

VIVA CONFUSION

MULTIDISCIPLINARY SHOW WITH DR. MOHAN AGASHE

SATURDAY JUNE 6, 2009 @ 8 P.M.

Where: Gesù-Centre de Créativité
1200, rue Bleury

Tickets: \$25
(514) 861-4036



A groundbreaking production in form and content, Viva-Confusion is the Festival Acces Asie's exciting theatrical offering. A collaboration with visiting international artist, Dr. Mohan Agashe, it fuses psychiatric doctor/patient relations and multi-disciplinary Montreal artists, mostly of Asian background, into an unforgettable experience.

This is a docu-drama show by incorporating with real life documentary footage interviews with Canadians by Asian descent or by affiliation, who express their cultural confusion in such themes as ancestry, assimilation and allegiance, etc. Dr. Agashe will weave his cultural counseling with creative theatrical presentation of dance, music and comedy with distinct East meets West flair. What will the good doctor prescribe us? We'll find out on June 6, 2009.

WHY DR. AGASHE?

Being a well-traveled psychiatrist with an impressive resume as a thespian and actor from India, a country with many cultural complexities, Dr Agashe is perfectly suited to commented on the cultural experiences of migration and effective coping mechanisms. He will be joined by a mosaic of Montreal performers notably - Filipino Montrealer Cecilia Cristobal (Teesri Duniya's play Miss Oriented, Jackie Chan's The Tuxedo) plays the role of an anchorwoman in the midst of the action; and renowned jazz bassist, Alex Bellegarde, serves as the musical liaison between the Montreal music community and our talented Asian artists. *Come join us and viva celebration!!!*

DR. MOHAN AGASHE is a Psychiatrist who opted to work in a government hospital rather than to go in for the much more lucrative world of private practice, so as to have equal time to devote to his first love, 'acting'. Agashe has been acknowledged as one of the finest actors on the stage and screen, in the seventies and eighties. Beginning with an acting tour-de-force as the machiavellian Nana Phadnavis in Vijay Tendulkar's internationally acclaimed play Ghashiram Kotwal, Agashe went on to great heights in a succession of plays and award winning films by masters like Satyajit Ray, Mira Nair, Shyam Benegal, Gautam Ghose and Jabbar Patel. He also plays the lead in the Indo-Canadian independent cult film "Seducing Maarya". (www.huntmovies.com)

His greatest contribution to the Indian Theatre in general and Marathi Theatre in particular has been his pioneering work in introducing the concept of GRIPS Theatre Berlin in India in 1986 which today has become a self sustained movement. GRIPS is a form of theatre which presents contemporary social and economic issues in a play that is entertaining for children and education for adults. As an honorary Director of «Theatre» Academy - GRIPS Project» he produced in collaboration with GRIPS Theatre, Berlin and Max Mueller Bhavan excellent yet meaningful realistic plays which opened a new chapter in Indian theatre for children and youth besides conducting several workshop all over India on Grips methodology with the help of Goethe Institute branches in India. He was awarded 'The Goethe Medal' - Official Decoration of German Government, by the President of The Goethe Institut in March 2004.

He also introduced contemporary Indian Theatre to Europe and North America as an actor-manager of Theatre Academy's overseas tours to present Vijay Tendulkar's folk musical play 'Ghashiram Kotwal' that was invited to international theatre festivals of Berlin (Festwochen 1980), Lille (1980) Belgrade (BITEF 1989) Quebec (1986) and Baltimore (Theatre of Nations 1986) as well as guest performances in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Budapest, Moscow, and many cities of North America.

On the medical side, he initiated a project to strengthen the mental health education and service in 1988, which resulted in the Maharashtra government adopting a new Mental Health Policy. As a Mental Health Advisor to the Government of Maharashtra, he helped the Maharashtra government reorganize the Mental Health Services in the state. He initiated psychosocial rehabilitation of victims from the Latur earthquake of 1993 and was the Principal Investigator of a Research Project undertaken by ICMR (Indian Council for Medical Research) Centre for Advanced Research to study the Health Consequences of Earthquake disasters in 1994. He was the Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society held at the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune in January 2001. Currently he is the Principal Investigator of an Indo-US Joint Research Project on «Cultural Disorders of Fatigue and Weakness».

www.accesasie.com

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