

Media Release

The Best of Indian Theatre to be staged at the 11th Edition of META

- **Nominations showcase India's rich cultural diversity**
- **Maharashtra & Delhi lead the list of selected plays in the 11th Edition of META**
- **Over 300 entries from various regions competed for META nominations this year**

New Delhi, February 11, 2016: With spring around the corner, it is that time of the year when theatre lovers are offered the best of Indian Theatre. India's only national awards dedicated solely to theater, the 11th Edition of 'Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards' (META) – brings together the best productions from across the country in a festival that highlights the intrinsic diversity and rich cultural traditions of India.

Over 300 entries were viewed by a selection committee, comprising theatre stalwarts **Vinod Nagpal**, a renowned Indian film and television actor; **Prof. Chandradasan**, Founder and Artistic Director of Lokadharmi Centre for Theatre; **Baharul Islam**, noted Assamese Director-Actor and Artistic Director at Seagull Theatre; **Surendranath Suri** Director at Rangashakra Bangalore and eminent theatre critic **Diwan Singh Bajeli** from the national daily The Hindu. The selection committee nominated 10 plays for this years' festival.

Commenting on the increasing popularity of the annual event, Mr. Jay Shah, Head, Cultural Outreach, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. said, "The Mahindra Group is proud to present the 11th season of META. This year's selection of plays from various parts of our nation strengthens our belief that "Make in India" is true and alive in the Arts as well. A plethora of languages, ideas and cultures will be on display this March and we urge the audiences to come and partake in this wonderful festival and to especially show their support for regional theatre."

The nominated productions across 8 languages will be staged at the **FICCI and LTG** auditoriums in **Delhi** from **March 6th** till **March 10th, 2016**. The META 2016 Jury and the full schedule for the META 2016 Festival will be announced soon.

The 10 plays nominated for META 2016 are:

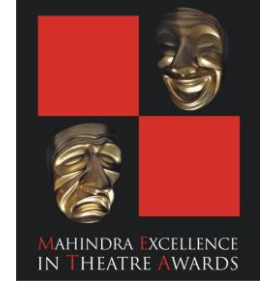
Sr No.	Play Name	Language	Director
1	After Death - A spiritual journey	Non-Verbal, Musical	Vikram Mohan
2	Balcony	Malayalam	SasidharanNaduviel
3	A Friend's story	English	Akash Khurana
4	Haoai (The Eleventh Planet)	Bengali	GautamHalder
5	Kuhaimaravasigal (Cave Tree Dwellers)	Tamil	Dr. S. Murugabhoopathy
6	07/07/07	English, Hindi, Farsi	FaezehJalali
7	Akshayambara	Kannada	SharanyaRamprakash
8	Mein hun Yusuf auryehhaimerabhai	Urdu, Hindi	MohitTakalkar
9	The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari	English	DeepanSivaraman
10	Agnes Of God	English	KaizaadKotwal

Play **Akshayambara**, **Mein Hun Yusuf Aur Yeh Hai Mera Bhai** and **After Death – A Spiritual Journey** received 8 nominations each, followed by **Agnes of God** which got 7 nominations, **Haoai (The Eleventh Planet)** received 6 nominations, **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari**, **07/07/07**, **Balcony** & **Kuhaimaravasigal (Cave Tree Dwellers)** each received 5 nominations and **A Friend's Story** elicited 4 nominations from the Selection Committee.

META 2016 productions focus on an array of subjects including displacement, revolution, faith and spirituality, mental health, rape, crimes against women, bisexuality, prostitution and love in conflict zones. The art forms presented in these productions are as diverse as their themes and include the dance drama form of **Yakshagana**, the rituals of the Indian Bhil tribe, play-within-a-play scenarios, spatial experimentation and audio-visual narratives.

Commenting on the selection results, **Mr. Sanjoy K Roy, MD, Teamwork Arts & Festival Producer** said, "META celebrates theater in India showcasing its diversity and creating a platform to highlight the incredible energy and passion that theatre persons bring to the stage against all odds."

The nominated plays will be judged across 13 categories, making META the most comprehensive awards recognizing Indian theatre. Awards will be given for Best Play, Best Director, Best Stage Design, Best Light



Design, Best Innovative Sound Design, Best Costume Design, Best Actor in a Lead Role (Male), Best Actor in a Lead Role (Female), Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male), Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female), Best Original Script, Best Ensemble, and Best Choreographer.

The red carpet **META 2016 Awards Night** will be held on **March 11, 2016** at **TheTaj Mahal Hotel**, No. 1 Man Singh Road, New Delhi.

For more information on the nominees and full list of category wise nominations, please visit www.metawards.com

About Mahindra Group

The Mahindra Group focuses on enabling people to rise through solutions that power mobility, drive rural prosperity, enhance urban lifestyles and increase business efficiency.

A USD 16.9 billion multinational group based in Mumbai, India, Mahindra provides employment opportunities to over 200,000 people in over 100 countries. Mahindra operates in the key industries that drive economic growth, enjoying a leadership position in [tractors](#), [utility vehicles](#), [information technology](#), [financial services](#) and [vacation ownership](#). In addition, Mahindra enjoys a strong presence in the agribusiness, aerospace, components, consulting services, [defence](#), energy, industrial equipment, logistics, [real estate](#), retail, steel, [commercial vehicles](#) and [two wheeler](#) industries.

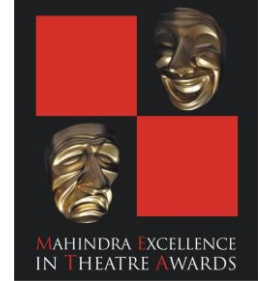
In 2015, Mahindra & Mahindra was recognized as the Best Company for CSR in India in a study by the Economic Times. In 2014, Mahindra featured on the Forbes Global 2000, a comprehensive listing of the world's largest, most powerful public companies, as measured by revenue, profit, assets and market value. The Mahindra Group also received the Financial Times 'Boldness in Business' Award in the 'Emerging Markets' category in 2013.

Visit us at www.mahindra.com

Our Social Media Channels:

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/MahindraRise>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/MahindraRise>



About Teamwork Arts

For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India.

In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities.

Teamwork produces one of the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, international festivals Shared History in South Africa, Eye on India in the United States of America, India by the Bay in Hong Kong, and many more.

Website: www.teamworkarts.com

For further enquiries, please contact

Zimisha Communications

Santosh Kumar	santosh@zimisha.com	+919990937676
Shabana Ali	shabana@zimisha.com	+919818759958
ImtiazAlam	imtiaz@zimisha.com	+919810227818

Varsha Chainani

Senior Vice President-Group Communications

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.

Tel: +91 22 24979172 (D)

Mobile: +91 9987340055

E-mail: chainani.varsha@mahindra.com

Log onto www.mahindra.com