

MOTHERS IN DEMAND

Will these actresses play mother to younger actors?... p4



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● movies ● fashion ● trends ● theatre ● food ● gossip ● hollywood

Indian democracy through

SOCRATES'S EYES



Veteran theatre artist Rajoo Barot comments on the present state of affairs through his latest play *Kashuk Bhali Gayelo Manas*

Vrunda R Bhatt

Veteran theatre artist and director Rajoo Barot is back to stage after three years with his latest commentary on the present state of affairs, *Kashuk Bhali Gayelo Manas*. While his last play *Haan main tane chahi che zindagi!* addressed the issue of gender sensitivity, his latest venture is about democracy and politics.

"I have genuinely felt that the country's democracy has gone for a toss. This instigated and inspired me to show the

rationale to stage this classic is to recite the thinker alive and give the society an aspiration as its law systems and governance are undergoing a very delicate phase.

Talking about the current political scenario, Barot says, "It is not just the present day condition that fumes our blood to revolution, but it is ideally the old blotted scars that continue to influence our souls."

It is a tale of the struggles of the Greek philosopher in three phases — eminence of Athens, democracy and the thought that enforces seeking of truth. It depicts how society developed dislike and scorn toward Socrates and how they reached to the conclusion that Socrates must be punished severely.

The Greek costumes for the play are specially designed by Arpita Dhagat,

a graduate of National School of Drama, Delhi.

"I have researched for about two months on Greeks and Socrates before coming up with costumes. We have tried adopting the minimalist approach with detailed focus while designing the dresses" said Dhagat.

The set designed by Kabir Thakore will take back the audiences to the most remarkable period of Greek history.

THE PLAY WILL BE STAGED ON SEPTEMBER 6 FROM 9:00 PM AT JAYSHANKAR SUNDRI HALL.

For this play Rajoo Barot expresses his gratitude towards: Piraji Sagra Arts Production and Sangeet Natak Academy

As in all his plays, Barot is thorough with the ground work and the literature to get the nuances right. "Though it arrives from the horizons of the past, History keeps repeating itself and truth has always been questioned and demoralised by the society" added Barot.

One of the actors, Chintan Pandya who plays the role of Socrates' close friend *Crito* says, "Playing the role has been an inner churning for me as I can relate to the character. This role is challenging as I don't

have much dialogues but have to convey the message through my expressions."



Photo: Manojk Pathak



speculum of Socrates to the society that is governed through mockery and corruption" said Barot.

The play is an adaptation of author Manubhai Pancholi's *Socrates*. It has been adapted by Bharat Dave and directed by Rajoo Barot. The director's