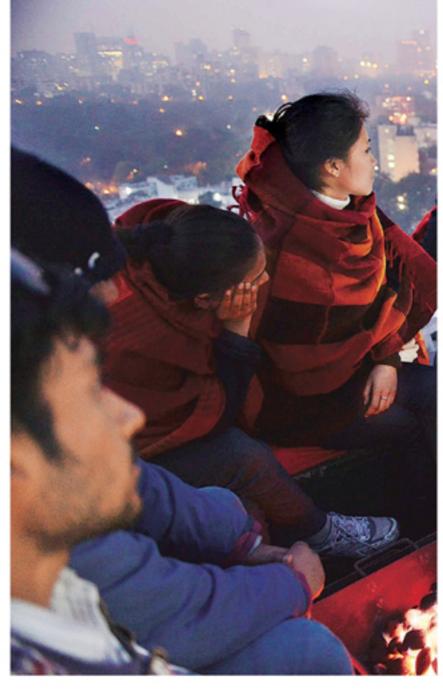
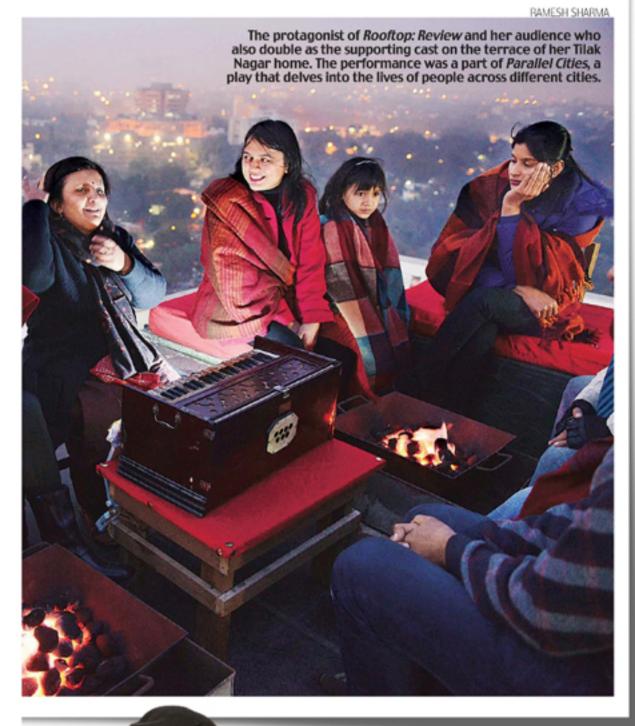




Unscripted Cityscape





by Barsali Bhattacharyya

ENTRAL Delhi looks stun-ning from the 15th floor on a cold winter evening. The city lights twinkle bright several hundred feet below and the sound of passing traffic is

borne up by the chilly wind. A visually impaired woman sits nearby and speaks about of the 15th say, the a her life in this sprawling city.

This is a play unlike any other you have ever seen. The blind woman is the protagonist, the rooftop is the stage, and the audience unknowingly slip into the shoes of the supporting cast. There is no script, free flow of conversation marks the course

of the performance. Titled Rooflop: Review, the play is part of a four-piece theatrical performance called 'Parallel Cities', curated by director Stefan Kaegi from Germany and interdisciplinary artist Lola Arias from Argentina. After travelling to Berlin, Buenos Aires, Warsaw, Zurich and Kolkata , Parallel Cities' rides to Delhi on the back of the 15th Bharat Rang Mahot-say, the annual theatre festival of the National School of Drama

the rooftop is the stage, and

there is no prepared script.

True to the belief that all the world's a stage, this performance takes place all over the city. The four pieces vary in form - some are for the ears, and some for the eyes. The National Archives Library on Janpath, Select Citywalk shopping mall in Saket, the NSD cam-pus and a rooftop on Tilak Marg are the

venues which will host this unique experiment.

shopping malls and campuses are uninteresting yet cogent

The 15th Bharat Rang Mahotsav brings an offsite theatrical experiment that will prod you to look at familiar public spaces differently

omnipresent in every city across the world and are the best stages to observe the theatre of life", says Kaegi. "For me, theatre is a tool for understanding society. Our per-formers are not professionals - but common people from the city we are performing in. In the case of Delhi, Priti Prakash Prajapati, a talented singer and professor of Hindi at Lady Shriram College, is the sole protagonist of

Rooftop: Review." While the essential objective is always is a play unlike to observe society, any other. The blind as the performwoman is the protagonist ance moves from one city to

ideas are suit-

A welcome break from our regular, routine-bound and detached urban existence, 'Parallel Cities' offers a different perspective on the spaces we inhabit. The faintest sound is heard and the slightest gesture is noticed. In the end, although you have only been reading at the library or walking through the mall or sitting on a rooftop, the experience appears

public spaces are crowded and it is hard to feel lonely. Our work

helps people convert these spaces into platforms to express them-selves better", he adds.

reflect on it for a long time. — 'Parallel Cities Delhi 2013' is on till Jan. 18. To register your place, call +919582297249

almost magical. You will surely

Our performers are not professionals but common people from the city that we are performing in 🧠



by **Uma Nair**

HIS trademark beret perched on his head and a Sabyasachi stole carelessly thrown over his shoulder, Paresh Maity could pass for a character out of Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice as he gives an exclusive preview of his 'Venetian Ody-ssey' that opens at Art Alive on

January 28. "When I went to London looking at the works of J.M.W. Tur-

A PAINTER'S **ROVING LENS**

