





# Ghat Ghat Mein Panchi Bolta Hai - a packed premiere for a play that calls out the need to 'Break The Silence'

**Mumbai, 8th December 2022:** Packed at double its capacity, the versova based performance studio, Lé Chakallas, was brimming with audiences at the opening night of 'Ghat Ghat Mein Panchi Bolta Hai' on Tuesday. In solidarity with #16DaysOfActivism to end Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG), the play, written and directed by the award-winning playwright, Smita Bharti, is a series of interconnected letters in the form of monologues by 9 characters, set in one triggering night.

Produced under the 'Stage For Change' initiative of SBOX by Sakshi (Regd. NGO 1992), Ghat Ghat Mein Panchi Bolta Hai is an effort to support the United Nations Secretary-General's UNITE by 2030 to End Violence against Women initiative (UNITE), which calls for global action to increase awareness, galvanise advocacy efforts and share knowledge and innovations to end VAWG once and for all.

Performed by the stellar ensemble cast which included Sandip Soparrkar, Swaroopa Ghosh, Padma Damodaran, Ahsaas Channa, Tanranjit Kaur, Indu Sharma, Shruti Mishra, Harvinder Kaur, Mahima Mishra & Satchit Puranik, the play sought to examine unspoken and unaddressed truths which inform all our actions and reactions, until we drift away into our cages of denial, silence, shame, and the fear of stigma.

Speaking about the device, Smita Bharti states "Writing letters to each other is a lost art, and a powerful one that travels inwards and out; expositioning conscious positions and subliminal fears. The play explores these notions buried deep in the recesses of our mind, which come alive when we give ourselves the space and time. This series of letters tying isolated decisions taken by 9 characters over a lifetime into a cohesive whole, traverses the stories they tell themselves and live out with others; with secrets that fester and gloom that corrodes.

Stories to cover up same sex relationships, intimate partner violence, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, teenage sexuality and mental health. Stories that spice and underline the banal everyday, and yet are rarely spoken aloud with the nearest ones. The play seeks to examine the most critical questions surrounding VAWG: what if these stories were spoken out? What if there was no longer a need to keep them a secret? What would change? Will anything change?"



'16 Days Of Activism' is an international civil society led campaign that takes place each year. It commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day, indicating that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide affecting more than 1 in 3 women.

### Sakshi

Founded as a rights-based capacity building organization. Sakshi (Regd. NGO 1992) is a pioneer of the feminist movement in India and the force behind two landmark PILs which became the backbone for several existing laws including POSH 2013. After spearheading a programme on Judicial Education on Gender Equality for the Judiciary of 5 countries which came to be recognized as a 'Best Practice' Model by UN Women, Sakshi is currently working towards mainstreaming the practice of Everyday Equality.

## **SBOX by Sakshi**

A Social Enterprise by Sakshi, SBOX enables individuals and institutions to be the architects of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Using the power of winning words, inspiring imagery and strategic storytelling, the creative agency aims to propel audiences towards action for real social change.

### **Stage For Change**

Designed by SBOX, *Stage for Change®* is a sustained engagement initiative undertaken to bring to life the creative vision of our Executive Director, Smita Bharti. With the purpose of building and engaging a community to initiate much-needed dialogue, Stage for Change uses the performance lens to equip audiences to heuristically recognise and enact change.

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