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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Clowning with Romeo, Juliet and Sufi in a play

TNN | May 29, 2013, 08.03 PM IST

NEW DELHI: It is about love, clowning and Sufi poetry. A play titled Romeo, Juliet and Seven Clowns will be staged on May 29-30 at two different venues.

The Wednesday show will be held at the IIC auditorium. The Thursday's show will be staged at Azad Bhawan, ICCR. Entry to the play is free.

Director Sukhmani Kohli says that the clown's red nose is the smallest mask that unmasks all of us. "A clown gives unconditional love and is not afraid to show the world how she or he is feeling. It's this side of the clown inside us that the actors try to explore in this play," says Kohli.

Kohli equates clowning to a Sufi experience. "The clown loves like the Sufis do: shamelessly and wholeheartedly. So it was apt for us to use Baba Bulleh Shah's poetry in the play," says Kohli of Purple Mangoes, a facilitators' collective doing the play in collaboration with India International Centre.

The play also explores perceptions of, and experiences with love and relationships, with the help of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

Romeo, Juliet and Seven Clowns is presented by CEVA drama repertory company Chandigarh and is supported by Punjabi academy and ICCR.