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Like music, theatre too can enter pubs

A group of college students from Kolkata are here to encourage theatres in watering holes across the city.

Reported By: Puja Pednekar | Edited By: Puja Pednekar | Source: DNA | Updated: Dec 20, 2011, 01:53 AM IST



If you thought that you can't mix culture with your drinks, then think again. A group of college students from Kolkata are here to encourage theatres in watering holes across the city. They believe that high culture need not be limited to just a few fancy auditoriums. They want to make different kinds of arts accessible to the youth, who frequent clubs.

"If music can enter pubs, so can art," they claim. Lok, a Kolkata-based creative arts group, is interacting with students across various colleges in the city to promote "theatre inside pubs and night clubs."

Freedom of expression, copyright laws, reservation and other issues that the youth feel passionately about will be the subject of the plays. The group has already performed across pubs in Kolkata and Delhi. One of their popular acts, *Kalakar ki Kahani*, which talks about the struggle faced by an artist in the modern times from freedom of expression to copyright issues, will be performed in any of the city's night haunts.

Soumyajit Mazumdar, one of the members of Lok, said: "We do not want to create a distance between our audience. We want them to feel connected and even during our stage performances we like to perform as close to the audience as possible. We have approached several pubs in the city and will soon start our gigs."



IIT-Bombay's Mood Indigo brought them to the city, but they are here to do more than taking part in the festival. Lok has conceptualised "PROJECT YUVA-dream young" - a one-of-its-kind national youth movement mainly in terms of creative arts. Its aim is to connect the Indian youth and facilitate interaction among them.

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What seemed like a youth creative arts movement in Kolkata is now taking shape of a national movement with the popularity of Lok spreading to Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and other cities within a year of its inception. Lok is now the only youth-led and youth-based national creative arts group.

The group was formed in 2010 by artistically and creatively inclined students mostly from St Xaviers College, Jadavpur University, Presidency College, Loreto College and some other premiere schools and colleges of Kolkata. "We're always exploring new places to perform and bringing theatres close to the people and reviving the spontaneity of the medium. From street corners, book stores, to hilltops, we have performed almost everywhere," said Majumdar.