

culturecrawl

PLAN YOUR WEEK WITH OUR EVENTS CALENDAR



Friday
WHAT: Hindi play
WHEN: November 13, 9pm
WHERE: Prithvi Theatre, Juhu
Watch Mera Woh Matlab Nahi Tha..., starring Anupam Kher and Neena Gupta. It tells the story of two lovers, who meet after 35 years, and try to uncover the truth behind their separation.

Wednesday
WHAT: Music performance
WHEN: November 11, 7am onward
WHERE: Laxmi Mills Estate, Mahalaxmi
Singer Aditya Khandwe, who belongs to the Jaipur and Gwalior Gharanas, will perform a few ragas.









Monday
WHAT: Guitar workshop
WHEN: November 9, 6pm onward
WHERE: The Fisheye World Institute of Photography, Kurla
Learn how to play the guitar at a workshop, where you will be taught theoretical aspects, how to read notations, chords and scales.

Tuesday
WHAT: Circus
WHEN: November 10, 1pm onward
WHERE: Bandra Reclamation Ground, Bandra (W)
Watch artistes from South America, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Ethiopia, Colombia and Azerbaijan, perform a variety of acts at the International Circus Festival, an event organised by Rambo Circus.

Thursday
WHAT: Stand-up comedy
WHEN: November 12, 9.30pm
WHERE: The Intercontinental, Marine Drive
Stand-up comedian Anirban Dasgupta will make you laugh till your stomach hurts at an event, titled Thursday Comedy Nights At Long And Short.

Thursday
WHAT: Electro-pop gig
WHEN: November 12, 9pm onward
WHERE: Hard Rock Cafe, Andheri (W)
Groove to the tunes of bands like Laxmi Bomb, Achint and Awkward Bong, who will perform some of their original music.

Saturday
WHAT: Stand-up comedy
WHEN: November 14, 8.30pm
WHERE: Canvas Laugh Club, Lower Parel
Laugh out loud with stand-up comedians Karunesh Talwar, Siddharth Dudeja and Vaibhav Sethia at an event, titled Live Stand-Up Comedy.

Sunday
WHAT: Open-mic
WHEN: November 15, 2.30pm
WHERE: The Hive, Khar (W)
Aspiring rappers can showcase their talent at an open-mic event called Rap On The Big Mic. The host for the event will be Noxious D. The entry is free.

THEATRE ACT

MOVING ON

An ongoing city exhibition features artwork that depict how urbanisation, redevelopment and displacement has changed Mumbai's landscape

Shradha Shahani
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We live in a city that is rapidly evolving. Vacant spaces are constantly being transformed into formidable structures. Mumbai-based artist Pratap Morey's ongoing exhibition in the city, Measure | Decipher, captures this change in Mumbai's landscape. "I have been a resident of Mumbai for the past 25 years, and I have always been in transit. During this period, the city has changed by leaps and bounds. The work exhibited in this show is my response to this changing situation," he says.

The artist has used a combination of

digital photographic images, archival prints, and architectural drawings and engravings in his intricate artwork, which are on paper. Each artwork delves into the overarching themes of construction, redevelopment and displacement.

"It talks about the changing urban geography. In India, metros are undergoing rapid reconstruction. Old buildings, like the chawls, are being demolished to make way for new high-rises and malls," says the artist, adding, "It feels like an illusion when I see a two-storey chawl being converted into a massive 20 to 25-storey building."

Morey has been working on this subject since 2011. He feels issues like redevelopment and displacement need to be addressed urgently. "The city is growing

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Archival prints, drawings and engravings on an archival board



Archival prints on an archival board

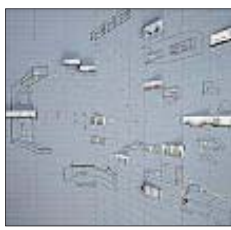
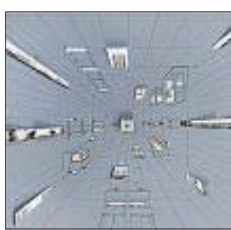


Archival prints and acrylic colours on an archival board

vertically due to the lack of space. Earlier, people who lived in chawls and old buildings had their own culture and way of living. Now, a new culture has been superimposed on that way of life," he says, adding "Ironically, this is called redevelopment. Since I have been displaced a couple of times, and I have been largely affected by the issues of growth and urbanisation, I thought it was necessary to address these

issues through my work." Morey is also one of the four artists to be invited to the Rashtrapati Bhavan by President Pranab Mukherjee, as part of an in-residence programme. "The President feels that artists and writers are social ambassadors, so their intellectual growth ultimately results in the growth of society," says the 34-year-old artist.

The exhibition is on till December 5, at Tarq in Colaba, from 11am to 6pm.



Archival prints

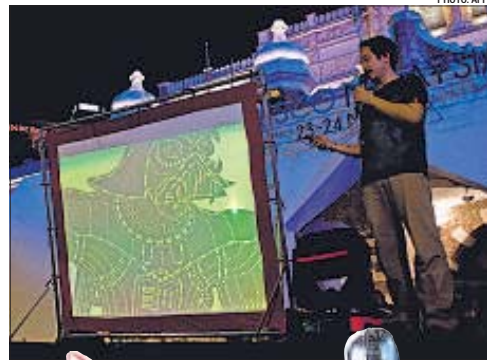
Star Wars quest to pull Malaysian art form out of the shadows

Darth Vader's distinctive helmet-headed silhouette swoops in to seize control of a spaceship, but this is not the movies — instead, his movements are being brought to life by a Malaysian shadow-puppet master behind a back-lit screen. "Tell me, where are the plans that have been intercepted?" the puppeteer intones in the Malay language, drawing cheers from hundreds of spectators, as they recognise Vader's baritone.

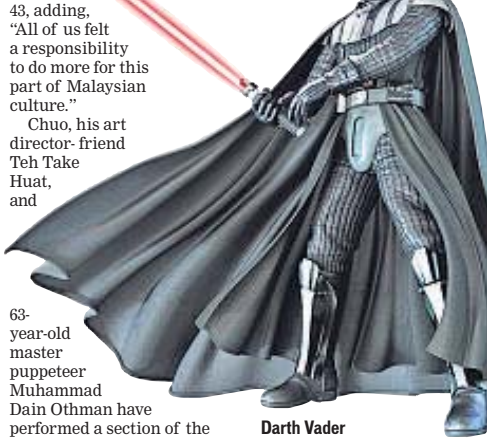
Traditional Indonesian and Malaysian shadow puppetry was once at the centre of Southeast Asian art and culture, but it has steadily lost its appeal. But three Malaysians hope to breathe new life into the art by updating it with Star Wars and other pop-culture themes.

Leading the effort is Chuo Yuan Ping, a designer and Star Wars buff, who first crafted shadow puppets based on the movie for an art show a few years ago.

His research for the project uncovered concerns about the state of the art, which is known as Wayang Kulit. "At first, it was all about Stars Wars, but later I learnt how Wayang Kulit was a dying art form after speaking to many master puppeteers, and I felt sad," said Chuo,



A still from the performance (above)



original 1977 Star Wars film as a shadow-play about a dozen times in the past two years.

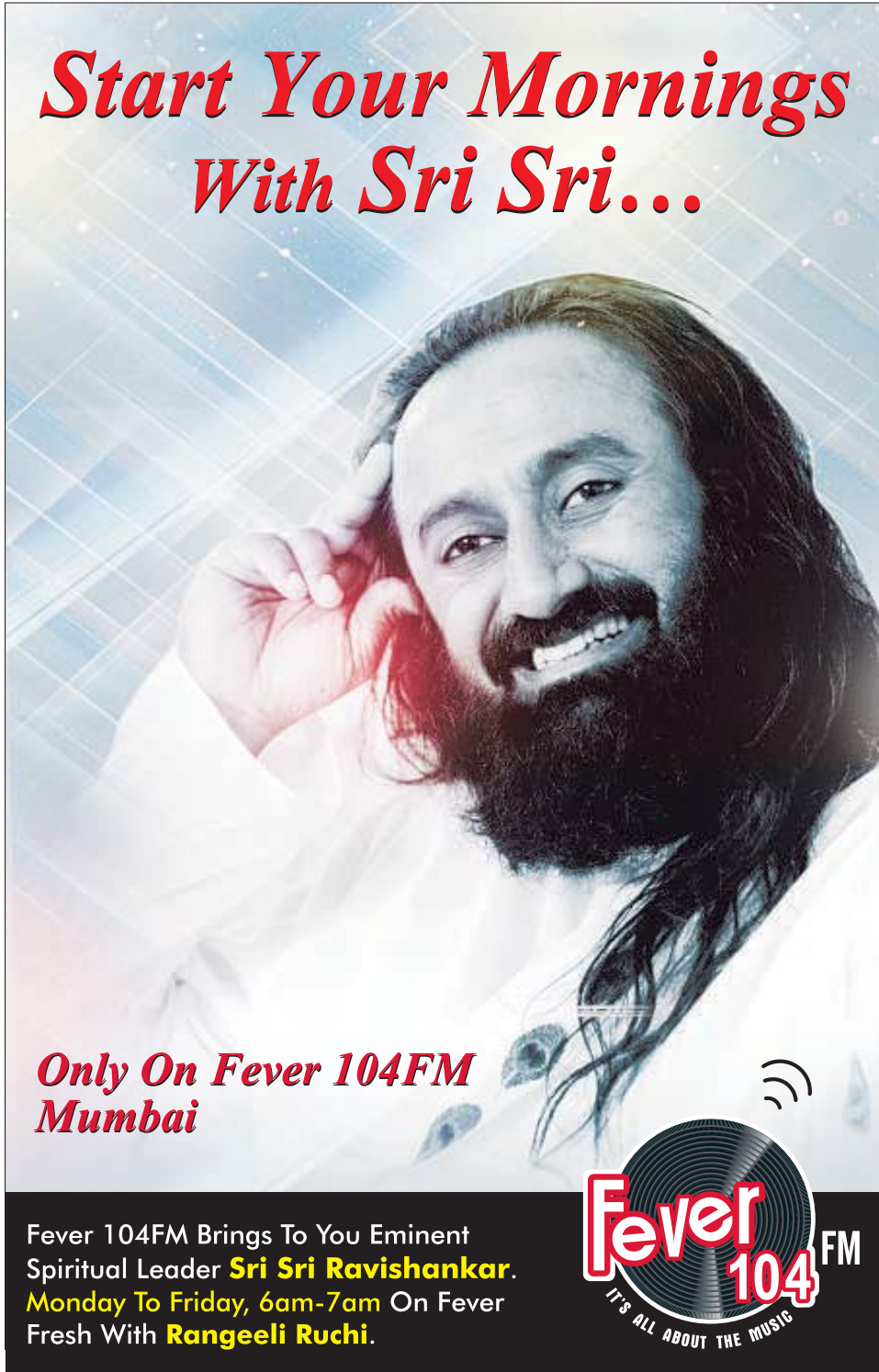
Star Wars was chosen as the theme due to its near-universal appeal, as evidenced by the frenzy surrounding the December release of the latest big-screen instalment, Stars Wars: The Force Awakens. "Even my mom knows Darth Vader," said Chuo.

Traditionally, based on Hindu epics, shadow puppetry was introduced to the region in the 15th century, and promoted by Java's Hindu rulers. Government efforts to promote the appreciation of Wayang Kulit have gained little traction, but private groups are forging ahead, said Eddin Khoo, founder of a cultural non-profit that stages performances of the art. He called the Star Wars project "helpful" for Wayang Kulit.

Chuo has expanded the idea by designing Superman, Batman, and other superhero shadow puppets for exhibitions, and may incorporate them in future shows. "It's a little thing that I can do for Malaysian culture," he said.

— RELAXNEWS

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Nehru center Auditorium, Worli, Mumbai 7.00 pm
Friday, 20th November 2015

Conceived & Produced by **Banyan Tree**
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