपए की मांग की बाबूजी ने मुझे ₹2 दिए। मैंने वह रुपया स्कूल में जमा करा दिया। शिक्षकों ने मुझसे कहा तुम तो धनी घर की लड़की हो और सिर्फ ₹2 ही लाई हो। तब रुपए का बहुत अलग महत्व था एक पैसा, दो पैसा, तीन पैसा, पांच पैसा, दस पैसा, बीस पैसा, पच्चीस पैसा, पचास पैसा तब जाकर ₹1 ₹2 ₹5 इत्यादि हुआ करता था। इसलिए रुपए का और अधिक महत्व था। मैं दोबारा जिद करके अपने बाबूजी से एक

INITIATIVE BY CREATORS CONNECT | 15

Hey Sid,

मेरा नाम सूरज है। मुझे यहां पर आकर बहुत अच्छा लगा। यहां मुझे आकर अलग-अलग कुछ सीखने मिला। एक टीम में काम करने में मुझे बहुत मजा आया। मुझे यहां आकर बहुत मजा आया।

SURAJ KUMAR



The Huge Red Monster

Illustration & Story by Shinjini Sinha

My dream is to become a doctor. One day I was giving medical exam. When I finished it I submitted it to my teacher. That night a monster came and burnt our test papers. Next day we found that our test papers were not there. Our teacher told us to give the medical exam one more time. That night again the monster came and burnt our test papers.

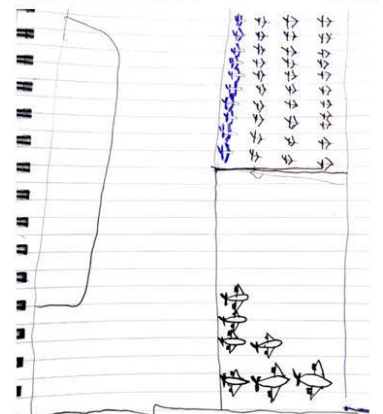
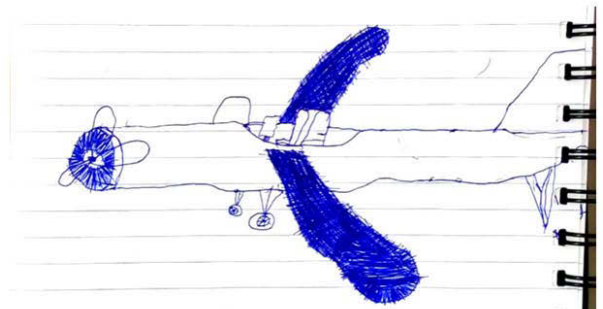
Next day again we have to give our exam. That day I thought "Where are our test papers going?" I wanted to know and so after school I stayed in the school. I hid myself in the room where the test papers were kept. All of a sudden a huge red monster came. I was very scared. I started shouting.



Then suddenly someone shook me. I opened my eyes. It was my mother. She asked me "Why were you shouting?" Then I realised it was only a dream!

20 years later...

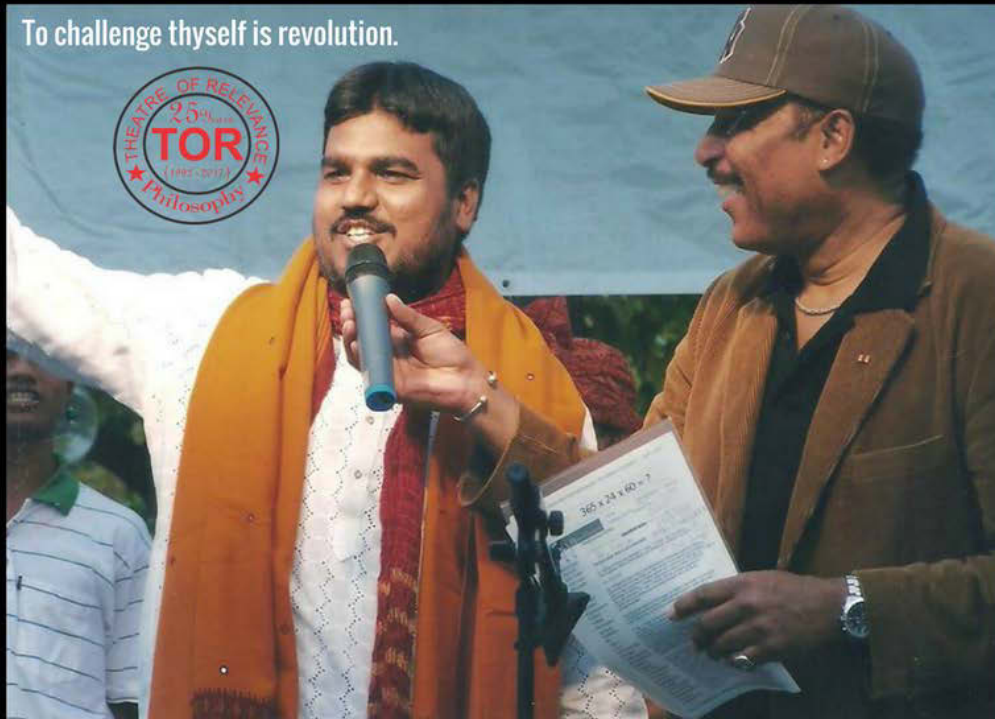
The penguin had become a pilot and will tell you how he became a pilot. "When I was 18 years old I was took admission in a pilot Training College. The first plane I sat in looked like this:



And when I flew it everything looked like this from top:

3 MINUTE FILM CREATING VISIONARIES THEATRE OF RELEVANCE INDIA

“



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Theatre of Relevance CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

By awakening cultural consciousness, it is committed to Cultural Revolution!

YouTube - <https://youtu.be/X3PqPruXRHo>

Germinating all theatre possibilities. Inspiring, encouraging every Theatre Artist through the "Theatre of Relevance" theatre movement...activism....culture.....thriving since 25 years and establishing theatre principles that soar beyond the government aid, grant, non-government or corporate, national or international funding. Theatre Movement that prevails, nurtured by the contribution of people participation.

CREATORS UNITE

Road Trip



BRAVING THE UNKNOWN IS REBIRTH

In today's era of competition, race, success, position, achievement, comfort, buying, selling, Do we listen to our heart? Do we nourish our mind, body, spirit?..... Are we building relationships, trust, togetherness, love, collaboration? Are we raising community?

These questions intrigued me. I came from the same structure, mindset and the system, Now I am relooking...where I am from and redefining my location. There has been a constant conflict and struggle between my core and the way society, system and I myself had been functioning. I realised that this whole circle is consuming and exhausting. So I decided to break the circle and to work on our vision of community, to raise the world that I want to live in. Coming from the same system and mindset means where I have exploited and have been exploited, where I have been an opportunist and catered to the selfishness of the whole conspiracy of consumption, where my decisions have brought miseries to me and people around me, where position, success, earning, relationships, and everything related to living is actually grave deadness. That life seemed like a myth unfolding once I was in the state of contemplation, awareness, and enlightenment in the process.

I saw that there is a struggle in both the choices, whether we become part of the whole consumption circle or we create a new world. So breaking free was not as difficult as I thought, I just had to break through my own blocks and conditioned mindset. My earning meant the world to me, it made me feel that I am Independent, and that the economical Independence is the way to my integrity and freedom. I was wrong! and I realised that it was not my freedom but the reflection of my slavery to the system that subconsciously I wanted to shun. Practically there are some changes that we need to make when we decide to create, and those changes immediately/visibly nurture our home, folks, children, family, society.

With this learning, we decided to transform a journey into a mission. The Mission was to create and unite. Creators Unite slogan and #CreatorsUniteRoadTrip became more than just a hashtag on Facebook.

It directed me to inspirational people, creators, movement on the way, and I connected to them with a vision.



It nurtured my learning and perspective. Since 2017 I have actively pursued my decision of being a creator, and have been connecting with all the creators in the orbit, to construct and envision the world that thrives on humanity, on the culture of the community, where the learning flows naturally and effortlessly from one entity to another, without the pressure of performing or being perfect....these notions are ill-defined and the parameters of performance or perfection is unknown and unreal. Look into nature, the natural ecosystem....and then tell yourself what you see...in context to performance and perfection. Then why take the pressure, why compete, why perfect? Being visionary and humane is natural, and this choice guides our journey.



REDEFINE DISCIPLINE AND CREATE A DIALOGUE WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

by Smriti Raj

In the view of recent series of unfortunate events, where the children and youth are succumbing to the pressure that we as a parent, teacher, and society exercise on them through our genuine/ingenuine or thoughtful/unthoughtful words and actions. The definition of moral conduct, discipline, behavior, academic excellence, career, and likewise needs to be revisited and redefined. Dreams, curiosities, and aspirations need expression through constructive and creative method. We need to understand children and youth, create a dialogue, exercise openness, counseling, interacting, evolving together and stop using the threat as the way to bring them in line.

Pressure, threat, and punishment are not an evidently useful method to address the energies of youth and

children today. The speed at which the society has changed, the challenges have not only increased for us as a parent, teacher or authority but also for these young minds. We fail so many times in being an effective adult and a professional in spite of our training and experience then are we giving the benefit of doubt to the young blood about being naive, are we facilitating them in the relevance of demands and pressure of today's world? are we creating aware human beings?

The violent action is both, whether it is suicide or murder under pressure and misguided, confused state. I raise a question, is murder, not a suicide when committed by the youth and children, under unaware, misguided state of mind and under immense pressure



that we are throwing at them. With increasing exposure to social media, internet, advertisement, media, brand, position, money, gadgets, games etc. have we increased our sensitivity towards addressing and creating a dialog with our own son, daughter, student one on one basis?

The social, cultural, psychological aspects of development have created a gap and the system is failing obviously in bridging this gap. What steps have been taken by parents? Has education system and method evolved? Is it not a need of the hour to make counseling a part of the curriculum on daily basis? Life Skill/Expression is a must. Behavioral and Psychological sessions are must in schools and teacher training. Sensitization and awareness programs are the need of the hour.

The time is challenging us to rise for our Youth and Children, for they are our future and I hear India is headed for the highest number of youth population soon. Are we ready yet? Murder or Suicide, both end immense possibility of dreams and aspiration of a human being. Be aware and humane.our country is invaded by us, we are not evolving as humane beings, we need to connect with ourselves to start with and talk to our children on daily basis. We also need to talk about ourselves and understand our challenges, identify it. Clarity guides our perspective and Humanity must be the core and pivot of our thoughts, words, conduct, actions, and training



THEATRE OF RELEVANCE – AN INSTRUMENT TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION IN INDIA

Role of Parents and Teachers in nurturing the Nation Builders - Written by Smriti Raj

Education and teachers are integral to the development of the nation. However, India has lagged drastically in narrowing the learning gap, addressing and contributing towards value based development of its people and the nation. The teachers are unable to identify and position themselves as the source of creation and development of Indian society. The challenge is evident in inability to achieve the role of creator, facilitator and 'Guru', which is the most important aspect of the Indian culture. The actual goal of education seems drifted and sadly, the parents have surrendered to the falsehood of creating factory products in the name of schooling, education, grades and are trained to measure the success through competition unlike collaboration which is the essence of life.

Theatre of Relevance breaks the conventional framework of education system by evolving teachers to liberate from the limitations of being mere fruitless practitioners redundant in context to the society and the nation. The purpose of education is to create the process of envisioning. Theatre of Relevance connects theoretical knowledge with practical lives and builds the perspective to relook through one's own life experiences. It imbibes scientific perspective and resolves the challenges of Indian education system.

Theatre of relevance is a philosophy initiated by Manjul Bhardwaj in the year 1992 and currently celebrating 25 years of cultural consciousness through series of Theatre Festivals in New Delhi and Mumbai, workshops and trainings in Media, Education, Theatre, Corporates, Politics, Entrepreneurship at Institutional, Individual, Indian and International level.

Learning is Participative

Theatre of Relevance ensures participation of children, parents and educators as it processes the evolution of the pain, struggle, joy and dreams of the human being. This connect is devised from life and life experiences, and this is the process of learning, evolving together to transform the current system. A system where no one has to wear masks and the teacher is able to identify the uniqueness, process the challenges through creativity, awareness and acceptance. The teacher applies his/her learning and is transformed into a facilitator and maximizes potential of the children/students.

The teacher's journey starts as a facilitator when she/he connects with the dreams and curiosity of the children through realization that teaching is a process of evolving together, a lab of life where we cultivate unique beings who are different and yet one with the vision and purpose of learning. The clarity of the vision initiates openness and creativity to surmount every day challenges. The teacher is empowered to devise a two way method to make learning participative.

Catharsis to Empowerment

When we deny the contribution and role of Theatre in our life we deprive ourselves from an innovative journey of exploration, development and change. Theatre of Relevance is about managing time, space, human resources & its processes, emotions, thoughts, dreams, desire, action, response, social & organisational behaviour. It is an experience which is 'here and now'. It is a catharsis which empowers us. Today we are focused on value based learning and

value based learning facilitates value based leadership, which is the need of the mankind. Theatre is a laboratory of self-exploration where we are provided with the space to challenge oneself, self-worth, strength and weakness, ability to connect with others, emotional intelligence, expression, openness and likewise which leads into deep understanding of human processes.

Theatre of Relevance is creativity that is required today to achieve our aspirations, dreams and challenges. The conditions for creativity is to leave once comfort and go to the wilderness of our intuition, curiosity, focus, accept conflict and tension, and to be born every day. To feel a sense of self is the very basic discipline of Theatre of Relevance. Creativity in interaction with people is one of the most crucial skills a human being can hone and theatre develops those interactive skills. Recreating one's own life is the highest form of creativity and theatre is the recreation of life, it processes us to recreate and rediscover, to be a change maker in different spheres of life.

Inspiration for Transformation

Leadership, vision, creativity, innovation, emotional intelligence, team building, planning, personal effectiveness, communication, confidence and many other attributes that is expected of a teacher and human being today, you can find these in theatre as a new and unique instrument to experience, learn and live. Theatre is a mirror which opens your eyes and aids to see your own face, to discover, understand the present and plan for the future. It develops a sense of objectivity, enthusiasm and focus. It creates habit of timing, newness and inspiration for transformation.

Theatre of Relevance philosophy is an awareness of effective communication in its verbal and non-verbal form. Theatre is a medium of attempting complete communication of human experiences by creating the illusion of reality with human being as actors. It has therefore real space, real time, real actors and experiential emotions. In other words it tries to concretize the abstract ideas, experiences and various intricate relationships between human beings and nature for better understanding. Therefore it makes the exercise an intellectual and spiritual one of the highest degree. Theatre enables intuition, insight, instinct and observation which is one of the key skill of a trainer, teacher, facilitator or a leader.

Theatre has the capability to bring life to ideas, vision and existential experiences in communicable forms which helps a transformational leader to envision, align others to their dream and motivate for execution.

Unmasking the Mask

The greatest challenge in the system today is the mask that everyone wears and through Theatre of Relevance processes the human beings are encouraged to voluntarily unmask themselves which creates a belief in their natural self, their ability to rediscover, dream and to create a vision for themselves and their counterparts. The unmasking is a process which streams freshness and harmony, positive vibrations and emotional strength, intra and interpersonal bonding and create a team of effective human beings. Theatre develops confidence, articulation, dynamism, spontaneity and a habit of timely response, alertness, attentiveness and expressiveness. It prepares to face the challenges and keeps you alive and vibrant. Theatre is a great stress buster instrument which relaxes and brings joy that motivates towards achieving higher in life.

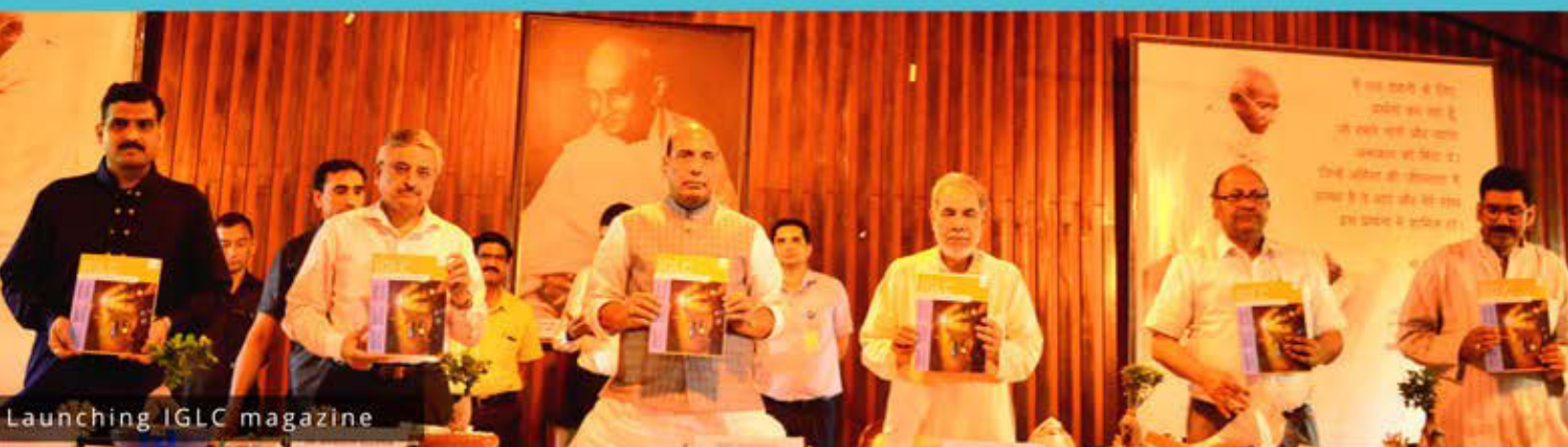
Out of the classroom into the World

It triggers the unleashing process of hidden potential that is creativity, excellence, zeal to excel, latent values, in a very participative and spontaneous manner and the person who has gone through this process is able to give his best. And that best is also provided a platform to understand how it has been perceived, received, observed and evaluated by other counterparts.

Theatre of Relevance philosophy compliments the pedagogical practise where learning is not limited to school but it is evolved of/from/for life. It develops the vision where the students not only find teaching innovative, purposeful, skilful and knowledgeable but also intellectually intriguing and at par with other professions like of the lawyers, doctors, IPS, IAS and Nation Builders. Theatre of Relevance stimulates a collaborative learning environment and focuses on quality of education by connecting theory and practice, thus, out of the classroom into the world.

HEALTHY AGING INDIA

NEWSLETTER



Launching IGLC magazine

(L to R)

Dr. Prashun Chatterjee
Asstt. Prof., Dept. of
Geriatric Medicine
AIIMS

Dr. Randeep Guleria,
Director, AIIMS

Hon'ble Sh. Rajnath
Singh, Union Home
Minister

Sh. Rambahadur Rai,
Director, IGNC

Dr. G.K. Rath, NEC, AIIMS

Sh. Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director, Gandhi Smriti
and Darshan Samiti

CANCER AND PNEUMONIA ARE PREVENTABLE - LET'S INVEST IN IT

*Recent Event - 25th April, 2018, 3pm to 8 pm
5, Kirti Mandap, Tees January Marg,
New Delhi-110 001*

Around 500 enthusiastic elderly individuals from various old-age homes and people from remote areas of Delhi NCR were given vaccination against pneumonia and cancer screening was also conducted. It was a one-a-kind event which was successfully managed to reach significant number of elderly people.

School children from Purva Madhyamik Vidyalaya, sector 12 were awarded for their outstanding result in the Intergenerational Learning Center (IGLC). The elderly educators were felicitated for their contribution and encouraging the positive change for the socio-economically disadvantaged children resulting in outstanding performance.

The chief guest of the event was Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh Ji. Many reputed dignitaries joined hands with HAI from various Governmental and non-Governmental sector and

HEALTHY AGING INDIA

Healthy Aging India (HAI) is not for profit organization realizing a dream of "Dignified and Active Society for all Ages" ensuring better geriatric health coverage to older Indians and spreading quality education to children. The motto is to "Encourage, Educate and Empower" present and future generation for sustainable development. HAI is registered under Indian Societies Act, 1860 in December 2013 and working as a peripheral wing of the Department of Geriatric medicine, AIIMS and Healthy Aging India (HAI) for community service.

VACCINATED 300+ ELDERLY FROM OLD AGE
HOMES TO PREVENT PNEUMONIA



IGLC

Intergenerational Learning Centre Magazine

A NOVEL MODEL OF SUCCESSFUL AGEING

A Health-Promoting Behavior
through life long learning and
intergenerational solidarity

BASED ON COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

Individualised care and
protection in educationally
friendly interactive environment

PURPOSES IS TO EVOLVE PRACTICES OF HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Meeting social, emotional,
nutritional, intellectual and Eco-
cultural needs



COME DIVE IN THE WEALTH WITHIN

IS THERE ANYTHING WISER THAN OUR OWN LIFE EXPERIENCES?
ARE WE AWARE & POSITIVE? ...LEARNING FROM LIFE AROUND, EACH MOMENT?

LET US TELL STORIES

STORYTELLING AND ANIMATION

RETHINK RELIVE REVIVE

16-17 JUNE | AGE GROUP 8+ TO 80+ | VENUE: SAKET, NEW DELHI

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18 FEBRUARY 2018 · 10 AM TO 2 PM · SAKET J BLOCK

2017

Discover . Resolve . Act

CREATORS ENVISIONING FORUM

Calling All CREATORS.

Let's discover, clear and strengthen our VISION.

Let's take a step towards our DREAMS.

Let's WALK!

WHY?

All of us want to be someone, want to do something, and want to make a mark in this world. We all have BIG DREAMS of GRANDNESS, HAPPINESS and BEING RECOGNIZED, but have we ever identified what exactly do we want the world to know us for. Do we have clarity of the path we need to walk?

Gear up to face these challenges and break through our little cave into the light!

WHAT!

Process oriented workshop where the participant act as a resource. Manjul Bhardwaj will facilitate the participants to envision and nurture the creator. An intense process where the participants get a holistic understanding of 'Relevant Creation' through exploration from concept to presentation level.

3 DAYS | 4 HOURS EACH DAY | NON RESIDENTIAL | 2017
NOVEMBER 25, 26, 27 | NEW DELHI | SEATS 10
ENROLLMENT STARTED | CONTACT SMRITI 9819773635

THE WRITERS WORKSHOP

LIBERATE THE WRITER IN YOU

21-25 JUNE 2017

Facilitator: Manjul Bhardwaj
at Zorba The Buddha, Delhi
5 days non residential program

SUNDAY, 15 APRIL 2018 - 10 AM ONWARDS AT SAKET

COME LET'S EXPLORE OUR CHEMISTRY WITH SOUND AS WE
TELL A SOUND STORY TO A BLINDFOLDED AUDIENCE

HEAR TO BE HERE

SOUNDS THAT TELL A STORY

We have always been led by sound. Whether it was the creaking door that scared us or the dripping water tap that annoyed us or the cry of our loved ones that worried us or our favourite songs that cheered us, we have always leant upon sound not only for information but INSPIRATION and EMOTION.

ENROLL NOW - REGISTRATION COST 200 Rs. FOR ONE WEEKEND
100 Rs. for additional weekends in March and April, AGE GROUP 8+ to 80+
VENUE: SAKET, NEW DELHI *Suggested Contribution for Senior Citizen*

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MARCH & APRIL 2018

SUNDAY, 11 MARCH 2018

Story and Script - Understanding the foundation pillars of a great story. Taking the story further to developing the script with rough dialogues.

FACILITATED BY SIDDHARTH MASKERI.

DEMYSTIFY FILMMAKING AND FILM APPRECIATION

ENROLL NOW - REGISTRATION COST 200 Rs. FOR ONE WEEKEND
900 Rs. FOR ALL THE SUNDAYS IN MARCH and APRIL 2018, AGE GROUP 8+
VENUE: SAKET, NEW DELHI

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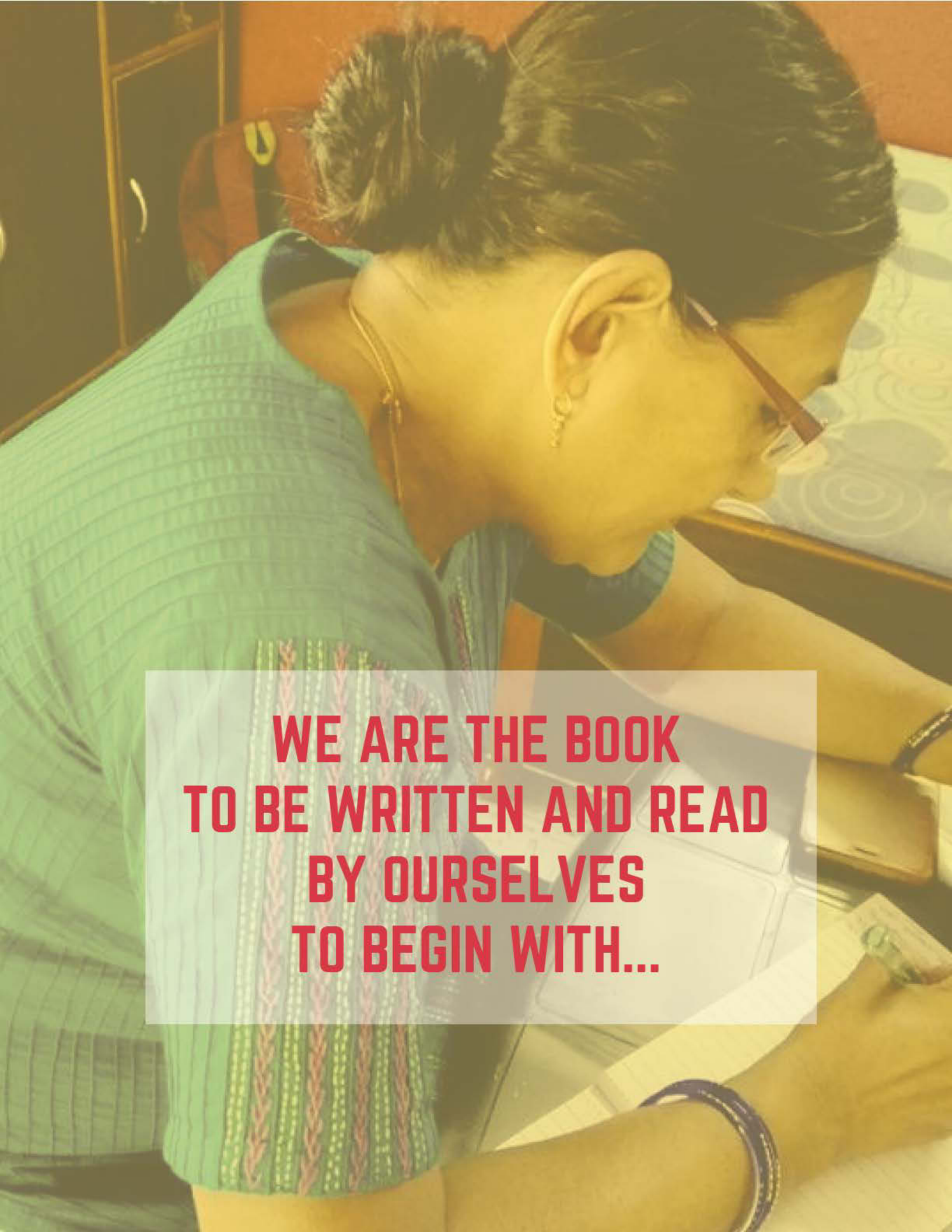
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CREATORS MOMENTS



BLOOM, GROW...BE THE FLOW...
ETERNAL...TO THE ENDLESS, INFINITE ROOTS
OF RHYTHMIC LIFE.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing glasses and a green textured sweater, is shown from the side, focused on writing in a notebook. She is wearing a gold necklace and a small hoop earring. The background is slightly blurred, showing a desk and some papers. The overall tone of the image is warm and focused.

**WE ARE THE BOOK
TO BE WRITTEN AND READ
BY OURSELVES
TO BEGIN WITH...**