

PRESS RELEASE
PRESS AND COMMUNICATION SECTION

Bonjour India
An Indo-French Moment

The Théâtre du Soleil's École Nomade brings a unique theatre workshop to India

9th to 26th January, 2018

Indianostrum Theatre, Puducherry

Presented as a part of

BONJOUR INDIA 2017 – 18

As part of Bonjour India - incubating dreams, ideas and projects, which aim to move the partnership between India and France into the future, Puducherry is hosting ***Théâtre du Soleil's École Nomade***, a 3-week-long theatre workshop organised by *Théâtre du Soleil*, France, and *Indianostrum Theatre*, India, in collaboration with French Institute in India.

After a first edition in December 2015, French stage director Ariane Mnouchkine and other members of the Parisian theatre group *Théâtre du Soleil* are back for a new session at *Indianostrum Theatre* in Pondicherry from 9-26 January 2018.



École Nomade is an itinerant theatre school for aspiring actors and enthusiasts that travel to different countries with theatre tools, learning and sharing in a collective process of creation through workshops. Enthusiasts from across India have been invited to these workshops to hone their skills and exchange creative processes and ideas. Almost two hundred candidates from all over India applied to be part of the *Ecole Nomade*. Over a hundred of them passed the group auditions organised by two members of the *Théâtre du Soleil* in Pondichery between 5th-7th January 2018, and are now part of the 2018 session.

Speaking about this collaboration, Dr Bertrand de Hartingh, General Curator of Bonjour India, Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs said: *"Theatre has always been a significant*

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form of artistic expression in France and in India. We are glad to once again collaborate with Théâtre du Soleil and Indianostrum Theatre and enable together this one-of-a-kind workshop for theatre enthusiasts from both countries. This is an important platform for Indo-French cultural exchanges and it represents what we want to achieve through Bonjour India: increase in a creative way the human exchange between our countries and enrich all in the process.”

Ariane Mnouchkine said, “Theatre unites; it forces, without brutality, to overcome the differences that stem from languages, the differences born out of experiences, and invite us to jump all together in the mysterious cauldron that is the transmission of theatre. This is what we want to do with our Ecole Nomade.

This is not a masterclass. It is transmission. We try to show how we work, how we learn to work, how we learn from each other, the actors from me and me from the actors. We pass on a way of searching in which we believe, in which we trust. And we try to open those doors to students, to give them little keys, big keys, combinations.

It does take courage, confidence and joy from the students to understand and experiment what we are trying to give them.

That is how I would define the Ecole Nomade.”

To enquire about these workshops please contact Astrid Renoux at astrid@theatre-du-soleil.fr or Sudish at Indianostrum.theatre@gmail.com

About Bonjour India:

The third edition of Bonjour India 2017-18 is a four-month-long mega voyage across India that will celebrate Indo-French partnership as well as shape the next decade of human exchange between the two countries. From **November 2017 to February 2018**, Bonjour India covers 100 projects in 33 cities across 20 states & union territories. Bonjour India provides a platform for enduring partnerships across the themes of **Smart Citizen**, **High Mobility**, **Go Green**.

Bonjour India is unprecedented given the ambitious scale of its partnership with India. People at the forefront of their fields will share

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their inspiring journeys as they change society through their innovation and creativity. At events collaboratively organised across cities and disciplines, amid performances, debates, seminars and exhibitions, all audiences will find something that captures their imagination.

With Bonjour India 2017-18, India and France will come together to create, innovate and partner towards a progressive and sustainable future.

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