

Celebrating World Disability Day- 2014

Our Celebration for World Disability Day 2014 was full of fun and educational programs. This year, we went all out, having several shows and organizing events both in Mumbai and Kolkata.

Our awareness film “**LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**”, dubbed in seven different languages, and was aired on many TV channels as a public service announcement. We thank **OOH Media** for taking the initiative to have the film aired on OOH screens across the country.



Our blind therapists from SPARSH FOOT SPA, Lata and Sambhaji were at Oberoi Mall, Goregaon East, from the 1st to the 7th of December from 12:00 to 8:00 pm. We had more than 80 people coming in for a massage during this time. We would like to thank Helen and our volunteers, Kanchan, Kalpana, Sunny and Amruta for their support.

We designed a **22 minute E-Module, replete with films, titled DISABILITY DECONSTRUCTED.** The film gives a peek into the various facets of the lives of persons with disabilities. Using examples of different persons living with disabilities, the film helps decode the mysteries and myths of the world of Persons with Disabilities. This module is available with us and can be sought on request.



The first screening of this module was held for a select audience at **The Playce, Mulund West on 2nd December at 6.30 pm.**

The screening was followed by a long and highly interactive session with everyone

in the group adding their input. We were very happy for all the help from Team ProjectHeena, an online platform for volunteering and Corporate CSR Engagement, who facilitated the event.



For dance lovers, Trinayani and Team ProjectHeena arranged for an **INCLUSIVE FLASH MOB** on November 30th at the Celebrate Bandra Festival and on December 7th at Oberoi Mall.

The mob included disabled as well as non-disabled dancers. The program on 30th at Carter Road during the Celebrate Bandra Festival was a huge

success with people miling around to watch the performance. The people at Oberoi



mall were just as wowed by the dancers as they crowded around and leaned over banisters to get a better look.

We thank Minita Sodhi, Sneha Raval, Nehaa Beotra, Sunita Sancheti, Neenu Kewlani, Manish Sharma, Gaurav Puranik, Himanshu Chanda, Sriyansh Batnagar, Joyee Mahanta, Ketna Mehta, Ashutosh Saxena, Nikunj Bhutta, Priyanka

Shertukde, Demetra Gracias, Mayank Gandhi, Nivedita Puranik, Ameya Thakur, Madju Singh, Prerana Bhatnagar, Mithili Kulkarni who all volunteered their participation.

The climax of our World Disability Day celebrations was our **Inclusive Entertainment Show** titled “**YEH HAI DUNIA MERI JAAN**” staged on December 17th at Rabindra Sadan Kolkata, at 7 pm.



We thank Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for supporting this event which involved over 130 disabled and non-disabled students from SEVEN participating schools from Kolkata:

- Oral School for Deaf Children

- Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan
- Akshar
- The Heritage School
- Mentaidd
- Premasree Residential Home for Visually Impaired Children



- Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy

The chief guest for the event was Shri Dilip Kumar Pattanaik, General Manager for Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited along with Mr Shambhunath Ray.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude our cast which included:



- Victor Banerjee,
- Harshit Gohil,
- Kanishka Tiwari,
- Nikita Thakkar,
- Den (Sayomdeb Mukherjee), Nishant Dave,
- Anandita Thakker,
- Rajiv Saha,
- Yuvraj Vyas,
- Jai Badlani,
- Padma Francis,
- Mahesh Oberoi,
- Veenit Jain
- Mr Shaun Kenworthy
- and Sarang Seth.





Equally important to the team and the backbone of the event were:

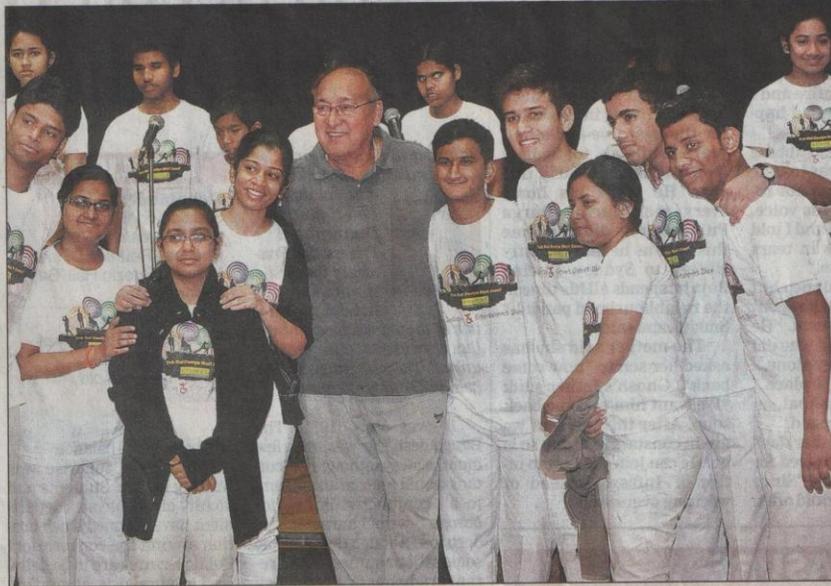
- **Varsha Sheth**- Concept and Script
- **Ashok Singh**- Direction
- **Alokananda Roy**- Choreography
- **Bhavna Hemani**- Fashion choreography
- **Dinesh Poddar**- Lights and Sound
- **Veenit Jain**- Audio Visual Support

YEH HAI DUNIYA MERI JAAN was a simple but powerful story of 7 friends who overcome odds and despair to achieve their dream of opening a restaurant together. The play had the audience captivated right from the start to the finish with the brilliant acting by the protagonists, dance numbers, songs sung by the blind students of Premasree and signed by the students of Oral School for the Deaf. It was a truly eye-opening experience for both the audience and for the participants themselves, who got to interact with people with various kinds of disabilities.

To view photographs of all our events please go to our Picassa link.

We are grateful to our friends in the Telegraph and Times of India for according importance to the cause of disability awareness.

THE WORLD'S THEIR STAGE



Victor Banerjee with students of city schools at the rehearsals of an inclusive play presented by NGO Trinayani at Rabindra Sadan. "I am at my happiest surrounded by loving souls who see, think, speak, sing and dance 'differently able', possessed by a spiritual force that always amazes me," said the actor who makes a special appearance in *Ye Hai Duniya Meri Jaan*. The play brings together more than 140 students from seven city schools to spread a message of inclusion, sensitivity and hope through dance, music and fashion. Some of the participating schools are The Heritage School, Akshar School, Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan, Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, The Oral School for Deaf Children and Mentaaid. Conceptualised and scripted by Varsha Seth, the "Hinglish" play is a story of seven friends, two of them disabled, who dream of opening a restaurant. "The play includes a video shoot depicting the finals of *MasterChef India*, for which Shaun Kenworthy plays himself," said Ritika Sahni, the CEO of Trinayani Foundation. The 75-minute production is directed by Ashok Singh and choreographed by Alokanda Roy, while Bhavna Hemani has designed the fashion segment, which includes students of Mentaaid. It will be staged at Rabindra Sadan on Wednesday evening.
Picture by Chanchal Ghosh

Celeb power to teach 'inclusion'

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Kolkata: Persons with disabilities have as much right to be treated with respect and acceptance as anyone in the society. To drive home this message, a major dance-drama performance has been organized with established artists, city schools along with several disability organizations on board.

Led by singer Ritika Sahani, who heads the NGO Trinayani, the event will have actor Victor Banerjee essaying the role of a principal — his first stage performance in the city since 1967. Other celebrities involved are Shaun Kenworthy, who is playing 'Masterchef Shaun' and Alokanda Roy, who has choreographed the dance performances.

"The novelty of the initiative lies in its inclusiveness. The institutes participating are The BSS (erstwhile Ballygunge Shiksha Sadan), The Heritage School, Akshar oral school for the speech-impaired, Premasree (a home for the visually impaired), Mentaid and Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy," said Sahani. The programme will be held at 7pm on Wednesday at Rabindra Sadan.

"The last time I performed on a Kolkata stage was ages back — 1967 — at Rabindra Sadan, and that show was epic. This time though, it's a small cameo and for a cause, to promote 'inclusion' regarding the disabled. I've been involved with disability activities for over 40 years. I have done programmes with several disabled children and involving them makes the performance genuinely heart-

warming," said Banerjee.

"There are so many people in Kolkata doing fantastic work with the underprivileged and persons with disabilities. I have been a part of some of this over the years and it's always a pleasure to be asked in whatever small way to play my part — in this instance being asked to play myself, Chef Shaun. Nothing could be easier," Kenworthy told TOI.

Sohini Sen, extra-curricular activities coordinator at The BSS, said 20 students are taking part — 10 singers and 10 dancers. "They will perform with the special children; so the dance choreography has been designed keeping that in mind. The theme is inclusion. Our students regularly do these activities in school, supervised by teachers. But this has several organizations involved and the venue is also a big one. So it's a new experience for them as well."

Premasree's chief coordinator Tanushree Bhattacharjee said: "At our free residential school for the visually impaired at Jagulgachhi, South 24 Parganas, the students have music lessons in the morning and many of them are very talented. In fact some of them are likely to grow up as professional musicians. Since the children are visually impaired, we explain every detail to them. Even little children wanted to participate in this programme. Finally, eight from our school are participating."

Sahani added that her organization believes that the attitude is the problem and not the disability.



Victor Banerjee will take the stage again in the city since '67