





# Youth Carnival

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The beginning of change, through art and entertainment; two days of a youth carnival presented by Lok

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**Kolkata:** Lok, a youth based creative arts group, founded by Soumyajit Majumdar, is promoting the theme “Youth for Arts” through a carnival, spread over two days, August 28 and 29, 2011, at Gyan Manch, which will include all forms of performing arts, painting and photography. On the first day, a walk is being held from New Market to Park Street. There will be costumes, music, dance and street theatre -- an absolute carnival-like affair. The day after, Lok will perform a play; KHOJ, which is an amalgamation of dance, visuals, mime and theatre. Along with this, there will be an open-house performance platform for musicians, dancers, freestyle actors and writers.

It all started on January 3, 2011, when Majumdar, along with co-founders of Lok spearheaded the Indian Youth for Arts and Change movement. “We wanted to connect to the Indian youth on a common platform and make interaction and exchange among them possible. What seemed like a youth creative arts movement in Kolkata is now taking shape as a national youth creative arts movement and is spreading to cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.” says Majumdar about the IYAC project, which will have a similar carnival in Delhi, this September.

While the walk will look like a carnival, the young members are trying to say something; “The powerful role of any art form will only be determined when it can escape its small audience, reach a wider audience, in the open and inspire individuals to have vision and express that vision.” explains Aditya Sengupta, one of the founders of Lok. Being a youth based movement has its disadvantages, especially if it is relatively new. They know there will be quite a bit of criticism coming their way. Pujita Guha, one of the first members of Lok, says, “See, every action has a reaction. Of course, something like this will not go unnoticed, so yes, we are expecting a few people to come around and say “why now, why this and why us?” But, we are in no way going to be deterred from what we have envisioned.”