

Department of Public Relations, Chandigarh Administration
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Press Release

Chandigarh, July 21:- As a part of Chandigarh Theatre Festival, the Chandigarh Administration in collaboration with Pearls Institute of Hospitality and Management, Banur has invited four plays from Mumbai "GHALIB" directed by Dr. M Sayeed Alam starring Tom Alter, "GOSWAMI TULSI DAS" directed and enacted by Shekhar Sen, "BROKEN IMAGES directed by Alec Padamsee and produced by Raell Padamsee starring Shabana Azmi and "SAKUBAI" directed by Nadira Zaheer Babbar enacted by Sarita Joshi.

The chief guest for July 24 will be UT Home Secretary Mr. Ram Niwas and on July 25, Chief Secretary Haryana, Mrs. Urvashi Gulati, will grace the occasion as a chief Guest. Governor of Punjab and Administrator UT, Mr. Shivraj V. Patil will be the chief Guest on July 26 whereas Chief Justice Punjab and Haryana a High court, Mr. Mukul Mudgal will be the chief guest on July 27.

The festival will kick off from July 24 and will be on till July 27. All the performances will be held in the evening from 6.30 pm onwards at Tagore theatre. The Festival is open to all and the passes for the festival can be collected from Tagore Theatre from today onwards on first cum first served basis. Shekher Sen known in the country for charismatic solo and singing performance would enact the role of Tulsidas and Tom Alter a versatile actor would be enacting the role of "Mirza Galib".

PIERROT'S TROUPE's "GHALIB" (Urdu / Hindi) is scripted and directed by Dr. M. Sayeed Alam starring Tom Alter, Vijay Gupta, Anju Chhabra and 10 others. With the duration of 1.45 hrs, this play is all about an intriguing man named Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib -- a master yet a rundown poet, a privileged yet a pitiable elite, an extravagant yet a poor noble, a devout and yet, a self effacing lover, an irreverent yet a pious husband and a self-seeking yet, altruistic person. This is what one gain insight into while watching the 70 year old Ghalib (Tom Alter) narrating the memoirs of his life to his first biographer Maulana Altaf Hussein Hali.

He, in his inimitable style, laced with humor and satire, talks about Ghalib the talented child; Ghalib the carefree young man; Ghalib the matured middle aged: His wife Umrao Begum, a God fearing lady wedded to man who dared God: His family that got reduced to two from seven in a very short span of time: His deranged brother, shot dead as a rebel by Britons in 1857: His devout servants, twenty one in total: His lady love Mughol Jan, who committed suicide: His futile attempts to secure a dignified position

in Mughol Darbar, and also the professorship in Delhi College (now Zakir Hussain College): His contemporaries – virtually a long list -- Mir Taqi Mir, Nazeer Akbarabadi, Zauq, Bahadur Shah Zafar, Aish, Zauq, Hali, Daagh, Har Gopal Tufta, Munshi Shiv Naraian, Sir Ross, Thompson, Col Brown etc. In the process, he dispels myths about his rivalry with Zauq; about his love for wine and women, about his role in 1857 etc. Unfortunately, these myths still persist. At the core of the play are Ghalib's Ghazals, recited, sung and performed (in dance form); including a good number of them hitherto unheard. Last but not the least, the play is the latest production of Pierrot's Troupe --- the theater company credited with re-discovering the genre of 'biographical drama': Maulana Azad, K.L. Saigal, Begum Akhtar, Ghalib in New Delhi etc.

"Goswami Tulsidas" is a 'mono act musical play' written, acted & directed by Shekhar Sen. The pious soul of Goswami Tulsidas comes on the earth for a day and tells his own story. It's interesting to know, how an orphan beggar boy becomes the greatest poet of INDIA. Apart from this, the viewers are surprised to know the great social reforms done by Goswami Tulsidas. Seeing the poor men of India exploited by the ignorance of religion, he is inspired to write Ramayan in Awadhi (a dialect of Hindi) the most popular "SHREE RAM CHARIT MANAS". The 120 minutes long drama has 50 musical sequences as they merge with the story & the viewers get a panoramic view of Goswamiji's literary works & it becomes more relevant as Indians are celebrated 500th year of Goswamiji's birth all over the world recently.

"SAKUBAI written & Directed by Nadira Zaheer Babbar will be performed by Sarita Joshi. Watch 'ba' as 'bai' women like Sakubai deal with the most trying circumstances with so much of strength & endurance. They have been around in our lives for years. In Mumbai they are called bais, in other parts of India they may be called 'Aaya', 'Ammā', 'Khansamin', Nanny etc. whatever they are called, in whichever part of India they live, we cannot do without them. We survive because of their unsung efforts. The duration of the show is one hour 30 min.

"BROKEN IMAGES" starring Shabana Azmi has been written by Girish Karnad, directed by Alyque Padamsee and produced by Raell Padamsee's ACE Productions. "Broken Images" is a psychological thriller that rips the mask off a celebrity. The twenty-first century is the age of the electronic image. From every corner of our world, electronic images fling themselves at us, entertaining, educating, enticing & offering us a virtual world.

Manjula Sharma is not a very successful Hindi short-story writer. She suddenly becomes wealthy and internationally famous by

writing a best-seller in English. The question haunting Manjula is, whether in opting for the global audience, has she betrayed her own language and identity? Now, without warning, it's her own "image" that decides to play confessor, psychologist and inquisitor.