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India Foundation for the Arts
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Note from the Editor

Greetings from IFA! I'm delighted to report that the first issue of our newsletter was very enthusiastically received. Readers emailed from across the country, describing it "as a great way to keep us abreast with IFA", as "educational and interesting in all respects" and as a "useful and informative update", with one correspondent saying – "It is always enjoyable to keep in touch with IFA and I am glad I can now do that on a regular basis."

Please do continue to write in to us; we'd especially welcome responses to the opinions thrown up by our Slant and Stance section. You're also encouraged to use this space to start a debate, draw attention to important developments in the arts world or simply to publicise arts events. Do write to me at editor@indiaifa.org if you wish to do any of the above.

The highlight at IFA in recent months was a colloquium on arts education that we co-organised with the movement arts centre Attakalari and co-funded with the Sir Ratan Tata Trust. Titled **Accessing Arts Education: Possibilities and Challenges**, this brought together policy-makers, artists and arts educators. Having NCERT director, Krishna Kumar discuss the question of "How we have managed to keep the arts out of schools for 150 years?" alongside close-to-the-ground accounts of working in the field of arts education was an eye-opening experience. Renowned performer Shubha Mudgal, one of the speakers at the seminar in her capacity as chairperson of the NCERT Focus Group on Art, Music, Dance and Theatre, talks in the Slant and Stance section about the NCERT's vision for arts education in the country.

More on this colloquium and other recent activities below.

Anjum Hasan
Communications Editor

Recent Projects

Carnatic music appreciation for schools

The Bangalore-based Ananya GML Cultural Academy recently received a grant to produce and broadcast thirteen episodes of a school radio programme on Carnatic music and to publish and disseminate supporting printed materials. This grant was made under our arts education programme which funds organisations to develop and implement educational projects in the arts.

Ananya has a ten year old record of promoting the arts, especially Carnatic music, through its weekly concerts, its monthly journal, and its archive. Ananya's founder – Dr. RV Raghavendra's – keenness to promote an appreciation of the arts among young people, finds expression through this project, which is expected to reach 8 million middle-school children in the age group of 8 to 14 years. This weekly, year-long All India Radio broadcast on Carnatic music in Kannada will form part of AIR's existing daily school broadcast.

Click on the following link to read an online version of **Abhivyakti**, Ananya's monthly

journal, which in print form will be issued free of cost to all the schools availing of this project.

And more for on Ananya visit <http://www.ananyaculture.org/>

Accessing Arts Education: Possibilities and Challenges

Exploring Migration

Filmmaker Shumona Goel from Mumbai received a grant under our Extending Arts Practice programme to create and exhibit **Family Tree** – a film installation on the theme of migration. Shumona is interested in the psychological consequences of migration and would like to separate out and thereby draw attention to the different elements of the film – photography, motion film and sound – in order to encourage reflection on how migration “fractures a single, solitary sense of self.” Her installation will be ready by November 2007.

Public Eye

Film on IFA...

Well-known advertising filmmaker, Sumantra Ghoshal, worked closely with our grantees to produce **Art Matters** – a series of six short films on IFA’s decade-long work in the arts. In a moving speech made at the premier of the film in Bangalore, Sumantra pointed out how, while working on this film, he was “re-introduced repeatedly to the sheer value of the arts.” He went on to say that: “The way IFA adds value to vulnerability is, I believe, the only way organizations have of dealing with the insecurity that is the artist.” **Art Matters** has been enthusiastically received and last showed, in mid-December, at a short and documentary film festival organised by the newly-set-up Jatin Das Centre of Art in Bhubaneswar.

Two New Books...

Sociologist Deepti Priya Mehrotra’s book, **Gulab Bai: The Queen of Nautanki Theatre (Penguin India)**, is the result of a grant that we made to Deepti to research the life and times of this versatile and accomplished performer, and one of the first female practitioners of the form. Deepti’s biography of Gulab Bai is also a story of Nautanki – from its roots in all-male folk forms and the semi-classical Khayal to the crude, improvised and film-influenced Nautanki of the late 20th century.

Shilpa Soundarya (Shilpa Kala Academy) is a sourcebook in Kannada on the Chola, Chera, Chalukya and Hoysala sculptural traditions of South India. Both the research and the publishing costs for the book were covered by IFA grants. The author, T Pankajaksha, is a sculptor trained in the traditional style and has won several awards at the state and national levels. **Shilpa Soundarya** is rich with detailed line-drawings and photographs, and is the first sourcebook in simple Kannada that will be accessible to traditional sculptors.

A Puppet Theatre production...

Puppeteer Anurupa Roy and animator Vishal K Dar’s performance **About Ram** which premiered in September has since been performed several times at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi and will travel to Taipei in March to take part in the puppetry festival. Meanwhile, Vishal exhibited the animation sequence of the performance as a gallery art work at the Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi. He also organised a walk-through for a new delhi school and a visiting school from singapore of about 60 kids to introduce to them the concept and work on the production.

The production has been well-received with *The Statesman* describing it as a “richly conceived world” and going on to say that “...the effort, the vision behind and the canvas of ‘...about Ram’ raises the bar of innovation in puppetry.”

Accolades for films...

Here are the screening details of Bishar Blues at the International Documentary Festival of Amsterdam (23rd Nov to 3rd Dec'06). Bishar Blues was a part of the 'Reflecting Images Panorama' section -Reflecting Images presents 'films that are thought-provoking in form and choice of theme.'The film had three screenings - 26th Nov at Calypso, 29th Nov at City 3 and 2nd of Dec at City 1.

Rajula Shah's film, "Beyond the Wheel" has won the second prize in the documentary category in the Vibgyor Shorts and Documentary Festival, Kerala.

or its artistic finesse in telling the story of three women potters

Our Events

The master of the sarod, Ustaad Amjad Ali Khan, and his sons Ayaan and Amaan Ali, performed in support of IFA at the Taj Banjara in Hyderabad on the evening of December 21. Speaking to the audience about Recounting to the 500-strong audience how he perfo

Slant and Stance