

**MEDIA RELEASE****Teamwork Arts announces ‘India by the Bay: A Digital Series’ in collaboration with****Asia Society Hong Kong Center****15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

(Hong Kong, Oct 7, 2020) Over the past five years, India by the Bay (IBB) has established itself as one of Hong Kong’s landmark cultural festivals on the strength of its rich and diverse programming. IBB fuses the classical and contemporary across art, music, theatre, dance, food, literature, film and wellness – essential ingredients of India’s multi-cultural identity. The much-awaited sixth edition of IBB is back with a completely new format. This edition of the much-loved festival will be presented through a digital series – ‘**India by the Bay: A Digital Series**’. The series, a prelude to the IBB 2021, will telecast the episodes from **15th to 18th October 2020** reaching out to a wide audience, across a diaspora of communities.

Initially, the 2020 edition had been planned for the month of February. Due to the pandemic, the main “on-ground” edition has had to be moved forward to 2021. However, our determination to support the arts and bring India’s vibrant culture to Hong Kong annually has prompted us to go ‘Digital’ and adapt to this new ‘normal’. Even as cities and countries are shutting down their borders; it is imperative that the flow of cultural ideas is not constrained and it is with this intent that we conceived the digital series in partnership with Asia Society Hong Kong Center.

Co-presented by Teamwork Arts and Asia Society Hong Kong Center, India by the Bay has put India firmly on Hong Kong’s cultural landscape on the strength of its rich and a diverse palette of programming. The week-long celebration of the arts includes the classical and contemporary, across genres of music, theatre, dance, food, wellness, film, and literature.

*‘We are glad to see that the sixth edition of ‘India By the Bay’ is being organized even in these challenging times, through a digital edition, for which we congratulate the organisers. IBB has always been presenting to Hong Kong a showcase of India’s multi-cultural diversity, in the arts, cuisine, music, literature etc, and the digital edition will be carrying this tradition forward. We hope all of you will enjoy this year’s unique IBB. We wish it every success, and look forward to continuing our collaboration and support for IBB’* says **Priyanka Chauhan, Consul General of India to Hong Kong**

*“We are delighted that India By The Bay has been transformed into A Digital Series during this unprecedented time. The series will bring us together to continue our exploration, learning and healing even while apart. Asia Society Hong Kong is delighted to be partnering with Teamwork Arts again, this time digitally, and hopefully to a larger online audience in Hong Kong and globally”* says **S. Alice Mong, Executive Director of Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

**Sanjoy Roy, Managing Director, Teamwork Arts** said, *“India By The Bay celebrates Creativity, diversity and excellence! In this time of a global crisis the arts have an even more important role to play and define identity, home and tradition. In this spirit in association with Asia Society, Hong Kong we present our first India by the Bay, digital series.”*

This series will see a programme every evening from **7:00 pm to 8 pm, from October 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**, dedicated to literature, music, food and wellness.

- **WELLNESS: Yoga as a Way of Life**  
**15th October, 7pm**

Yoga philosopher Daniel Simpson will present a specially designed session on the benefits of Yoga in these difficult times. The wellness session on Yoga and coping with COVID-19 will see Daniel Simpson's practical approach combine scholarly knowledge with humour and insight, making yoga philosophy accessible and relevant.

- **FOOD: Zaika: Food, Creativity and Lockdown**  
**16<sup>th</sup> October, 7 pm**

Indian British chef and restaurateur **Romy Gill** of BBC One's 'Ready Steady Cook' and **Rahul Gomes Pereira** (Chef Picu), Executive Chef of the award-winning regional Indian restaurant Jamun will speak about food and creativity, their favourite lockdown recipes, and the nature of the Chef's Craft.

- **MUSIC: East West – A Legacy:**  
**17<sup>th</sup> October, 7 pm**

Renowned sitar player, **Shubhendra Rao**, disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar celebrates the centenary of his Guru's birth year in a performance that showcases the collaborative elements of his legacy. With his wife **Saskia Rao de Haas** on the cello, the evening will include the classical and traditional and also feature a collaborative section with local guitarist **Tjoe Man Cheung**.

- **LITERATURE: Churchill: Hero or Anti Hero.**  
**18<sup>th</sup> October, 7 pm**

A session with **Shashi Tharoor** in conversation with **Mukulika Banerjee** on the life and legacy of Winston Churchill, one of history's most complex figures.

### **WELLNESS: Yoga as a Way of Life**

#### ***With Daniel Simpson***

The teachings of yoga are powerful tools for transformation. Although much in the world is beyond our control, a little inner discipline helps reduce suffering. We can change how we see things and act with more skill so we lay the foundations for lasting contentment. This session explores how to do this in practical ways. There won't be any physical contortions - all you need is a comfortable seat.

Yoga philosopher **Daniel Simpson** will present a specially designed session on the benefits of Yoga in these difficult times. The wellness session on Yoga and coping with COVID-19 will see Daniel Simpson's practical approach combines scholarly knowledge with humour and insight, making yoga philosophy accessible and relevant. He teaches courses at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, teacher trainings at Triyoga in London and around the UK and internationally.

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**FOOD: Zaika: Food, Creativity and Lockdown*****Romy Gill and Rahul Gomes Pereira in conversation.***

Food holds a primal place in our emotions and identity, and spices and local flavours are an integral part of identity and culture. Indian British chef and restaurateur Romy Gill of BBC One's 'Ready Steady Cook' is the author of *Zaika: Vegan Recipes from India*. Rahul Gomes Pereira is the Executive Chef of the award-winning regional Indian restaurant Jamun. Fondly known as Chef Picu, he is known for his well-researched recipes, skilled technique and intelligent applications of local ingredients. They will speak of food and creativity, their favourite lockdown recipes, and the nature of the Chef's Craft.

**Romy Gill:** Romy is a British/Indian chef, food writer, author and broadcaster. She was the owner and head chef at Romy's Kitchen. In 2016 she was appointed an MBE in the Queen's 90th birthday honours list. Romy is now one of the chefs on the new series of Ready Steady Cook on BBC One and has previously appeared on Sunday Brunch, BBC The One show, BBC Country life, BBC Celebrity MasterChef, The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food, James Martin's Saturday Morning and much more. Romy is also a regular on BBC Radio 4's Food Programme. She is the author of *ZAIKA – Vegan recipes from India*, and regularly contributes to national and international publications, including The New York Times. Romy was invited to speak at the Mad Symposium in 2018 and recently was invited to cook at the prestigious James Beard Foundation in New York.

**Rahul Gomes Pereira:** Acclaimed Indian chef, Rahul Gomes Pereira or Chef Picu, will provide the perfect gastronomic 'digital' experience in Indian fine dining and delight viewers with his insight into the variety of Indian cuisine. Jamun is an eclectic food destination on Delhi's culinary map that embraces India's vast range of rustic, authentic flavours with a range of recipes from Kashmir to the Deccan.

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**MUSIC: East West – A Legacy:*****With Shubhendra Rao and Saskia Rao de Haas***

Renowned sitar player, Shubhendra Rao, disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar celebrates the centenary of his Guru's birth year in a performance that showcases the collaborative elements of his legacy. With his wife Saskia Rao de Haas on the cello, the evening will include the classical and traditional and also feature a collaborative performance with local guitarist **Tjoe Man Cheung**.

**Shubhendra Rao**

Pandit Shubhendra Rao is an internationally-acclaimed performer, composer, cultural entrepreneur and music educator. A protégé of Pandit Ravi Shankar, Shubhendra Rao has performed at major music festivals and prestigious concert halls like Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Sydney Opera House, Salzburg International Music Festival, the BRICS Summit in China among several others. Together with his wife Saskia, he has created India's first-ever music curriculum for children, 'Sangeet4All'. As an empanelled ICCR Guru, Shubhendra has trained many foreign students who, in turn, are teaching Indian music across the world.

**Saskia Rao-de Haas**

Saskia Rao-de Haas is a world-renowned virtuoso cellist, composer, cultural entrepreneur and educationalist from the Netherlands. Though she trained in the Western cello as a child, she changed direction when she came in contact with Indian music in 1993 and became a master performer and creator of a new instrument: the Indian cello. Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia speaks of his disciple Saskia as “someone who has been taught by God”.

**Tjoe Man Cheung**

Tjoe is a Hong Kong born and bred musician. This Musicians Institute alumnus is a favoured sideman in the Pop scene, a talented Jazz & Blues guitarist, a proficient arranger and composer. Currently the official artist of Melancon, Tjoe is recognised for his creative approach, powerful soloing, unique improvisation and splash of humour on stage.

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**LITERATURE:**

***Shashi Tharoor in conversation with Mukulika Banerjee on Churchill: Hero or Anti Hero.***

**Shashi Tharoor** is an author, politician and former international civil servant. Dr. Tharoor straddles several worlds of experience. Currently a third-term Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (MP) representing the Thiruvananthapuram constituency, he has previously served as Minister of State for Human Resource Development and Minister of State for External Affairs in the Government of India. He currently chairs the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology. Dr. Tharoor will be discussing the life and legacy of Winston Churchill, one of history's most complex and divisive figures.

**Mukulika Banerjee** is Associate Professor in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics and the first Director of the South Asia Centre to be launched at LSE in January 2014. Her new book *Why India Votes* was published by Routledge in December 2013. Among her other works are *The Pathan Unarmed* (2001) on an anti-colonial movement of non-violent civil disobedience among the Pashtuns of the NWFP and a book on the modernity of fashion, *The Sari* (2003).

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

The sessions will be broadcast simultaneously on all Asia Society Hong Kong Center official social media handles including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asiasocietyhongkong>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AsiaSocietyHK>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/asiasocietyhk>

The sessions will be broadcast on Asia Society Hong Kong Center's Facebook and YouTube channels:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asiasocietyhongkong>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AsiaSocietyHK>

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**About Teamwork Arts**

For over 30 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India, presenting the finest of Indian performers, writers and visual artists in the cultural and art space in India and abroad.

Every year, we produce over 25 performing, visual arts and literary festivals in several countries including Australia, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, the UK and USA as well as many eclectic festivals across India. We produce the world's largest literary gathering: the annual Jaipur Literature Festival; JLF international now travels to the US, UK, Canada, Qatar and Australia and we have recently launched a digital series - JLF Brave New World. Our musical extravaganza, Bollywood Love Story - A Musical, continues to tour the world with sold-out shows everywhere it is held.

Website: [www.teamworkarts.com](http://www.teamworkarts.com)

**About Asia Society Hong Kong Center**

Asia Society Hong Kong Center is a locally funded, independent non-government organization established in 1990. We are dedicated to providing educational platforms that present balanced perspectives and promote critical understanding of topics that are relevant to Hong Kong, Asia and the region's role in the world. Across the fields of arts & culture, education, business & policy, we seek to provide insights, generate ideas and promote collaboration to address present challenges and create a shared future. Our home is located in Admiralty at the former Explosives Magazine of the old Victoria Barracks, and was the result of careful conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use to transform the heritage site into a cultural, artistic and intellectual hub in 2012 to offer a broad variety of cultural and education programs to the community.

Website: <https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong>

