

Press Note:

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 – Day 2

Event: A stage rendition of Vikram Seth’s and James Thurber’s poetic parables- ‘Beastly Tales’ performed by Naseeruddin Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Heeba Shah and Kenny Desai

Kolkata, 15th January, 2015: Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival 2015 hosted a beautiful performance wherein the city witnessed a one-of-its kind stage rendition of Vikram Seth and James Thurber’s poetic parables ‘**Beastly Tales**’, a collection of 10 fairytales retold in a contemporary way by actor par excellence **Naseeruddin Shah**. But the icing on the cake was when the actor was joined by his family, wife **Ratna Pathak Shah** and daughter **Heeba Shah** along with actor **Kenny Desai** on the stage. The theatrical representation was produced by **Jairaj Patil** of Motley Productions. The performance marks one of the high points of the festival and a remarkable evening of literature and theatre.

“Beastly Tales”, effuses amusing, perceptive and sometimes scary parallels between animals and humans reflect the best and worst of both. These pieces contain the essence of what Motley has been attempting over the last fifteen years – to perform on stage without any trappings and to have the words alone convey wonderful characters and great stories.

About Naseeruddin Shah: Naseeruddin Shah is an Indian film and stage actor and director, and a prominent figure in Indian parallel cinema. Shah has won numerous awards in his career, including three National Film Awards, three Filmfare Awards and an award at the Venice Film Festival. The government of India has honoured him with both the Padma Shri and the Padma Bhushan awards for his contributions to Indian cinema.

About Ratna Pathak Shah: Ratna Pathak Shah, actress, is best known for her portrayal of Maya Sarabhai in Sarabhai vs Sarabhai, as a major supporting mother in Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na and also in Golmaal.

About Heeba Shah: Heeba Shah is an Indian film and theater actress. Heeba was born in Aligarh to noted Bollywood actor Naseeruddin Shah. Heeba acted in Mango Souffle (2002), her first feature film, Haathi Ka Anda and Missed Call. She did popular television series, Balika Vadhu as a young Dadisa.

About Kenny Desai: Kenny Desai is an actor, known for Black (2005), Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (1983) and Phoonk (2008).

About Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF):

Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) is Kolkata's pioneering literary festival. Instituted in 2010 by the Apeejay Surrendra Group and its heritage Oxford Bookstore on Park Street, AKLF grows out of the bookstore's year round involvement with books, writers & publishers. In the six years since Kolkata saw her first literary festival in AKLF, literary festivals have mushroomed across the country, but AKLF stands apart with its unique identity as the only one with a now 94-year-old bookstore as its nucleus. AKLF offers an atmosphere of warm, welcoming intimacy, favors depth over size, and includes a variety of subjects from history to the environment. AKLF also celebrates Kolkata's magnificent public monuments and heritage sites as settings for Festival events and eminent literati and cultural stalwarts from across India and overseas join the festival scheduled every year in the second week of January. In 2015 AKLF explores literature as part of our tangible and intangible heritage, a theme that runs through several sessions of the festival. AKLF focusses on younger writers, newer voices and fresh audiences in its ongoing attempt to build an audience for books and reading. Prominent personalities attending will be Hanif Kureishi, Naseeruddin Shah, Charles Allen, John Elliott, Mohammed Hanif, Leila Seth, Michael Buckley, Upamanyu Chatterjee, David Davidar, Shekhar Gupta, Shashi Tharoor, Asish Nandy, Ramachandra Guha, Kishwar Desai, Nabaneeta Dev Sen amongst several others. There are some firsts in AKLF 2015. A heritage literary walk, a literary 'adda', a Young Adult litfest for high school students, a bloggers' meet, a children's bookfest crammed with activities, even a standup comic for the college crowd and a leadership training session for young teens on importance of character, karma and individual social responsibility™. Add to that our signature heritage site evenings at The Indian Museum, National Library, Victoria Memorial, Lascar War Memorial, indepth discussions, top of the line authors, thinkers and performers, and you have a literary experience not to be missed. And all absolutely free for Kolkata and her culture-loving audience.

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