

# Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival 2019

## Festival of Laughter and Forgetting

### FAQs

**1. What is the theme of this year's Ranga Shankara festival?**

Ans: The theme for 2019 is 'The Festival of Laughter and Forgetting'. The title takes off from Milan Kundera's 'The Book of Laughter and Forgetting'

**2. In the context of this festival, what exactly does laughter and forgetting mean?**

Ans: For this festival we urge theatre practitioners to contemplate on how we use art and theatre to respond to the times we live in. The call is extremely open ended and you can use any form, content or style to tell your story.

**3. Does the play have to be issue based?**

Ans: The play can be about anything, because memory is connected to pretty much everything in life. It could be personal stories, issue based plays, real stories, fictionalised narratives, documentary theatre, musicals, historical theatre, theatre of the absurd.... in short anything.

**4. Does festival of laughter mean a festival of comedy plays?**

No. Because the sentence reads 'Laughter and forgetting' and not laughter in isolation. Laughter can be of many kinds, ironic, sarcastic, joyful, playful or pitiful. Also humour has been used as a tool to talk about some of the most important issues that have plagued us over the centuries. It is said that Clowns have red noses because they have been burnt by the fires of history. While humour could be an essential tool, we urge you not to read this as an exclusive comedy festival.

**5. Does improv comedy fit into this festival.**

Strictly speaking no. Because improv comedy is a form. But if the form is used to create a play that justifies the theme, it could certainly fit in.

**6. Does forgetting have to do with memory?**

Memory is the sum total of what we remember and how we use this remembered information to adapt, form relationships, and experiences and continue to exist.

We hope artists will contemplate on public and private memory, what we forget and why, and whether forgetting is a conscious act or just a function of the brain.

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### **7. Is the festival exclusively about laughter and forgetting?**

No it is not. We ask you to use the festival note only as a reference guide. Consider the festival application an open call about how we respond to the world we are living in.

### **8. Are new productions that have not premiered eligible?**

Yes , they are. Please send us a detailed synopsis and let us know how you see the idea taking shape.

### **9. Are old productions that are still performing eligible?**

Yes, they are. However, the only criteria is that the current version(that is being considered for selection) should not have performed in Bangalore.

### **10. Can new productions of plays that have previously been performed in Bangalore apply?**

Yes, because there are numerous versions of each play(especially well known plays). For example: If a group applies with a new production of Shakespeare's Hamlet, their application will not be disqualified simply because other productions of Hamlet have performed in Bangalore or even at Ranga Shankara previously.

### **11. Can the productions be in any language?**

Yes, they can be in any Indian language including English.

Plays without language are also welcome.

### **12. Are only well known groups eligible or can amateur groups apply?**

All groups(well known or otherwise) including practitioners who do not belong to any group are all welcome to apply. Selections will be based on the work proposed for the festival.

### **13. Will Ranga Shankara commission the new plays? What can applicants expect from the festival if selected?**

Ans: No. Ranga Shankara will not commission new productions. All selected applicants(new plays or otherwise) will receive a performance fee, travel and accommodation, and all other support to perform at the festival.