

 NCPA

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ON Stage[®]

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Akram Khan

performs XENOS
for the final time
at the NCPA

Chandan Dass

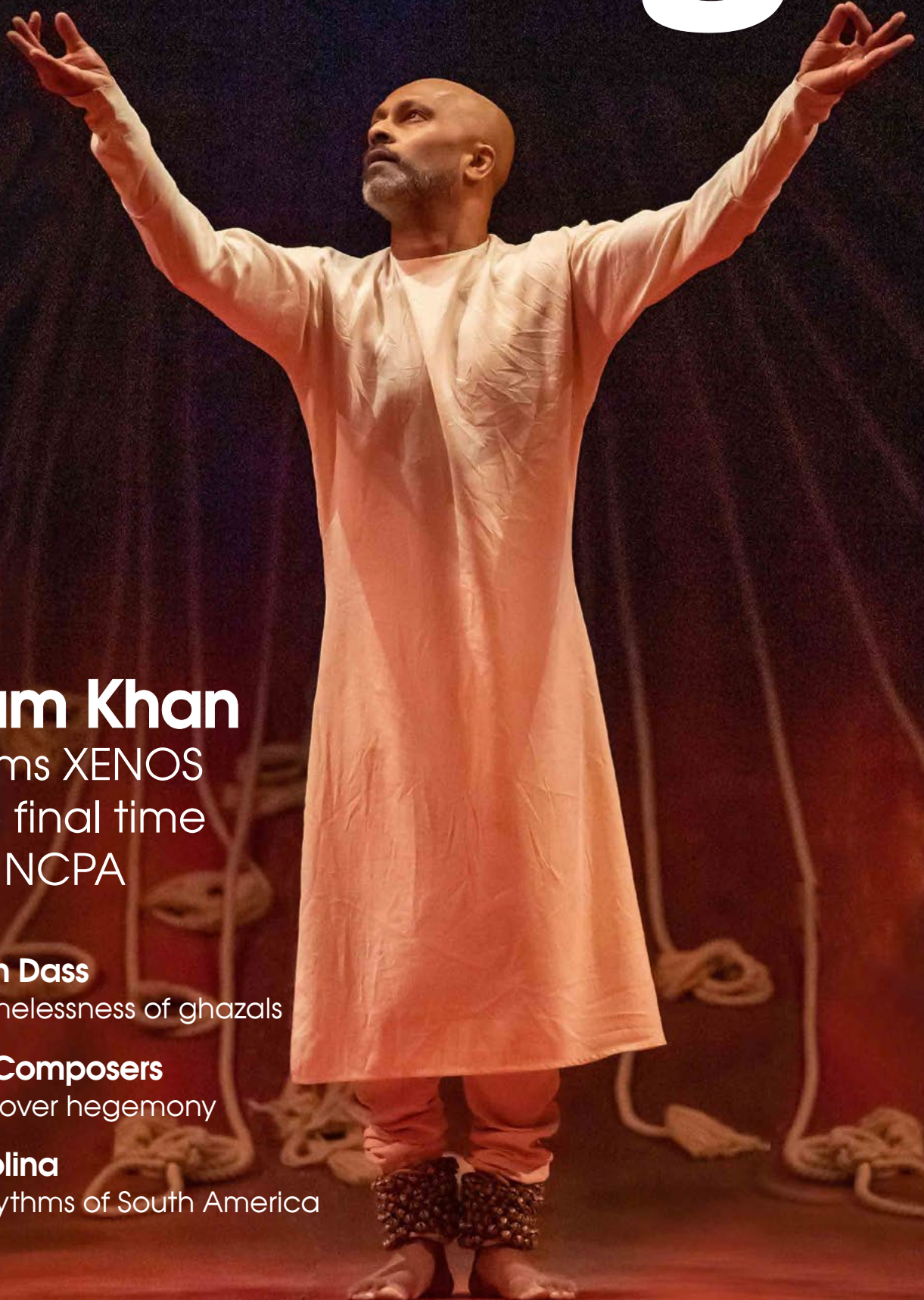
On the timelessness of ghazals

Women Composers

Harmony over hegemony

Jesús Molina

On the rhythms of South America



Kaleidoscope

Your window to the latest in the performing arts across India and the world..



Home is where the art is

Following an acquisition by the Delhi Art Gallery (DAG), the residence of noted modernist painter Jamini Roy will soon be turned into India's first private single-artist museum. Tucked away in a quaint alley in Ballygunge Place in south Kolkata, Roy lived in the house from 1949 until his demise in 1972. In 1976, the Archaeological Survey of India named him as one of nine artists whose works were to be treated as national treasures. The museum will serve as a tribute to the life and works of Roy. The DAG plans on keeping the original single-storeyed structure—designed by the artist and his son Amiya Roy—intact. The courtyard, the studio and the larger rooms where he displayed his artwork will have a distinct character. An outreach programme aimed at community engagement, a bookshop and a café are in the works too. Carefully documented memories and anecdotes from the artist's family will find a place in the museum. Bengali new year celebrations, which coincided with Roy's birthday, had the house bustling with visitors. The DAG hopes to revive the cultural spirit of the space. For more information, please visit dagworld.com

Breaking barriers

"There is to be no concert this season without at least one work by a female composer," reads the motto of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (DSO) as they announce their new season. The programming promises works by female composers from the 12th century to the present. The shift was long overdue as only two per cent of all the works played by professional German orchestras are by women, a



dismal figure reiterated at the annual DSO press conference held in late April. Not too far away unfolds another welcome change. For the first time in its history, the BBC Proms will be bookended by female conductors. The opening and closing nights will see Dalia Stasevska (in pic) and Marin Alsop respectively, among the 10 women conducting this year. The season also features 21 premieres, 11 of which will be by female composers. For more information, please visit www.dso-berlin.de/en and www.bbc.co.uk/proms

Mumbai to Miami

Earlier this year, Art Deco Mumbai (ADM) made a soaring leap to Miami for the 16th World Congress on Art Deco, a one-of-a-kind initiative to recognise and aid the revival of heritage from this distinctive style of architecture and visual arts. At the Congress, the founder of ADM, Atul Kumar, presented a case study on the restoration and repair of Swastik Court in the Oval precinct at Churchgate, 83 years after its construction. Kumar, along with his team, was invited to advise and share the learnings from the refurbishment that was carried out in a cost-effective manner with minimal intervention by occupants. With its bright pastels, curved balconies, 'eyebrows' or weather



shades and symmetry, the art deco buildings adorning south Mumbai are easily identifiable. Some of these—Meghdoot, Zaver Mahal, Firdaus and more—front the coast. Iconic single-screen cinema halls Regal, Liberty and Eros, too, exemplify this architectural style. ADM lists more than 600 art deco buildings extending from Marine Drive to Matunga, Dadar, Mahim, and going all the way to the north. Mumbai is home to the world's second largest collection of art deco structures, next to Miami. For more information, please visit www.artdecomumbai.com

In memoriam

The grand old man of Indian circus, Moorkoth Vengakandy Shankaran, passed away at the age of 99 in April. His extraordinary life echoes the ebbs and flows of the Indian circus. He established the well-known Gemini Circus and was thereafter fondly called Gemini Shankaran. As a young boy, he was enchanted by the acrobats of a local touring circus in his village Kolassery in Kerala and dropped out of school to train in martial arts and acrobatics. After a stint at running a provision store and later, joining the military as a wireless operator during World War II, he returned to his village in 1946, only to realise that his resolve to pursue his passion had grown stronger. Following years of performing as a trapeze artiste, he bought Vijaya Circus for ₹6,000 in 1951 and changed the course of Indian circus. He renamed it 'Gemini' after his zodiac sign. Gemini Circus became the first Indian troupe to attend the International Circus Festival in the U.S.S.R. and toured from one continent to another. World leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru, the Mountbatten family and Martin Luther King, Jr. marvelled at and lauded their craft. Raj Kapoor's classic *Mera Naam Joker* was shot entirely at Gemini Circus. In 1977, Shankaran established Jumbo Circus, which went on to become another leader in the field. His sons Ajay and Ashok Shankar have taken up the reins, continuing his legacy. ■

- Aishwarya Bodke