5.30pm and 7.30pm. ML Bhartia audi-

We Can Make a Difference

30-31 August

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# THE Import mint PLANNER

### **DELHI**

# Ekant: my mindfulness is my world

An exhibition of sculptures crafted from stainless steel by Vishal K. Dar. In his first solo exhibition, Dar explores "archisculpture", the idea that much of architecture is sculpture in disguise. The gallery where the exhibition is taking place has also been designed by the artist.

11am-8pm. The Stainless Gallery, Property No. 1 and 2, Ishwar Nagar, Mira Complex, Okhla Crossing, Mathura Road



## Metropolis and the Self

### A group show exploring the relationship between the city and a person's sense of identity. The artists share their experiences of moving from a smaller town to

Debraj Goswami, Pratul Dash. Alive, S-221, Panchsheel Park (41639000).

this wispy, gently amusing French relationship comedy, and stars as the foppish, fumbling and perpetually

enting a room from ditzy olonde Anne (Frédérique Bel) who swiftly becomes his confidante as he attempts to woo the attractive yet mysterious young student, Julia (Fanny Valette). A trip to the seaside ends in lisaster when Julia succumbs to the oily charms of Julien (Dany Brillant), an old-fashioned Lothario who, unlike David, knows the quickest route to a woman's heart. Adopting a very standard romcom format, it's all a bit too

throwaway to connect on any

asting emotional level. Still, it

### so enraptured by. But, gratifyingly, he never allows for a descent into caricature, presenting David as an endearing. fully-rounded, genuine character, whose time in the world of romantic endeavour

delivers him to a satisfying (if hardly groundbreaking) ending. a large and bustling metropolis. Artists torium, Alliance Française de Delhi, 72, Max Mueller Marg, Lodhi Estate featured include Apurva Desai, C.F. John, (43500200). Dance

Monday-Saturday, 11am-7pm. Art

### Sadhya, the dance company that has ent d'adresse (Change of given us a decade of memorable contemporary dance productions, has come 29 Augus of age in more ways than the merely Emmanuel Mouret writes and directs

chronological. And this fortnight will see the organization's entry into the emerging area of dance activism. Their production, 'We Can Make a Difference', deals be-scarfed French-born tutor with global warming. David. The film opens with him 6.30pm. Kamani auditorium, 1, Copernicus Marg (23388084). Call Sadhya (26693030) for ticket prices and other

details

Music Emperor Minge



would have been easy for Mouret to turn 
The genre-busting Delhi quintet per-David into the kind of point-and-laugh forms at the weekly Sundaze festival. Fxpect a mishmash of styles ranging loser that American Indie cinema seems from metal to avant garde jazz with a 1960s spy movie soundtrack somewhere in between, Rs1.000 per head (includes unlimited drinks and finger

8pm. F Bar and Lounge, The Ashok, 50B, Chanakyapuri, entrance from Niti Marg (26110101)

### Pandit Debu Chowdhuri + Shanno Khurana

Padma Bhushan awardee Debu Chowdhuri will take part in a sitar recital while Shanno Khurana, who is a stalwart of the Rampur gharana. will deliver a vocal performance. The event is part of Sumadhur Hamsadhwani presentation, 'National Integration Through Music' 7pm. Habitat World, India Habitat

Centre Lodhi Road (43663333) **Maulana Azad** 

31 August Cast, Tom Alter. Sayeed Alam's dramatic monologue is not an easy play to sit through. It's two and a half hours long, with no interval and a solo performance with not a lot of action. There are many meandering stories about the Congress party's politics before independence, It's also spoken in a chaste Urdu that is make the play watchable, though: The fact that the script is peppered with little titbits—Azad's taste in tea (white jasmine), or how Nehru mumbled in his

sleep—and a fluid, measured perfor-

Samad was an imaginary figure he invented for himself, or reminisce about often difficult to understand. Two things how he taught himself English as a young man after reading Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's statement that Muslims could never progress if they did not take to Western education. But such trivia only makes an occasional appearmance from Tom Alter, who plays Azad. ance—most of the play is concerned with Azad's views on his contemporaries, his responses to charges made against him or the Congress party, which The Prophet

Smart robot: A scene from Pixar's Wall-E.

It's fun to listen to Alter dismiss British-

Indian style tea as "liquid halwa", pro-

pose that Ghalib's Persian ustad Abdus

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**WALL** 

drawls not dissimilar to ET's limited

lingo. But Wall-E is alluring, and not

because he's got big eyes or dangling

working, with a romantic side, and is

eyelashes, but because he's smart, hard-

hopelessly addicted to watching clips of

Michael Crawford and Barbra Streisand

in Gene Kelly's 'Hello Dolly!' on a video

destroying the planet.

Across cinemas.

**Theatre** 

29-31 August

screen. He's everything we should have

been if we hadn't put all our energy into

most people would consider the stuff of politics proper. The play is part of the "Best of

he represented for much of his political

career, or his fears about the future of

Muslims in the subcontinent—what

### Film Wall-E

tality, marriage and other themes to a young boy who shares his room. 6.30pm. Experimental Theatre, NCPA, NCPA Marg. Nariman Point, Tickets Rs200 (66223737)

law suddenly dies and all his money and the unsold precious metal into bars for property go to her husband, he is no lon- safe keeping. The collections will fund ger the loving spouse that he used to be. rehabilitation schemes in the Konkan. He gets addicted to the theatre. Giribala tuitions for competitive exams, a yoga suspects him of having an affair with the centre, a state-of-the-art public library and health care across eight public hoswomen were not allowed to watch or act pitals in Mumbai.

9am-11pm. Shree Ganesh Nagar, Lalbaug market.

### **BANGALORE**

# Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

This fortnight, three artists will present solo shows at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Rakhi Kumari, who hails from Varanasi, will present her collection of acrylic paintings in a show titled 'Spiritu al Space', from 3-9 September. From 3-8 September, Pintu Paul from Kolkata will show his works, while Sushanta Chandra Karmakar from New Delhi will show his paintings from 3-7 September. Monday-Saturday, 7am-8pm; Sunday, 7am-noon. Art Complex, Kumara

Krupa Road (22261816).

Magnitude Gallery is celebrating its secstage on the penultimate day of the fes- ond anniversary with the theme, Ekatival to battle it out for Rs1 lakh worth of danta—various avatars of Lord Ganesha The theme is also a continuation of the year-long Rang De India celebrations that have in the last few months presented shows based on themes such as, Udyama (based on the IT industry), Nritya (on the regional dance forms of India)

# 7.30pm. Chitrakoot Grounds, behind Fun Republic, Andheri (W). Tickets,

Bhavan's Cultural Centre brings down artists from Kerala to perform this colourful classical dance.

stage actor Lavanga. In a time when

in plays, Giribala secretly goes to attend

a play starring Lavanga and gets curi-

cocooned life.

26149546.

Glancing at the list of bands competing

this year might just force you to do a

in the Mumbai leg of Independence Rock

quick double take. Black and Aftertaste?

where in god's name is the death metal?

that the 2008 selection throws up. Only

These are just some of the questions

one of the bands will join those from

Kolkata, Delhi, Bangalore and Pune on

equipment from instrument sellers Fur-

Didn't they contest in 2007? Medusa?

Aren't they more electronica? And

Independence Rock XXIII

Music

tado's Music.

**Dance** 

Kathakali

ously transformed by the spirit of the

theatre. What follows is a ques-

tioning of the merits of her

Janki Kutir, Juhu Church

Road, Juhu, Vile Parle (W). For ticket prices, call

11.30am. Prithvi Theatre,

6.30pm. SP Jain Institute of Management and Research auditorium. Bhavan's College Campus, Dadabhai Road, Munshi Nagar, Andheri (W) (26237454).

### Around town Ganesh Chaturthi

What does an elephant-headed, onetusked, mouse-riding deity do on his 75th birthday? If the god in question is Lalbaugcha Raja, the Ganesha idol who makes his home at Lalbaug Market every Ganeshotsav, he'll probably do what he usually does. He'll receive roughly 1.2 million visitors over 11 days, get birthday gifts valued at about Rs2.5 crore and will patiently listen to every prayerful wish cast in his direction.

"There will be no social messages at the Amrut (platinum jubilee) Mahotsay." said Sunil Joshi, chairman of the Lalbaugcha Raja Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Mandal, which organizes the festivities. "We are just celebrating 75 years of Ganeshji fulfilling wishes."

The mandal's job will include increasing security and crowd management for the additional hordes expected this year. They will set up LCD screens to entertain the serpentine gueue of devotees and. as always, count the cash offerings, audit and auction the jewellery and melt **For the Bard:** Al Pacino as Shylock in The Merchant of Venice.



My friend Ganesha: An exhibit from Ekadanta.

and Vanitaa (women of India). 10am-8pm. 140/13, 27th Cross, 13th Main, III Block Jayanagar (9900117201).

# Shakespeare screening at Teri

A one-off screening hosted by The Bangalore International Centre, based at the complex of The Energy and Resources

'The Merchant of Venice' (2004): Radford's Shakespeare adaptation is his best film since 1984, but doesn't overcome the play's inherent difficulties. The director prefaces the action with titles that explain the resentful tolerance that the Venice of 1596 showed to the usury practised by the city's Jews. Radford then emphasizes the virulent anti-

### pound of flesh. This is Al Pacino's show and thankfully his Shylock is absorbing enough to carry the day. Adopting a guttural staccato, he assumes an intriguing figure driven as much by contempt and pride as he is by revenge; an orthodox authoritarian drawing on wells of controlled rage, he's also vulnerable enough to be deeply slighted (and isolated) by the desertion of his beloved daughter (a poor Zuleikha Robinson). The rest of the transatlantic cast work surprisingly well as an ensemble, despite individual weaknesses: Joseph Fiennes' shallow opportunist Bassanio (beloved by Irons' tortured gay) is slightly underwhelming; Lvnn Collins' bubbly Portia is over-confi dent to the point of obtuseness; and Kris Marshall's Gratiano, well, too ingratiating. That said, Radford keeps the drama streamlined and well-paced and cinematographer Benoît Delhomme lights the canals, piazzas and palazzos without resort to pictorial-ism or cliché, minimizing the impact of some embarrassing visual effects (notably those generating Portia's island castle). The conventional

Semitism of the time by showing Jer-

emy Irons' merchant Antonio publicly

spitting on Shylock, proffering a crucial

psychological explanation for the Jew's

tragic intransigence over his contracted

a very bad taste in the mouth. 6pm. Teri Complex, 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Domlur II Stage (25359680).

feel-good ending, however, played

straight as here, is callous and trium-

phalist, condemning the play and leaving

### Theatre City of Gardens

Director, Jisha Menon; writer, Gautam Raia: cast. Abhishek Majumdar. Hemaa Narayan, Anuja Ghosalkar, Janini Pathy, Pritham Kumar. 2 hours 10 minutes. Gautam Raia's adaptation of Anton Chekhov's last play 'The Cherry Orchard', is an attempt to look more closely at social, cultural and ecological change in Bangalore. The play attempts to make sense of these rapid transitions with an eve for how they are constantly reconfiguring ideas of home and identity for both her newer and older inhabitants. 'City of Gardens' looks back, and then looks around; always asking how we can all continue to live humanly in a city of constantly revolving doors.

7.30pm. Ranga Shankara, 36/2, 8th Cross, 2nd Phase, JP Nagar. Tickets, Rs100 (26592777)

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**MUMBAI** 

### Curated by Shaheen Merali, 'Everywhere is War (And Rumours of War)', a protest against the rising violence of recent times,

**Everywhere is War (And Rumours** of War)

be an exploratory show.

RECOMMENDED

**ArtStill Moving Image** 

After much anticipation, Anupam Poddar's

doors with this inaugural show, curated by

video and photography by Aastha Chauhan,

Baptist Coelho, Atul Bhalla, Avinash Veerar-

aghavan, Bharti Kher, Kiran Subbaiah, Mithu

Sen, Nalini Malani and many others. This

large exhibition is open-ended rather than

being organized around a theme, seeking to

11am-7pm. Devi Art Foundation, D10-11,

sector 44. Gurgaon, behind Apparel House

(Epicentre). Visit 'www.deviartfounda-

tion.com' for more information

Devi Art Foundation will finally open its

Deeksha Nath. The show is a selection of

**DELHI** 

has works by prominent artists from across

the world. The list includes Indian contemporary art superstars such as Subodh Gupta, Jitish Kallat, Anju Dodiya and Anita Dube as well as young guns such as Shilpa Gupta, Rivas Komu and Hema Upadhyay. From the international arena, the show offers a glimpse of works by American sculptor Jon Kessler, Italian painter Francesco Clemente and German artist Dieter Lutsch, among others. The show will also include a screening of Rakesh Sharma's film 'Final Solution', which looks at the riots that took place in Gujarat over 2002 and their exhibition space into a battleground; at



**Battleground:** *The exhibition is a* protest against the rising violence.



Bodhi Space, the gallery in Wadibunder, it

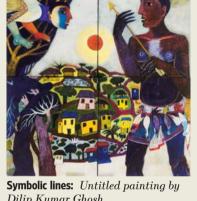
Ghoda (66100124). Also, ground floor, Plot No. 14, Elphinstone Estate, Malet Bundar Road, near Orange Gate, Vadi Bandar.

### **BANGALORE**

# Dilip Kumar Ghosh and Surajit Chanda

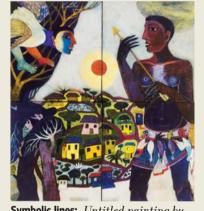
n an email sent out after calls made in haltna Bengali to his home in Midnapore in West Bengal, Dilip Kumar Ghosh wrote back about the "great deal of symbolism" that he nvolved in his works: the horse, for instance ne wrote, is a "symbol of motion, moving "black moon and darkness show the death

The one symbol that recurs in his paintngs is that of masks: "the mask is the mark of our civilization", wrote Ghosh. In his works, commonly based on themes of sexuality and desire. Ghosh at times also pieces together jigsaw murals, broken up into little parts that fit into a larger picture.



In a conversation in Bengali, on phone from his home in Kolkata. Suraiit Chanda—who is showing his works alongside fast, like life and one's imagination", while a Ghosh's—spoke of his desire to travel, if possible with an easel, a palette and brushes in tow. Chanda bases most of his works on his travels and the monuments that he's visited Among works that the artist will show is 'Sonar Kella', a painting of the Jaisalmer fort, —and a straight connect to the 1974 Satyajit

Layout, ITPL Road (41162622).



Dilip Kumar Ghosh.

10.30am-6pm. 156, 4th Main road, BEML



sine. For 'Wall-E', humans again take a back seat, and it's a robot with a cube for a belly and binoculars for eyes who's bleeping for our love. When we do, finally, encounter humans—living on a selfsufficient spaceship, waited on by robots, sucking on straws—they're fat. sedentary, greedy and unpleasant. Wall-E is battered and fading and the only noises he makes are computerized

# The dying man: $Naseeruddin\ Shah$ . Naseeruddin Shah plays a dying patient

In Pixar's last film, 'Ratatouille', it was a on a hospital bed who recites Kahlil sewer rat who revolutionized French cui- Gibran's spiritual discourse on love, mor-

Newly married Giribala is deeply in love with her husband. When her father-in-

# **VISIT**

species of butterflies make this dome their

Park, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore. Tickets, Rs20 for adults, Rs10 for children under 10 (27828540).

# **DUMP**

waste into manure. You can the know-how from Daily Dump, a Bangalore-based organization dedicated to turi on (0)9916426660 for details, or log on to www.dailydump.org. Prices



# **SHOP**

Calvin Klein skinnies, Sixty's bootcuts. FCUK capris: All that denim needs dough, and lots all that glitters is not

Guess dungarees, Miss

of it. The smart Dilliwal la, however, knows that authentic Phat Farm, if you know where to look. We're pointing to Mohan Singh Place, with its mind-boggling array of denim, which

stores here will craft into whatever style you prefer. Monday-Saturday, 10.30am-8.30pm. Wow Jeans, 70, Mohan

Singh Place, Connaught Place, New Delhi (23340771). Jeans, Rs400 onwards, AMBIKA MUTTOO

# **EAT**

moved from Australia to Mumbai for the city's enormous population. His Simple Simon factory in Rabale now makes 2,000 pies (he calls them Australia's vada 'pao') a day. Savoury stuffings

Pie maker Tony Moroney Simple Simon include vegetarian Thai green curry, chilli chicken, vegetarian korma, and corn, cheese and spinach. Sweet flavours include seasonal fruits.

Email simplesimonfoods@gmail.com or call 64218561. Rs15-20 each (minimum order of 100, can be assorted) **ROSHNI BAJAJ SANGHVI** 



home. Guided by little plaques that dot the park, we spotted the Common Mormon, the Great Indian Crow, the Flying Tiger, the Blue Tiger, the Striped Tiger, the Crimson Rose, the Common Castor, the Lion Butterfly and the Common Leopard. Wednesday-Monday, 9.30am-4.30pm. Bannerghatta Biological

world. Convert your kitchen get the equipment—specially designed terracotta pots—and spreading the practice of composting. Call Poonam Bir Kasfrom Rs800.

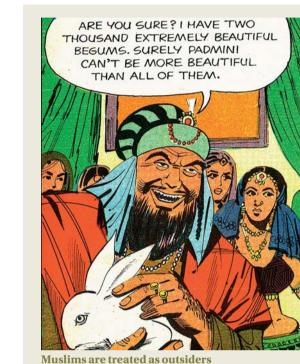


# FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2008 13 Pop classical?

**Author Nandini Chandra helps Naresh** Fernandes find the hidden messages in **Amar Chitra Katha comics** 

f someone said the publication you were reading was attempting to propagate "an ideal Hindu state underwritten by the ideology of feudalism", you'd probably be a little worried. If that alarm was being raised about your favourite childhood comic-book series, you'd probably sit upright and listen closely. That's exactly what Nandini Chandra cautions in her book 'The Classical Popular: Amar Chitra Katha (1967-2007)'.

ACK comics create "an undisturbed continuum between mythology and history" and attempt to "project a Brahmin identity" as India's defining ethos, says Chandra, who teaches English at Delhi's Hansraj College. In a phone interview, she said the series, which has been popular with children since 1967, "is also exclusionary of women, Dalits and Muslims". Chandra's book is the result of a 12-year study of ACK, which started as her MPhil dissertation at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.



The comics present "the stereotype of the evil, lusty and treacherous Muslim", writes Chandra. That's obvious from this panel from *Padmini*, she says.



"Obscure revolutionaries were favoured over the more significant nationalist leaders, ostensibly because their life stories offered more drama," Chandra says. "Considering the hegemonic power of Gandhi's satyagraha or passive resistance, the valorization of a militant ideology (like in this panel from Bhagat Singh) has an

Her decision to examine the comics closely was made against the back drop of the Bharatiya Janata Party's swelling popularity in the 1990s. Chandra says the comics work insidiously: The words are politically correct but the powerful visuals strengthen a Hindutya version of history. projecting India as a nation wronged by Muslim invaders. "One could argue that ACK was nothing but an endeavour to get the

entire history of colonization mounted on to the comic mode." she

writes. "There were no masked crime-fighters in purple skin-suits, but

insidious subtext."

each issue had a superhero who attempted to wage war against foreign oppression, whether the "foreigner" was the Asura, Muslim or British". Despite her misgivings about ACK, Chandra says she doesn't mean to suggest that children should be banned from reading the comics. "The objectionability comes from the socio-political environment," she says. "There isn't much in the comic per se that's objectionable but what's alarming is the shared understanding of the past that could be

interpolated from the comics. I'm interested in what's feeding this idea

of the past and understanding its function." 'The Classical Popular: Amar Chitra Katha (1967-2007)', Yoda Press,



narratives. For instance, Ram Waeerkar, one of the foremost illustrators of ACK, told Chandra that he had originally drawn Ram with a beard, based on the *Pothi* traditions of Kannada texts. But he was asked to model the hero on the image made famous by the 19th century painter Raja