

BHILWARA NATYA PURSKAR 2011

August 19, 2011

In its second year, Bhilwara Natya Puraskar draws huge response

Entries received from over 8 states

New Delhi: Friday, August 19, 2011: The Chairman Emeritus of LNJ Bhilwara Group and a connoisseur of theatre, literature and music, Shri LN Jhunjunwala announced the second Bhilwara Natya Puraskar, an initiative started last year, to encourage theatre performances in Hindi language and discover fresh talent from all parts of India.

The award is to be given every year to two outstanding theatre productions in Hindi, preferably of original and fresh plays written in Hindi, or of any Indian language, but translated into Hindi. In a short span the Award has created a huge impact and in its second year it received nominations from over 8 states. The award recognizes not only the written script, but also the production as a whole.

Shri Rajinder Bagrodia, industrialist & philanthropist and Prof Bharat Gupt from Delhi University were present on the occasion. The first prize is for rupees two lakhs and the second for one lakh with citation and trophy.

Shri LN Jhunjunwala and the members of the award committee want this award to be a boost to all the traditional arts that are finding a hard time to compete with modern popular culture including films and television. They hope this will be an inspiration to many unacknowledged groups in forgotten parts of the country. The LNJ Bhilwara Group wishes to support their passion and dedication by providing them institutional and financial support.

From among, around numerous entries received this year the two plays shortlisted for the award are *Ek aur Dronacharya* (directed by Prof Satish Mehta, Prayog Bhopal theatre group) and *Hastinapur* (directed by KG Trivedi, Trikarshi theatre group). The plays would be staged at New Delhi's Shri Ram Centre on 4th and 5th of September 2011 and then the first and second prizes will be decided by the Jury.

Shri Jhunjunwala said, "We strongly believe that institutional support like this will help revive the fading art form of theatre which has a huge potential for social reforms and change. Theatre art can set examples of holistic social and good behavior for societies. I urge upon all stakeholders to join us in this endeavor which is aimed at especially spotting and encouraging unseen talents from across the country. As a corporate group we are happy to be part of this endeavor and hope to sincerely affect the theatre community positively".

Besides being a veteran entrepreneur and a successful businessman, Shri Jhunjunwala has always taken a special interest in music, drama, literature, and chess. Long ago in 1987, he had made a documentary on Rajasthan and its indigenous culture and tradition. The documentary won Lotus Award by the then President of India. Under the patronage of Shri Jhunjunwala, the famous director Shri Bapi Bose, had directed a play "Param Purush" based on the life of Thankur Ramkrishna Paramahans in 2007. The play was declared as the best production of the year by Government of Delhi.

