

Show stoppers, all

India's biggest circus troupe returns to the city for a specially curated show featuring international artistes

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A FAINT memory from childhood — of being fascinated by a circus performance and being keen to join a troupe — returned when we learned that Rambo Circus was back for a series of performances at a Bandra venue. After being hailed by the central government for their work to keep the circus alive in the entertainment industry throughout the pandemic, they are back

with a new act, Rambo Circus: International Circus Festival.

"The pandemic left many troupes jobless. Because our troupe had that security, we decided to provide jobs to others. It's also how our theatre shows began. So, currently, we have a tented show in Pune, a theatre show with Indian artistes in Surat, while the one in Bandra is a specially curated show that will be performed at limited venues," says Sujit Dilip, co-owner of the circus. The 13th edition of World Circus Day was celebrated on April 15 this year, and Dilip considered this date ideal to begin their specially curated shows. "We began these half-a-month-long shows in Bangalore, and performed in Goa for the next 15 days. After Mumbai, we will head to Delhi," he says.

Using the pandemic to upgrade their skills and performances, the troupe has added new acts to their two-hour long show. "We have incorporated glamour, comedy, suspense, and a lot more



The bubble act by Viktoria (above) is one of the highlights of the show; (right) The troupe has trained over the pandemic to increase their skill level



A clown in the act from a previous show

that our host neatly connects with the audience. We have a bubble act performed by our artiste Viktoria from Russia, where she creates huge bubbles of different shapes and sizes. While we expected children to be fascinated, it was mainly the older audience accompanying their kids who had the best time," he reveals.

Dilip mentions that though they have travelled across the globe to showcase their performances, heading back to Mumbai, their base for the longest time, feels like a homecoming. The new act leaves everyone, including us, to wonder how a tent act can fit in a theatre. Dilip laughs. "Even theatre crews

are curious about this new setting. But given the amount of practice we had during the pandemic, we have managed to recreate our tent acts to suit the auditorium settings." And while the perception about the circus has changed in the past four years with the added support of the Indian and international governments,

Dilip hopes younger audiences will be encouraged to hit the outdoors to enjoy the charm of the circus.

TILL May 21; 1.30 pm, 4.30 pm and 7.30 pm
AT St Andrew's Auditorium, Bandra West.
LOG ON TO in.bookmyshow.com
COST ₹500 onwards

Moulding art to our needs

An accessibility-forward workshop teaches pre-teens and teens animation through clay-inspired city artist Sameer Kulavoor's work



TANISHKA D'LYMA
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IN shifting to their new gallery space, the folks at Tarq have had their minds on accessibility and opening the art space to a larger crowd. Apart from their Saturday summer workshops that begin this weekend and that invite an audience beyond art appreciators and gallery-hoppers, they've also made the space more accessible with ramps to the washroom, Braille signage and accessible entry points. Siddhant Shah, access consultant and founder of Access for ALL, is currently working with the gallery to ensure accessibility



Kids can explore their creativity through clay while learning to use digital tools in a simple way; (right) Clay art by children from a previous workshop by Access for ALL; (below) Hena Kapadia and Siddhant Shah

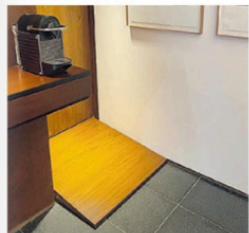


requirements are met. Shah will also conduct the first workshop, a clay animation class for 10 to 15-year-olds. He tells us, "It's nice that the gallery space is considering inclusion from its inception and not as an afterthought." Shah points out that the clay animation workshop will be in sync with the ongoing exhibition at the gallery — artist Sameer Kulavoor's Edifice Complex whose sequential drawings reflect the growing architectural landscape of a nameless city that adapts to immediate needs and lives than pre-planned design. Jugaad might be a fun term to view many corners of Mumbai. But it's the response to need and resourcefulness that captures the way Mumbaiers live and survive in the city. From old nadas tied to doorknobs, to keep them from slamming shut to makeshift box stores wedged in the space between two buildings or an upturned umbrella to display wares making a 'mobile store'. When placed together, a series of Kulavoor's drawings progress into an animation.

Taking a cue from the showcased works, Shah explains, "The workshop draws from the artist's technique of

"This is the first time Sameer has experimented with animation so it will be interesting to witness how children will engage with his art," gallerist Hena Kapadia notes.

ON May 13, 11.30 am to 12.30 pm
AT KK (Navsari) Chambers, 39B AK Nayak Marg, Fort.
LOG ON TO tarq.in/events
COST ₹300



(Top) Children creating clay art at a previous workshop; (above) the ramp that leads to the washroom



BOOK A SEAT



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display wares making a 'mobile store'. When placed together, a series of Kulavoor's drawings progress into an animation. Taking a cue from the showcased works, Shah explains, "The workshop draws from the artist's technique of



stop-motion animation on paper. We will share an understanding of animation, taking children through sequencing, creating characters and expressions through clay, a medium that everyone can use." The clay works will then be shot on mobile phones to create an animation. The workshop comes close to Global Accessibility Awareness Day, which falls on the third Thursday of May. This year, it will be celebrated on May 18, with a focus on digital access issues. "This is a low-tech activity where we will look to use technology and digital tools in a simple way. Instruction will be imparted in English, Hindi and Gujarati, and further broken down into a step-by-step format," Shah adds. "This is the first time Sameer has experimented with animation so it will be interesting to witness how children will engage with his art," gallerist Hena Kapadia notes.

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