

November 20, 2008

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Public Info: Humanities West www.humanitieswest.org

Tickets: City Box Office 415/392-4400, www.cityboxoffice.com

HUMANITIES WEST PRESENTS

India Rising: Tradition Meets Modernity

An Interdisciplinary Program Exploring History to Celebrate the Mind and the Arts

Friday & Saturday, February 27 & 28, 2009

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Humanities West, a Bay Area non-profit, will present *India Rising: Tradition Meets Modernity*, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical presentations exploring the dynamic fusion of modern Indian culture, where ancient tradition meets current innovation and is revealed in contemporary art, literature, film, and music. The program takes place on Friday, February 27, from 8 pm to 10:15 pm and Saturday, February 28, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

Tickets for *India Rising: Tradition Meets Modernity* are priced as follows: Single tickets for the Friday program are \$45 orchestra/grand tier and \$30 balcony; single tickets for the Saturday program are \$65 orchestra/grand tier and \$40 balcony, single tickets for both days are \$100 orchestra/grand tier and \$55 balcony. Special Student/Teacher tickets are available at \$20 balcony for single day admission. Order direct from City Box Office at 415/392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com. For more information check the website at: www.humanitieswest.org.

India's artists, in pace with their country's rapid modernization, have adopted many contemporary techniques. Yet past traditions remain strong. Ancient themes and modern modes of expression intermingle with fruitful creative tension. Abstract and surrealist artists incorporate images of legendary gods and heroes in their work, and musicians create exciting new sounds in collaboration with Western jazz and classical performers. Literature and cinema with rural village scenes compete with others featuring urban landscapes, Indian-American cultural fusion, and the seductive joys of Bollywood. This two-day presentation explores the result: a kaleidoscope of unique new delights for the eye, the ear, and the spirit.

On Friday **Shashi Tharoor** (diplomat, writer, and chairman of Dubai-based Afras Ventures) will discuss the 'soft power' of India. In contrast to how India's economic dynamism, political stability, and proven military capabilities assure its status as a "world leader" Tharoor's lecture will examine how Indian art, music and dance, fashions, and cuisine strengthen India's worldwide influence and contribute to its "great power". **Santhi Kavuri-Bauer** (Assistant Professor, Art History, San Francisco State University) follows with an illustrated talk tracing the development of modern art in India and will highlight several contemporary artists, who combine traditional symbols, forms and processes with modern media techniques.

On Saturday **Vikram Chandra** (Senior Lecturer, UC Berkeley) one of modern India's greatest novelists, will read from and describe his best-known work, the epic *Sacred Games*, a Victorian-Indian-gangster-spy-family saga, placing his work into the broad context of Indian literature today. **Dard Neuman** (Kamil and Talat Hasan Endowed Chair in Classical Indian Music, UC Santa Cruz) lectures on Indian music, with rare recordings. **Dilip Basu** (Associate Professor of History and Founding Director, Archives and Study Center on Satyajit Ray, UC Santa Cruz) presents a lecture with film clips, affirming that the cinema of Satyajit Ray and his cohorts in post-independent India remain quintessentially modern. **Raka Ray** (Chair of the Center for South Asia Studies at UC Berkeley) discusses the Indian Idol Phenomenon, in which the women and the rich men are voted off first in support of upward mobility for the poor Nepalese boy who eventually wins, and in a sense causes the upward mobility of his whole community, generating pride within the regionally underserved.

There will be special pre-program musical performances of Indian Classical Music by Joanna Mack of the Ali Akbar College of Music, on Friday at 7:30pm and on Saturday at 1:00pm. For a complete program schedule and additional information about the presenters please visit www.humanitieswest.org.

Founded in 1983, Humanities West, a Bay Area non-profit, is dedicated to “exploring history to celebrate the mind and the arts.” Designed to entertain and educate diverse audiences, these programs offer a lively combination of wide-ranging lectures and performances that encompass the fine arts, social history, music, politics, and philosophy of the arts.

This program is supported in part by the Consul General of India in San Francisco; Grants for the Arts/ San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund; Bank of the West; Center for South Asia Studies, University of California Berkeley; Music Department, University of California Santa Cruz; Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University; and with cooperation from the following institutions: American Decorative Arts Forum of Northern California; Asian Art Museum; Asia Society Northern California; Docents Council, SF Fine Arts Museums; Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning; Humanities Department, San Francisco State University; India Community Center, Milpitas; Leonardo da Vinci Society; Mechanics’ Institute; Mills College; Office of Resources for International Area Studies (ORIAS), University of California Berkeley; Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; San Francisco Classical Voice; Society for Art and Cultural Heritage of India (SACHI); Symposium Great Books Institute; Theatre Bay Area; and University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim.

CALENDAR INFORMATION FOLLOWS

CALENDAR LISTING: EVENT/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT: *India Rising: Tradition Meets Modernity*

Humanities West presents *India Rising: Tradition Meets Modernity*, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical presentations exploring the dynamic fusion of modern Indian culture, where ancient tradition meets current innovation and is revealed in contemporary art, literature, film, and music. Presenters include Shashi Tharoor (Afras Ventures), Santhi Kavuri-Bauer (SFSU), Vikram Chandra (UC Berkeley), Dard Neuman (UC Santa Cruz), Dilip Basu (UC Santa Cruz) and Raka Ray (UC Berkeley).

WHEN: 8pm to 10:15pm, Friday, February 27, 2009
10am to 12noon and 1:30pm to 4pm, Saturday, February 28, 2009

Special pre-program musical presentations:
7:30pm, Friday and 1pm, Saturday

WHERE: Herbst Theatre
401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$20 - \$100
Tickets are available through City Box Office at
415/392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com
Group tickets: info@humanitieswest.org

PUBLIC INFO: www.humanitieswest.org

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