

THE 5 POINT EXPERIMENT

Prologue, January 18

SAARANG
2007

It's that time of the year again when we say it's that time of the year again. For the freshers, Saarang is the annual cultural festival of IIT Madras. It's all fun and romance, lots of good music, drama and no math. We suggest you stay on campus. If you are good at drama, speaking, quizzing, music, fine arts, anything at all, this is your chance to show your talent. If, like the rest of us, you are just plain geeky, uncool, and good at Maths, this is the time to let your hair down and shake a leg or two.

So, what's new at Saarang?

5 Point Experiment

Out go the dogs, in come the 5-pointers.

Theme Music

After 5 years of procrastination, it's finally here. Call 98403 98010 for free download at Rs. 6/min. Or otherwise download it from saarang.org. Composed, performed and recorded by Aakash and Bharath, so brickbats and bouquets can be directed to them.

THE play

Madras Players are performing their super hit play Five Point Someone at this year's Saarang. Among the cast is Abhijeet 'Monty' Mohanty, events core Saarang 2007 and Anshumani Ruddra, alumnus, 2004. Also watch out for Anshumani's Road Safety campaign launch on Day1.

IC&SR

In the unlikely event that you go to classes and pass by CLT, you might have noticed that it is without a roof. Compensating as a venue is the ICSR main auditorium.

Nite Saarang

Bookings open. Call 98403 98010 for more details.

New Events

Whose line is it anyway?

Inspired from Drew Carey's famous TV show, this event is sure to be a runaway hit. It's a game show and a stand up comedy routine rolled into one. Teams of 4 are tormented in cleverly designed rounds much to the audience's delight. We predict that this event will rival JAM in popularity.

Short film making

You know all those things they say about the movies? That film is the art form that best connects with the audience. That it has the power to provoke reactions, emotional or otherwise. That it can convey a story like nothing else can. If you really believe all of that, then this is the event for you. Technical details available on the website.

Multilingual Laughter Challenge

Its about time Saarang recognized stand-up comedy as an art form. If you have your own brand of isms (Sidhu or otherwise), then quickly get over your stage fear. The multilingual laughter challenge is your chance for 15 seconds of fame / kuntryness. This event is on the 5Pt Experiment hit list, right after JAM, Whose line and Salsa workshop.

Photography

Photography, an event for all those people who believe that Saarang is the best time to take out those cameras, has been introduced for the first time this year. What better way to enjoy Saarang than through the LCD screen of that digicam?

What you will be missing at Saarang 2007

The fifth day

You don't have 5 days at Shastra, do you?

CLT

The roof collapsed. We are still investigating why. Official records indicate something to do with the rain, but we have our doubts – it has rained in Chennai earlier, hasn't it?

Himesh Reshammiya

5Pt Experiment has access to confidential minutes of pro-show meetings. They confirm that Himesh was asked to perform at Saarang. Fortunately for the rest of us, as one would assume, he quoted a price too high for this Saarang; the sponsors let him down.

Iron Maidens

An all-girls Iron Maiden tribute band was contacted for the rock show. We don't know the real reason the deal didn't work out, but, we do know that one of the clauses in the contract was that the girls would have to perform in salwar kameez rather than their usual tight short leather clothing stage attire. The 5Pt Experiment will truly miss the maidens.

Mr and Miss Saarang

Oscar Wilde objected. He wanted a Mr and Mr Saarang, which was unfortunately not possible.

Hutch girls

Oscar Wilde wanted the Airtel guys instead.

MCC Girls

Take home exercise, as always.

Cookery contest

Well placed sources say that among the events that were proposed was a cookery contest. We asked the extremely busy and extremely tipsy event cores about why they rejected the idea. Our guess is that the Himalaya lobby has something to do with it.

Pro-Shows

Pro shows have always been the biggest highlights of Saarang. Here's the scoop on this year's pro shows, freshly plucked from the website.

Global Rhythms (25th Jan)



Global Rhythms is a combination of traditional and non-traditional music from all over the world. A concept conceived by Miami Alumnus Srinivas Krishnan in close

collaboration with Pamela Fox, Pat Hernly and Jason Koontz in the year 1996, the project aims to integrate sounds from all over the world and create music that utilizes an eclectic blend of Middle Eastern, Caribbean, Indian, African, Brazilian, Latin, Australian, and Western instrumentation. It has been in the news lately with several collaborative exercises with AR Rahman, most recently at the Hollywood Bowl in July 2006.

Global Rhythms will open the Professional Nights of Saarang this year with a performance that will introduce a taste of global music to the Indian audience. The free show, which is open to all, promises to be a night of song and dance, with performances on instruments such as saxophone, flute, keyboard and percussion instruments along with a dance trio to add colour to the musical masterpieces.

Sukhwinder Singh (26th Jan)



Sukhwinder Singh is currently one of the hot favourites amongst the singers in Bollywood. His first stage performance was at the age of 7. He joined the renowned music director duo Laxmikant Pyarelal's troupe and quickly blossomed into a music arranger. Big success came in 1998, in 'Dil Se' when A R Rahman got

Sukhwinder Singh to lend his vocals to Gulzar's lyrical

expertise. "Chaiyya Chaiyya" won Sukhwinder the Filmfare Award in 1998 as the best playback singer. Other films followed, including Taal, Biwi No 1, 1947 Earth, Daag, Dillagi and Thakshak. His most recent success was his rendition of the title song of the critically acclaimed 'Omkaara' which fetched him the Best Male Singer award at the recently concluded Bollywood 2006 awards in Atlantic City in USA. He is also a big hit down south. Sukhwinder's repertoire of catchy, foot-tapping numbers is expected to be one of the most eagerly awaited pro-shows at Saarang 2007.

Junkyard Groove and Merzhin (29th Jan)



Junkyard Groove, with Ameeth on vocals / rhythm guitar, Craig on Bass, Jeremiah on the drums and Siddharth on lead guitar, is one of India's fastest growing rock bands. They have carved a unique niche in the Indian Rock scene fusing rock with funk to give an uplifting style that reaches out to all ages. Ever since its inception in the summer of 2005, the band has been consistently winning competitions throughout India ranging from JIPMER to NLS Strawberry Fields to MCC. One of the highlights of Saarang 2006 was Junkyard Groove making the OAT audience come to their feet in the Decibels finals with their wickedly original own compositions like "Folk You" which incorporates a tradition fisherman folk chant with rock and roll elements. Their recent triumph in winning the Rock competition at Shamal, Dubai after competing with bands all over Asia has landed them a 3 year recording contract with Creative Kingdom Records, USA and the opening act spot for Dubai's Desert Rock Festival 2007 which will feature the likes of Iron Maiden, Incubus etc. But first they are all set to rock IIT Madras as the opening act for the Saarang 2007 Rock Show.

As has been the norm for the last couple of years, Saarang revisits the 'French Connection' this year. **Merzhin** is a Celtic rock and roll group from Landerneau, in Brittany (in France). Merzhin stands

for Merlin in Breton (a Celtic language) and true to its



name the group's music is described as enchanting and magical by rock 'n' roll critics around the world. The band was formed by six college friends in 1996. They have

come a long way from their humble beginnings playing at local parties and pubs to releasing their third record selling album in 2006. The six musicians combine traditional Celtic instruments like the bombarde, which is a type of flute from Brittany, along with conventional rock and roll instruments like electric guitars, drums and basses to produce a signature sound very unique to this group. Merzhin will be on tour in India for about fifteen days and they kick this off at the Saarang 2007 Rock Show in what promises to be a unique experience.

Also in the news

For many of us, the best part of Saarang is the grub stall. The first thing we check out is not the fresh a** on campus but the fresh fruits on campus. 5Pt Experiment asked the cores about which caterers would serve us food for Saarang. As of now, it's the food stalls at Ascendas Planet Yumm which will be set up here. Not all of them, but most of them. As is the norm nowadays, they are going to serve food in recyclable material.

There is also talk of some sort of a deal with Café Coffee day and Mocha. We are not sure what the exact deal is. The cores were spotted after important meetings at Café Coffee Day (IITM), Ascendas Planet Yumm and at Mocha, Nungambakam on different occasions. We asked core members bluntly whether there was a secret deal. Some evaded the question, some said there was a deal but it's a thing of the past and others denied ever going there. We gather it must have been a coincidence.

Saarang publicity is in overdrive. You might have noticed some IPs screaming Saarang this, Saarang that. There is also a Saarang website, which, one must admit, looks good. Then there is a Saarang blog, which sounds straight out of high school. We hope it doesn't turn some of the literature students off, at least the attractive ones. Saarang EP tee shirts are doing the rounds. If you get your hands on some EP tees, give us poor souls some. We've been working hard without coffee or other stimulants to tell you that Saarang is here, finally!!!

So happy Saarang and all that. Meet you on Day 0.
Till then, if you meet any friendly neighbourhood
core member, stop him and ask him for a quote.

Quotable Quotes

Core member (on being asked what the dots in the
Saarang logo signify):
"Extra Dots, Extra Pleasure."

Core member to Shaan:
"We never pay our artists in advance. Ask Shankar
Mahadevan if you want."

Pro Show coordinator:
"If the core tells us what to do, we'll do it."

Pro Show core:
"The coords are doing the job on their own."

Core member to Dean:
"Yes sir, we will step on our feet and do it."

Aziz to 5Pt Experiment:
"Hu's Line is it Anyway? "

PR coordinator (on being asked whether he will be
working on day 5):
"If Saarang goes well, I'll be busy."

Saarang blog:
"Our best ability is our lie ability."

Oscar Wilde:
"I changed my name to Chetan Bhagat*."

Chetan Bhagat on Saarang blog:
"This guy writes so much like me."

* No relation to Chetan Bhagat.

The 5 Point Experiment team

Amrut

Aziz

CB

Siddhika

We're Hiring!

For the post of volunteer

Apply on or before

20th Jan (Saturday)

Send a mail to

5ptexperiment@gmail.com

with an interesting and funny
article on a topic of your
choice.

If we like your article,
we will call you for a
walk-in interview.