

Australian Festival of South Asian Arts

parramasala®

THE WORLD COMES TO PARRAMATTA
31 OCT TO 6 NOV 2011

A PARRAMASLA ITINERARY FOR GLOBAL EXPLORERS

Do you yearn for travel to far-off, exotic places? Do you have a hunger for knowledge about different cultures, customs and traditions? Do you enjoy immersing yourself in the fascinating history of the world around you?

Here are some suggestions to help you enjoy your week at Parramasala.

SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER

12pm to 9pm – everybody is welcome at Deepavali Fair at Parramatta Stadium, the annual Hindu festival of the lights.

MONDAY 31 OCTOBER

2pm – head to the Parramatta Artists' Studios to experience the first day of free visual art exhibitions featuring artists from India, Australia and USA, open until 6pm. *Pattern-ship* is a stunning textile exhibition which combines the work of two artist collectives from Kachchh in India – the Rabari and Khatri groups – with two local Western Sydney artists,

5.30pm – relax in Town Hall Square and enjoy a free performance by one of India's most acclaimed traditional Kathak dance ensembles, **Madhumita Roy & Company**. And savour some delicious, spicy snacks from the Masala Market food stalls.

7.30pm – arrive at Riverside Theatres to experience **The Other Journey** by CuriousWorks, an immersive outdoor theatre experience about Sri Lankan migration which involves headphones, beautiful projections, and even a boat ride up the river. Bookings essential.

TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

1pm – the free **Lunch Hour Documentaries** series starts at Riverside Theatres. Today we screen a 1961 film on the acclaimed Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore.

5pm – enjoy a drink before dinner at the **Festival Lounge** at Parramatta Town Hall. There are plenty of superb restaurants to discover on nearby Church Street or Harris Park which is only a 15 minute walk away.

7pm – arrive at Riverside Theatres for the screening of **Meheerjan**, a fascinating and deeply moving new film from Bangladesh about two women re-building their lives after war.

WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER

6pm – arrive at Town Hall Square where one of Bangladesh's rare touring ensembles of Baul musicians will give a free performance on the Outdoor Stage. **Baul Shilpi** celebrate celestial love with their infectious high spirits. Grab a chai tea and get a henna tattoo while you are there.

7.30pm – get to Riverside Theatres in time for the Australian premiere performance of India's acclaimed Chandralekha Group, preserving the work of one of India's leading contemporary choreographers. Their performance of **Sharira** is a sensual blend of classic Indian dance, yoga and martial arts.

THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER

1pm – today's free **Lunch Hour Documentary** screening at Riverside is *Kila Raipur*, about the eye-opening and breathtaking annual sports festival in the rural Punjab village.

5pm – enjoy a late afternoon drink at the **Festival Lounge** and take in some of the free entertainment on the Outdoor Stage including Australian tabla musician **Bobby Singh** and his fusion ensemble **Circle of Rhythm** from 6pm.

7.30pm – performing in Australia for the first time in 23 years, the acclaimed **David Hykes and The Harmonic Choir** will perform their hypnotic style of overtone singing, inspired by the throat singers of Mongolia and Tibet. The historic St John's Cathedral on Town Hall Square is the venue. Or at Riverside, it's your last chance to catch **Sharira** by The Chandralekha Group.

FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER

6pm – discover the fascinating world of Sufi music and poetry with a rare and intimate performance in the Riverside Theatres Courtyard by two of India's leading Sufi singers, **Dr Madan Gopal Singh** and **Dhruv Sangarai**, with music ensemble, **Chaar Yaar**.

9pm – if you are feeling adventurous after dinner, head back to Riverside to experience a 45 minute performance of **Mother India: 21st Century Remix**. The classic epic of Indian cinema is re-edited and given a new electronic and strings score performed live by UK's master turntablist DJ Tigerstyle and musicians.

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER

11am – a rare treat for film buffs at Riverside with the screening of Satyajit Ray's classic 1989 film, **Ganashtru**, an adaptation of Ibsen's *Enemy of the People* set in Bengal.

1pm – enjoy an afternoon at Town Hall Square with an extensive line up of free entertainment on the Outdoor Stage.

6pm – as part of the South Asia Film Focus program at Riverside Theatres, leading film makers and artists will present a **Free Forum** on the topic of Displacement.

8.30pm – tabla percussion virtuoso **Trilok Gurtu** is a legend on the European jazz scene. In this one-off Australian concert he is joined by special guest, **Niladri Kumar**, a maverick superstar of the sitar.

SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER

11am – there is plenty happening all day at Town Hall Square, with market stalls and back to back free performances. And catch the last day of the free visual art exhibitions at Parramatta Artists' Studios.

6pm – if you were mesmerized by David Hykes & The Harmonic Choir or the Sufi music concert by Chaar Yaar earlier in the week, this is your chance to see them perform together in a soul-lifting collaboration. **Sufi Music & Harmonic Spheres** is at Riverside.

7.30pm – rush back to Town Hall Square for a samosa and catch our free closing night outdoor concert, with musicians including **Tablatronics** and headliners **The Bombay Royale** – a crazy band from Melbourne who will have everyone dancing to vintage Indian cinema classics and surf-adelic grooves. Entry to the licensed Festival Lounge tonight is \$20 for an exclusive Closing Night Party with the festival artists.

For more information and to book tickets visit www.parramasala.com



Parramatta
30 Oct – 6 Nov 2011

Buy tickets online
parramasala.com

Strategic Partners

