

Torrent Group's UNM Foundation brings "Abhivyakti" to Rajkot

- *After successful editions in Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat, Abhivyakti set to enthral audience of Rajkot on March 22-23, 2024*
 - *The audience entry is open-to-all on first come-first served basis*

Rajkot, March 21, 2024: Abhivyakti – The City Arts Project is an initiative of UNM Foundation of the Mehta family of Torrent Group. It endeavours to promote and showcase different art forms by emerging artists and enable the audiences an access to art without the constraints of location or economic strata by providing free entry to all the performances.

After successfully completing five Editions in Ahmedabad, two editions in Vadodara and one in Surat, Abhivyakti will organise its first performance in the city of **Rajkot on 22nd & 23rd March, 2024**. The Rajkot edition of Abhivyakti is part of UNM Foundation's plans to take this art festival to the art admirers in different cities.

The two-day festival will be organised under the banner of "Abhivyakti Rajkot" at "**Courtyard**", **S. N. Kansagra School, University Road, Opp. Akashwani quarter, Panchayat Nagar, Rajkot** and will include some of the most-admired and sought-after performances in the genres of dance, theatre and music.

Since its launch in Ahmedabad in 2018, this one-of-its-kind arts project has witnessed participation from over 330 artists from across India on a platform provided by the UNM Foundation's initiative. Over the years, Abhivyakti has gained scale and admiration as more than 2.6 lakh people have already witnessed the performances across all the past editions in the three cities.

The performances on the first day, i.e. 22nd March include a dance performance titled "There Comes Papa" by Dhara Rughani & Unnati Ajmera and a theatre performance "Rang Rang Sundari" by Rupin Shah.

On the second day, i.e. 23rd March, a dance performance "Garvo Girnar" by Jignesh Surani and a musical performance "Kabir Tatva" by Ravi – Rajan will be organised.

The entry to all the performances is **cost-free and open to all**.

The performances have been curated by leading art curators including Bhargav Purohit in Music, Chirag Modi in Theatre, Dance curators Jaimil Joshi and Kathanki Raval Sheth, and Sonal Bhargav. The performances of the Rajkot edition of Abhivyakti were mentored by the celebrated names in the art fraternity, Daksha Sheth (Dance), Rajat Dholakia (Music) and Saumya Joshi (Theatre).

In case of any query, please contact Mr. Hetal Parikh on +91 7069000222 or Mr. Nikhil Joshi on +91 7069000576



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The latest edition attempts to give magical experience of Abhivyakti in Rajkot by bringing to the fore the diverse voices and perspectives that converge in the vast tapestry of human stories.

The audience entry to the festival is open-to-all on first come, first served basis. The programme schedule is as follows:

Location: "Courtyard", S. N. Kansagra School, University Road, Opp. Akashwani quarter, Panchayat Nagar, Rajkot				
Sr	Artists	Act	Art Form	Time
Performance Schedule for 22nd March 2024				
1.	Dhara Rughani & Unnati Ajmera	"There Comes Papa"	Dance	08:00 pm
2.	Rupin Shah	"Rang Rang Sundari"	Theatre	09:30 pm
Performance Schedule for 23rd March 2024				
1.	Jignesh Surani	"Garvo Girnar"	Dance	08:00 pm
2.	Ravi – Rajan	"Kabir Tatva"	Music	09:30 pm

The introduction of the artists and the acts to be performed:

Dhara Rughani and Unnati Ajmera will present a Contemporary & Mohiniyattam Dance performance named "**There Comes Papa**". Dhara Rughani and Unnati Ajmera are the dance-duo of Bharatnatyam & Mohiniyattam. Unnati is a Masters graduate in Mohiniyattam, and also trained in Bharatnatyam for 9 years. Dhara Rughani is a Bharatnatyam dancer, also trained in Contemporary/Jazz/Ballet with renowned performer Terence Lewis. In this edition of the Abhivyakti City Arts Project, Dhara & Unnati will bring alive a painting of Mahaprabha through the mediums of Mohiniyattam & Bharatnatyam, in a tale that follows the narrator experiencing Mahaprabha's life in their own way. This dance drama philosophizes the idea - "any art can transport you to another world".

Rupin Shah will present his Biographical Theatrical performance "**Rang Rang Sundari**" which is a musical odyssey of Jaishankar Sundari. He brings to life the captivating journey of Jaishankar Bhojak, a prominent figure in Gujarati Theatre known as Jaishankar Sundari. Accompanied by live music featuring instruments like tabla, pakhavaj, harmonium, sitar, and sarangi, along with two singers, the presentation draws inspiration from the book "Thoda Aansu, Thoda Phool" and plays "Saubhagya Sundari" and "Jugal Jugaari."

Girnar stands high by the persistence of culture, history, faith and devotion. And Gujaratis call it, 'Garvo Girnar'. Girnar is the highest mountain peak in the state of Gujarat. It is located in Junagadh, a town in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. Garvo Girnar stands as a symbol and amalgamation of various religious sects like Jainism, Shaivism, the Shakti cult and the Guru Dattatreya Bhagwaan. The '**Garvo Girnar**' performance

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by **Jignesh Surani** will showcase the stories and narratives of various peaks of this religious mountain, through the medium of Bharatnatyam and the folk dance of Gujarat.

Kabir will take the center-stage with a musical Sufi fusion performance by the artist duo **Ravi Maru and Rajan Panchal (Ravi-Ranjan)** on the theme of “**Kabir Tatva**”. The timeless and ageless life teachings of Kabir - cut across age and gender barriers. The duo will present the 15th Century poet’s philosophy through the lens of folk music weaving it into the history and literature in dialogues between the iconic figures. In their performance, they will try to take the audience on a profound journey through the realms of Gujarati and Bengali literature, ultimately weaving it all back to Kabir's teachings with its relevance in the present times.

About Abhivyakti - The City Arts Project:

Abhivyakti - The City Arts Project is an endeavor of UNM Foundation of Mehta Family of the Torrent Group, which envisions making art an integral part of the social fabric, by enabling access for audiences without constraint of location, thresholds (physical and individual) and social or economic strata by free entry.

Towards such a vision the mission is to identify and support budding talent. And then provide the appropriate platform for these artists of all genre to present their craft to the city and its populace. Abhivyakti, is poised to open a new chapter in the Art and Cultural Landscape of Rajkot and as a festival to look forward to.

Abhivyakti encompasses many myriad art forms ranging from dance, music, painting, photography, installations and theatre. Abhivyakti aims at bringing international quality art to the people, absolutely free.

The art lovers can log on to www.abhivyaktiart.org for event schedule or Dial 7069104444/7069105555 for the performance of their choice.

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