Dance as story

"Break Out: Extreme Dance-Comedy" fuses street dance and hip-hop music to tell a story that also makes you think.

NOMAD UNDERGROUND 'Break Out: Extreme Dance-Comedy'

What can be more dramatic than the world's last martial arts performance? For twoentsired in dance, it's the language and the storytelling that are their forte. "When I watched 'Break Out: Extreme Dance-Comedy'," says Shashidhar, the duo's producer, "I was amazed at how they used dance as a medium to convey emotions and ideas." The show, directed by Ashish Kulkarni and choreographed by Anand Rajaram, explores the lives of gangsters and their relationships with dance.

DANCE AS STORY

"Break Out: Extreme Dance-Comedy" fuses street dance and hip-hop music to tell a story that also makes you think.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

"Break Out: Extreme Dance-Comedy" is a thriller set in the world of street dance and hip-hop music. The story revolves around a group of young dancers who are trying to make it big in the city. The show is produced by Nomad Underground and directed by Ashish Kulkarni.

The show features a talented cast of dancers who bring their unique style and passion to the stage. The music, composed by Ashish Kulkarni, is a fusion of hip-hop and electronic beats that adds to the overall impact of the performance.

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METROPLUS THEATRE FEST

The line-up of plays to be held as part of The Hindu Metroplus Theatre Fest, are from August 6 to 15 at Sir Mutha Venkatachula Rao Concert Hall

August 6
Rudra: Extreme Dance Company
Stevenson and Negeen Theatre Company (Korea)
Physical non-verbal theatre that promises a fun-packed mad-cap night.

August 7
Mo Meera
Perch (Chennai)
A bold, inventive and funny reworking of a Swiss play.

August 8
Tarantula (English / Hindi / Bengali)
The Tulipote Repertory
(New Delhi)
Adapted from a Selvaggia Ray short story, this play won the Metroplus Playwright Award 2012.

August 12
Arma Ketta
Full Theatre (Singapore)
A comedy that revolves around a newly-wed couple and their meddlesome families.

August 13
Khoobsurat (Kanpur),
Q Theatre Productions (Mumbai)
Staged to huge success in many Indian cities, a thought provoking monologue of a woman trapped in a life that is not her own.

The Agony And The Ecstasy Of Steve Jobs
Created and performed by Mike Daisey
A daring hilarious tale about pride, beauty, lost and industrial design by a world famous monologist.

August 14
Quick Death Theatre Arts & Wings (Thriller)
Cutting edge and contemporary, this production takes liberties with cause and effect, chronology and sequence.

August 17
One on One
Raps (Mumbai)
Eight short plays by some of Mumbai’s finest actors and directors.

For tickets:
Seventeen passes are priced at Rs. 5,500 and Rs. 2,500. Tickets, priced at Rs. 600, Rs. 350 and Rs. 200 (stalls), are available at www.in-family.in, Landmark (Speerpur Mala, Lido Centre, Amba Skywalk Mall, and Mumbra), The Hindu office and the venue.

For further: 98401 12345, 98401 12313.
August 6th to 15th
(Shows start at 7.15 pm)

Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall
(Lady Andal School Campus)

August 6, Friday
BREAK OUT: EXTREME DANCE COMEDY
Sevensense & Yegam Theatre Company (Korea)
75 minutes
Directed by Sang-Hoon Lim, Seung-Youl Lee
Created by The Sevensense Creative Team

August 7, Saturday
Ms. MEENA
Perch (Chennai)
100 minutes
Directed by Rajiv Krishnan
Inspired by 'The Visit' by Friedrich Durrenmatt

August 8, Sunday
TARAMANDAL
The Tadpole Repertory (New Delhi)
110 minutes
Directed by Neel Chaudhuri
Playwright: Neel Chaudhuri

August 12, Thursday
RAFTA RAFTA
HuM Theatre (Singapore)
120 minutes
Directed by Dinkar Jalil
Playwright: Ayub Khan-Din

August 13, Friday (Two plays in one evening)

KHALIJABAI OF KARMALI TERRACE (7.15 pm)
O Theatre Productions (Mumbai)
65 minutes
Directed by Quasar Thakore Pandya
Based on Stella Kon's 'Emily of Emerald Hill'

THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY OF STEVE JOBS* (8.30 pm)
Mike Daly (USA)
60 minutes
Directed by Jean-Michele Gregory
Playwright: Mike Daly

August 14, Saturday
QUICK DEATH
Theatre Roots & Wings (Thrisur)
50 minutes
Directed by Sankar Venkateswaran
Playwright: Richard Murphy

August 15, Sunday
ONE ON ONE*
Rage (Mumbai)
100 minutes
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www.indianstage.in, Landmark (Spencer Plaza, Citi Center,
Ampa Skywalk Mall and Nungambakkam), The Hindu Office
and at Venue.

SEASON PASSES Rs. 3,500/2,100
TICKETS: Rs. 600/350/200 (Balcony)

Fest Helpline: 98402 22363, 98406 12333

* Suitable only for mature audiences.
SHOWING TODAY!

August 6, Friday

BREAK OUT: EXTREME DANCE COMEDY
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(Lady Andal School Campus)
(Shows start at 7.15 pm)

TICKETS: Rs. 600/350/200 (Balcony)

Limited Tickets available at Venue.

Tickets for other shows available at www.hindu.com/theatrefest, www.indianstage.in,
Landmark (Spencer Plaza, Citi Center, Amaa Skywalk Mall and Nungambakkam). The Hindu Office and at Venue.

Fest Helpline: 98402 22363, 98406 12333

Children below the age of 6 WILL NOT be allowed inside.
They’ve got talent

The compellingly comical, uniquely creative, laceratingly dramatized dance sequence titled ‘Break Out’ exceeded my expectations of the arts scene in Chennai. During the opening sequence, when the entire troupe arrived in grey hooded sweat-suits, I was briefly reminded of ‘Fighting Gravity’ (featured on ‘America’s Got Talent’) but their act quickly established a discrete artistic stance. The highlights of the performance included the clever, seemingly spontaneous use of props and judiciously constructed sets, the unexpected uprooting of audience participation, the resourceful use of puppets to portray the actual ‘break out’, and last but not least, the uncanny timing. Not a single moment, gesture or reaction came late! All of this was liberally garnished with passionate and highly capable beatboxing.

ASHER JAY
New York

Brilliant concept

A practically non-existent storyline, and yet thunderous applause! While the show itself was uproariously funny, the part when the prisoners made their escape through the ‘underground tunnels’ was my favourite.

HARISH RAMASWAMY
Adyar

Dancing up a storm

‘Break Out’ danced breathlessly through prison, hospital, and abbey. The performers fell over each other for gags and then, danced up a storm. But the play seemed to reach closure several times before breaking out into another narrative twist. Also, can we ban the incomprehensible Tamil dialogues that all theatre groups coming to the city feel obliged to inflict upon us?

MALARVIZHI J
Abhiramapuram

Lasting impression

The first play of any festival risks the chance of being forgotten by the end of it but ‘Break Out: Extreme Dance Comedy’ that opened the The Hindu MetroPlus Theatre Festival will not suffer that fate. It destroyed every stereotype of dance and theatre that I knew. I loved how the spotlight was used and the way the play so seamlessly shifted from the stage to the audience. The visual panels on the side were mildly distracting but admittedly necessary. Judging from the hoots and applause, except for when the play slowed down a little around the 50th minute, it was definitely a play that will be remembered for a while.

DIHYA KURIAKOSE
Annamalai East

Magical melange

Entering a honeycomb of magically absurd truths, the 75 minutes of dance, mime, gymnastics and music was to suspend disbelief. What we witnessed was a profound display of human capacity for teamwork, timing, flexibility, that challenged Nature itself, and most notably, the joy and energy of performing to an interested audience. Every nerve in the hall woke up to the magnificent work on stage. Undergirding it all was a message of hope, peace, transformation and resistance in the face of oppression, and even death.

MINI KRISHNAN
Nungambakkam

Dress rehearsal gone bad

‘Break Out’ was a hit among the kids, though I cannot say the same about the adults. There were a few laugh-out-loud moments but most of the time I was waiting for the high-energy vibe that b-boying usually brings. The fact that the lights were out-of-sync and the comic capers jumped from scene-to-scene also took away from the enjoyment. The b-boys and beautiful girls tried, but after the slew of dance competitions on TV that show genres at their best, this seemed like a dress rehearsal gone bad.

AMRITHA DINESH
Adyar

Laughs unlimited

‘Break Out: Extreme Dance Comedy’ was a cocktail of dance, acrobatics, gymnastics, drama, humour and puppetry. Such a show is possible only with training and hard work. Credit should also go to the director and producer for the concept.

V. MURALI
T. Nagar
The Hindu MetroPlus Theatre Festival
in three more cities by year-end
We hope it will morph into a truly South Indian experience: N. Ram

Divya Kumar

CHENNAI: The Hindu MetroPlus Theatre Festival is set to
go to three other South Indian cities by the end of this
year, said N. Ram, Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu.

Speaking at the launch party of the sixth edition of the
fest at The Park Hotel here, he said: “By the end of 2010,
the fest will have travelled to Hyderabad, Bangalore and
Coimbatore. We hope these events elsewhere will become
annual features, as they have been in Chennai. If that hap-
pens, the MetroPlus Theatre Fest will morph into a truly
South Indian experience.”

“For a six-year-old festival, this may be said to be preci-
cious,” Mr. Ram said, and noted that The Hindu’s eng-
gagement with the theatre had grown beyond the fest
with the launch of the MetroPlus Playwright Award
three years ago.

“We are very pleased to be working with a leading pub-
lishing house to bring out a volume of the three award-
winning plays. And the book should be out in a few
months,” he said.

The sixth edition of the fest features eight world-class
plays from Korea, Singapore, the U.S., Bangalore, New De-
li, Mumbai and Thrissur. “We believe that this year’s line-up
is perhaps the best, or among the best, we’ve had until now,”
said Mr. Ram.

The fest will open on Friday, August 6, with the inter-
nationally renowned dance comedy ‘Break Out’ by Sev-
onsense and Yegam Theatre Company from Korea, fol-
lowed by ‘Ms. Merma’ by Chennai’s Perch, a quirky re-
imagining of the Swiss-Ger-
man classic ‘The Visit,’ on Au-
gust 7.

Allied activities include a
symposium on August 9, and
music and theme food paired
with the play of the day at the
venue. Another first for the
fest this year is a blog (metro-
theatrefest.com) with
write-ups by organisers of the
fest and members of the thea-
tre fraternity. The launch party
was attended by theatre per-
sonalities and theatre lovers.
MetroPlus Theatre Fest: Edition Six

The Hindu MetroPlus Theatre Fest 2010 moves away from the conventional to provide audiences with eight plays both national and international spread over seven days. GOWRI RAMNARAYAN presents a curtain raiser.