

HEART of matter

Heart of Matter is a series of reflective conversations that dwell on holistic living, wellness, history, philosophy, literature, art and culture. Presented by InKo Centre as quarterly editions, in association with partner organisations, these direct and inspirational conversations will focus on lived experience rather than theoretical abstractions.

We invite you to explore what lies at the heart of matter, what matters most and why.

To commemorate International Women's Day and to celebrate the month with a salute to the extraordinary courage of women worldwide, we are delighted to present **Monologues by Women** curated by N.S. Yamuna at 6.30 pm on Friday, 16 March 2018 at InKo Centre. These monologues are from original writings by women, from across the world. Racy, chatty, irreverent, disruptive and yet deeply sensitive, compassionate and humane, there powerful voices that are at once deeply personal yet wholly universal in appeal and significance.

MONOLOGUES by WOMEN

We find these accounts of women's courage universally relevant and exciting to perform, because of the attitude they portray. They are raw and realistic and yet not tear-jerking or melodramatic. They are short, but deep and layered with experiences and emotions. Their distinguishing quality is a mitigating thread of sassy, albeit dark humour.

These monologues are from original writings by women, from across the world. To empathize with these deeply personal accounts of women, we have evolved a presentation style, which we might even call a genre of theatre, which is minimalistic, where the actor is sole and complete. The setting is intimate, the tone is chatty, while

the portrayal is one of controlled emotion. The actor has none of the usual supports systems such as costumes, makeup, props, sound or light effects. She speaks in the first person singular and an entire universe is created with just the actor's voice and a few gestures. And, anchoring all this is just a chair. We are now scouting women's stories in India and Asia and invite writers, who will write in a similar vein, to join us. We believe that by presenting stories of depravation and degradation, of terror and pain with an empathetic dose of humour, we will be able to contribute to a more sensitive understanding of the plight of women. And we hope this will generate the desired response towards a more amenable gender balance. - N S Yamuna

MONOLOGUES by WOMEN will be presented by:

Geetha Lakshman, with her love for words and images, she is actively involved in theatre. **Jaya Mahubani** is an aspiring writer and poet, currently teaching at Goethe-Institute, Chennai. **Nikhila Kesavan** acts and directs in English theatre, while focusing on original stage adaptations of novels. **Raena Reddy** is a homemaker, social worker, yoga practitioner and a meditator, with a love for gardening. **Shaan Katari Libby**, is a lawyer at the Madras High Court, acts and directs in Theatre and runs theatre/debate classes for children. **Susan Thomas** is an HR professional, who runs an NGO for children's education, and is actively interested in music and theatre. **Tehzeeb Katari's** passion for theatre and poetry has been a constant and she has successfully combined it with designing and also running NUR, an NGO focussed on female education. **N S Yamuna** is a founder trustee at Tejaswi, Theatre for Self-Expression, and has been an all-rounder in Theatre since her school days.