

MANDI THEATER

Seven Years, Thirty-six productions and more than Fifty performances, and several prestigious awards.

Mandi Theater was founded in 2015 by the theater aficionados to keep the culture of Indian theater alive amongst the Indians of Chicago. Its plays are contemporary and thought-provoking, connecting intimate personal spheres of existence to larger social-political issues. Mandi Theater is characterized by “Contemporary and original texts by Indian and International playwrights (in translation), excellent performances by talented actors, and innovative staging techniques. It aims to reach out to both the youth and elderlies and apprise them of the existing socio-political scenarios. It is recognized for producing the classics of Indian literature.

Mandi Theater is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization:

Tax ID number 81-2360681



WWW.MANDITHEATRE.COM

theatre.mandi@gmail.com



MAY 21ST

Segment 1

Nandhanar in my heart
(Tamil & Sankrit)

Dance drama by
Laksha Dantran & Students

Bottoms Up
Spotlight , CO, Ohio
(Bangla play)

Segment 2 (Hindi play)

Panchlight
Mandi Theater

Gaz,Fut,Inch
ISHA, Washington, DC

MAY 22ND

Segment 3 (English)

A Journey to Inner Light
(Dance Drama)

Ta Thoi, Washington, DC

Five Grains of Rice
Ebong Theatrix, Washington, DC

Love Thyself

Sangsar Sangsar, Chicago

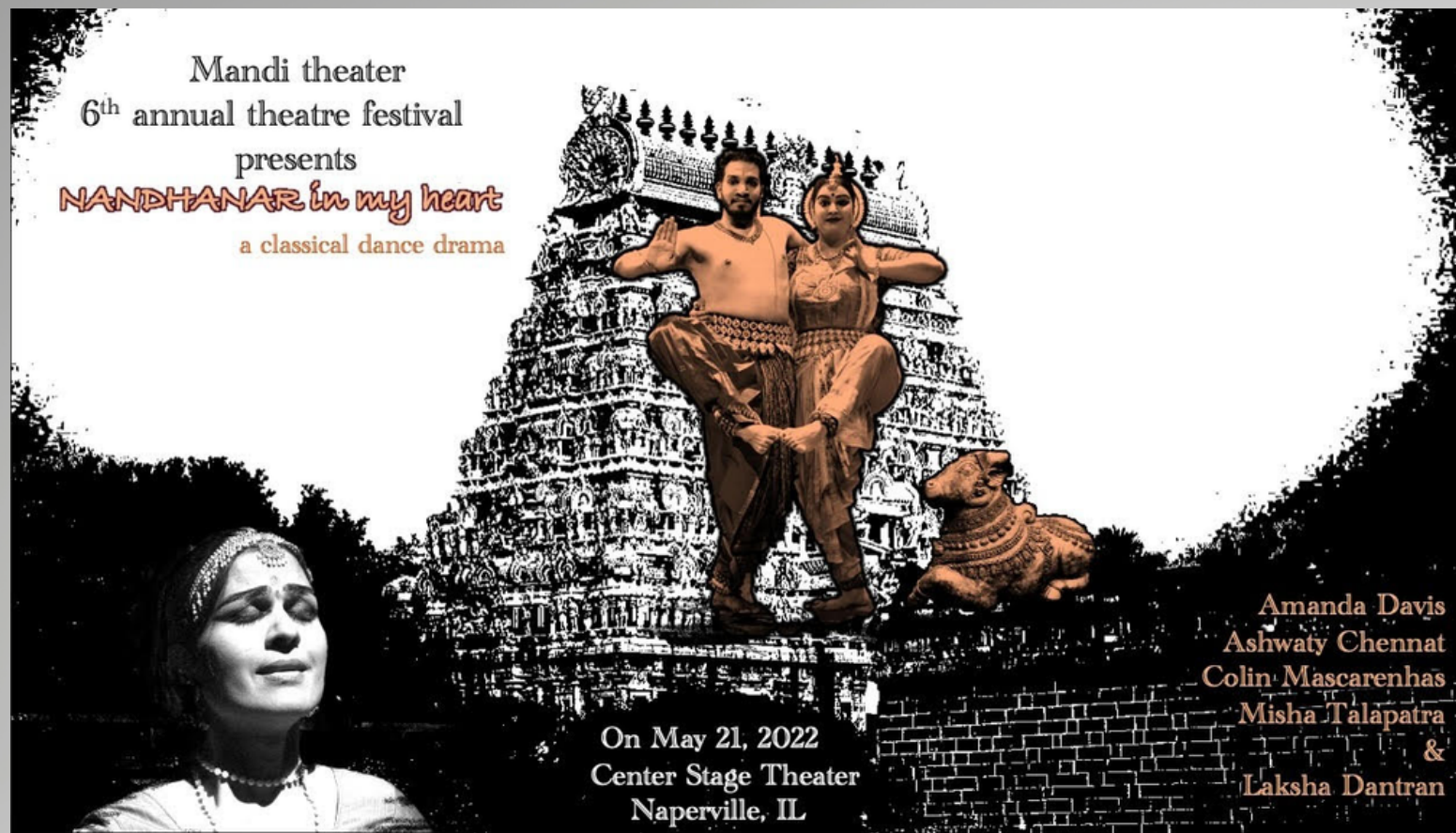
Segment 4

Theater Workshop

Led by Dinesh Yadav

(studied at the London Academy of
Music and Dramatic
Arts (LAMDA) London, National
School of Drama, New Delhi.

Workshop is **FREE** for Mandi Theater's
patron members. Non members must
purchase **Workshop pass**



**“Nandhanar in my heart”
an Indian classical thematic dance
based on Nandhanar’s life story**

Group: Laksha Dantran & Student

Cast & Crew:

1-Colin Mascarenhas-Dancer

2-Ashwaty Chennat-Dancer

3-Amanda Davis-Dancer

4-Misha Talapatra-Dancer

5-Laksha Dancer-Dancer and choreographer

About Nandhanar : Nandanar was born in a Dalit (lower caste) family In a small village of Aathanoor in Tamil Nadu, India. He, a great devotee of Lord Shiva, worked as a laborer for Brahmin landlord. As Dalits or people of lower castes, in those days, were not allowed to enter the temple, Nandanar could not enter the temple. Nandanar poured his heart out pleading the Lord to let him a glimpse of Him. Lord Shiva was pleased with his devotion and heard his prayers. Lo and behold, Nandi moved aside for the devotee to have the glance of his beloved Lord. Nandanar was in bliss seeing his Lord.

While in Thirupunkoor, Nandanar heard about the great Nataraja temple at Chidambaram. He yearned to visit Chidambaram to see his Lord. Nandanar reached Chidambaram, but being a Dalit or person of lower caste, he was afraid to go near the temple.

He saw the smoke coming from the fire sacrifices and heard the chants of the Vedic scriptures. Desperately wanting to see his Lord Nataraja, he circumambulated the temple town number of times. Soon, he was exhausted and dozed off. Lord Shiva appeared in his dream and showered blessings on him. He was ecstatic on seeing his Lord and soon merged as a light form into his beloved Lord.

Morals:

Devotion and love are more important to the Lord than mere knowledge or external paraphernalia of worship.

Lord cares for the devotion of any devotee irrespective of caste, creed, or gender. When the creator who has created the entire universe doesn't differentiate among His children who are we to do so?

Let us also develop love, faith, and devotion to the Lord and treat everyone equally.



Bottoms Up'

Group: Spotlight, CO, Ohio

Written by: Tapas Nayak

Play adaptation & Direction: Arijit Sur

- Light – Subhayu Sarkar
- Sound Projection – Arup Atarhi
- Set Design – Ajanta Bhowmick & Deepayan Bhowmick
- Stage Setup – Pathikrit Mukherjee & Rehman Mehbubor
- Makeup – Sultana Nahar

Cast & Crew: Madhuban Mukherjee , Anindita Mukherjee ,Suchanda Basu, Shaibalini (Chumki) Mukherjee, Srirupa Dhar and Koyel Ganguly

Synopsis: 5 old friends reunite after 25 years. Everyone has a story to tell. But what's so damning about these stories? What do these stories reveal? How do they affect the friendships? To find out more, sit tight and watch Bottoms Up, a Spotlight Columbus Production

MANDI THEATER PRODUCTION



Phanishwarnath Renu enriched Hindi literature by his unique style and language of writings. Renu's fascinating experiments with language and the originality of his use of oral genres within the modern novel are apparent even to a Hindi reader unfamiliar with literary criticism. He developed a style of Hindi based on rural speech. He was one of the most successful and influential writers of modern Hindi literature in the post-Premchand era.

Playwright: Phanishwarnath Renu

Play: PANCHLAI T पंचलाइट (पंचलैट)

Synopsis: Set in a rural backdrop, Panchlait tells the story of a village community called Mahato tola, that still has no electricity. The village procures a gas lamp, but after opening the package they realize, no one knows how to light the lamp. They had no choice but to call Godhan, but he is ostracized. The storyline is hinged on multiple and layered social interactions and an ethereal romance brewing between the lead characters.



Director: Varsha Visal

An excellent team leader and a great support to team Mandi, Varsha is one of the most hardworking executive committee member. Enjoy Varsha's directorial play 'Panchlait' at Mandi theater's 6th Annual Theater Festival

Gaj Fut Inch

Group: ISHA

Director: Goldie Manocha

Cast & Crew details: Paroma Sanyal, Swati Sinha, Goldie Manocha, Arunima Ghosh & Dalvinder Multani

Playwright: K.P. Saxena

Production support – Soniya Manocha & Amarjit Multani

Synopsis: A hilarious family comedy drama in Hindi, “Gaj Fut Inch”, deals with the deeper emotions of a shy, adolescent Tillu who has never encountered love in life. Still, he emerges a winner because Jugni (his fiance) accepts him the way he is. The humor lies not so much in the situation as in the language that has been employed.

Director: Goldie Manocha

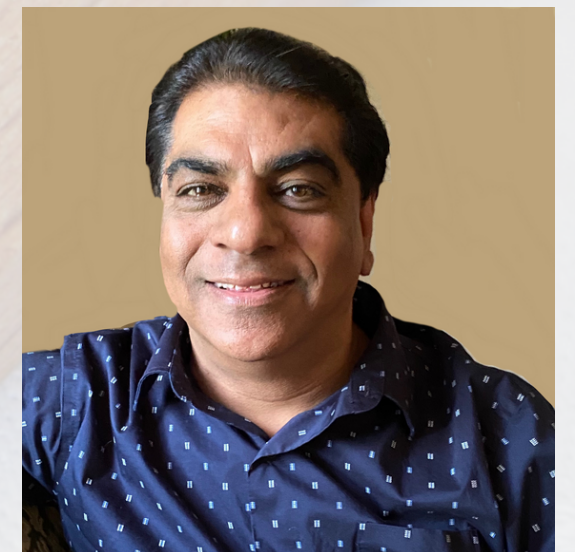
Goldie possesses over 35 years of stage experience. He started acting in the plays at a very young age. He has acted in more than 45 plays in India and the US. He has performed a variety of roles and has worked with more than 20 directors.

He has had the privilege to perform alongside the National School Drama students in New Delhi, India. He has also acted in a few short films in the US.

Some of the plays to his credit are: Loha Kutt, Kanak Di Balli, Taj Mahal Ka Tender, R.S.V.P., Court Marshal, Terrorist Ki Premika and Beewion Ka Madrasa. Goldie is a businessman and lives with his wife and three beautiful daughters in Northern Virginia.



K. P. Saxena was an Indian satirist and writer. He was employed by the Indian Railways and was a prolific writer for magazines and newspapers. He started writing for Doordarshan's famous serial Bibi Natiyon Wali. He wrote vyangya articles for almost every popular magazine of Hindi.



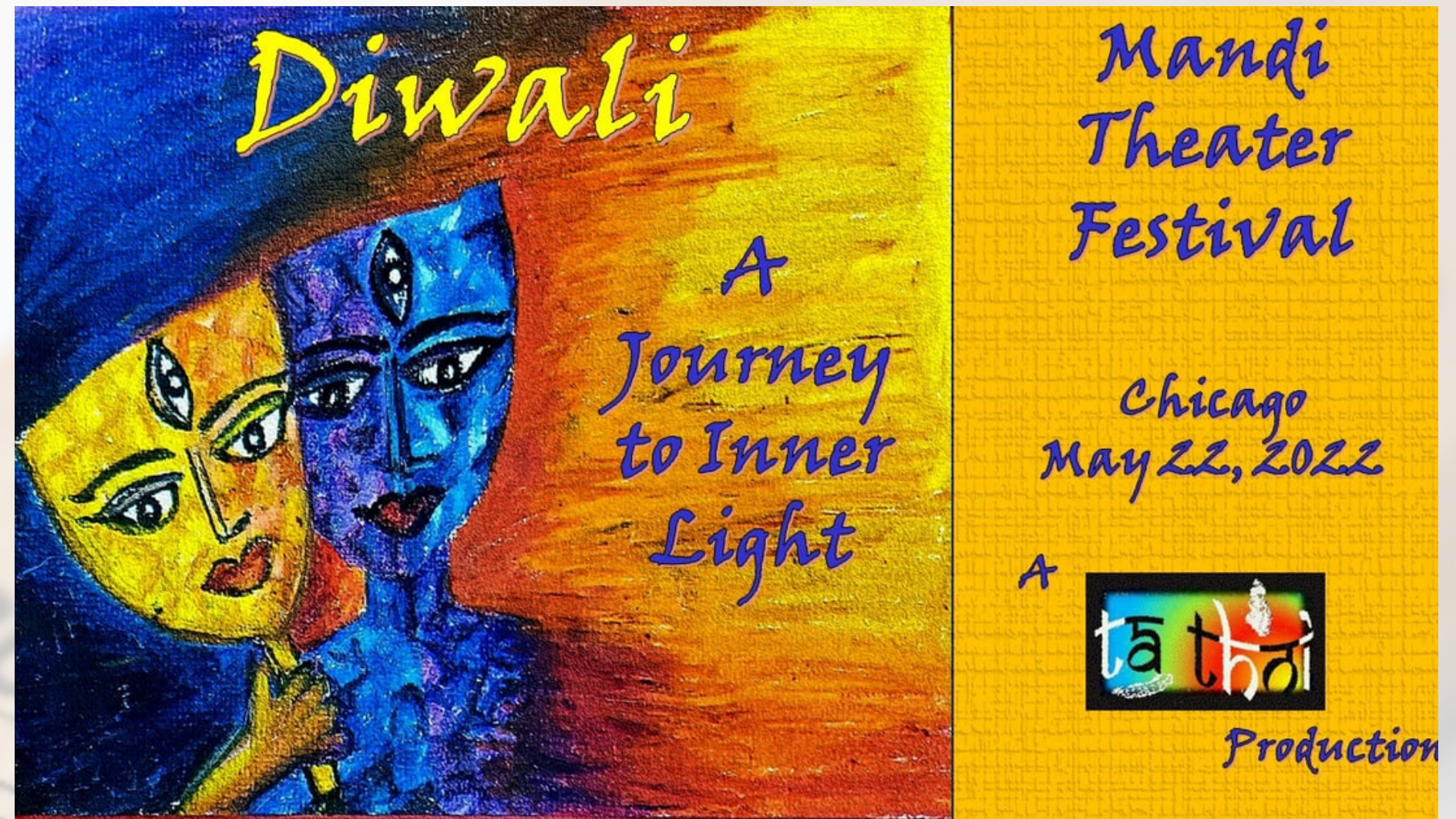
A Journey to Inner Light

Group: Ta Thoi, Washington, D.C.

Director: Paroma Sanyal

Creator/Playwright(s):

Paroma Sanyal and Arindam Ghosh



Synopsis: The human journey to inner light is fraught with obstacles. In every religion and culture, stories and myths abound about a person's war with evil forces and the triumphant victory after conquering obstacles. In South Asian/ Indian mythology the stories behind Diwali – the festival of lights – are exactly that. The four stories depicted in this dance performance piece trace the different interpretations of evil through each period of evolution and show how good defeats evil in each of the periods. From evil being some alien being in the earliest phases of human history, the myths behind Diwali show the journey, as evil come closer and resides within us all – and our conquest of that inner evil. We use five different Indian dance forms to depict the stories.

Five Grains of Rice

Group : Ebong Theatrix

Story Idea : Shampa Basu

Script and Direction - Arindam Ghosh

Acknowledgement - Nicholas Horner



Synopsis: Jayant and Ela are young professionals settled in an Indian metropolis. Jayant is a reputed scientist and Ela works at an NGO. Although professionally poles apart, they share an equal partnership in life and are happily married. Out of the blue Damini, Jayant's girlfriend from college days, shows up one evening for a friendly chat. As the evening progresses and the three engage in reminiscence with good food and wine, the equilibrium starts to tilt. The story takes a turn for the bizarre. An offer is made that questions the status quo of each relationship. A decision hangs over the heads of the happy couple, a choice that could alter their lives forever. Will their marriage and its future survive this bizarre intrusion from the past?

Love Thyself

Group : Sangsar Sangsar, Chicago, IL

Cast: Supriyo Dey, Heeah Banerjee, Keeva Yadav, Sudipto Chakrabarty, Madhuban Mukherjee, and Prithwijit Chatterjee

Crew: Souvik Dutta

**Screenplay and Direction:
Swarvanu Sanyal**

Synopsis: Can we, human beings, attain complete mastery over our emotions that often drowns us, that often obstruct us from achieving our full potential? Can we be free from the tyranny of our own minds? Can we transform our inner ground from a battered battlefield (Ranabhumi) to a beautiful playground (Rangabhumi)? Can we be harmonious with our own selves?

“Love Thyself” explores a journey of oneself to one's deeper inner-self. It tries to probe into the very basis of human sufferings and enact the eternal wisdom that got revealed to the Great Sage under the Bodhi Tree.



Board Members



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Brij Sharma



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Dinesh Yadav

Executive Board Members



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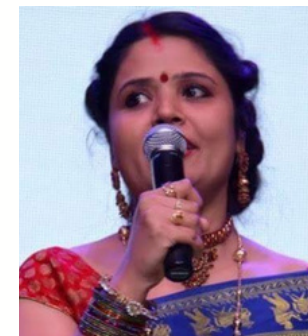


Jyoti Rao

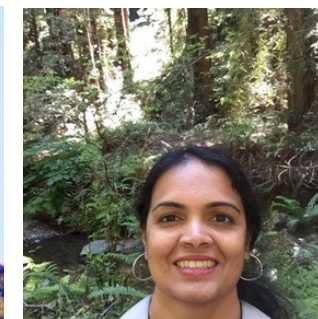


Geetanjali Maru

Mandi Films Division



Alka Sharma



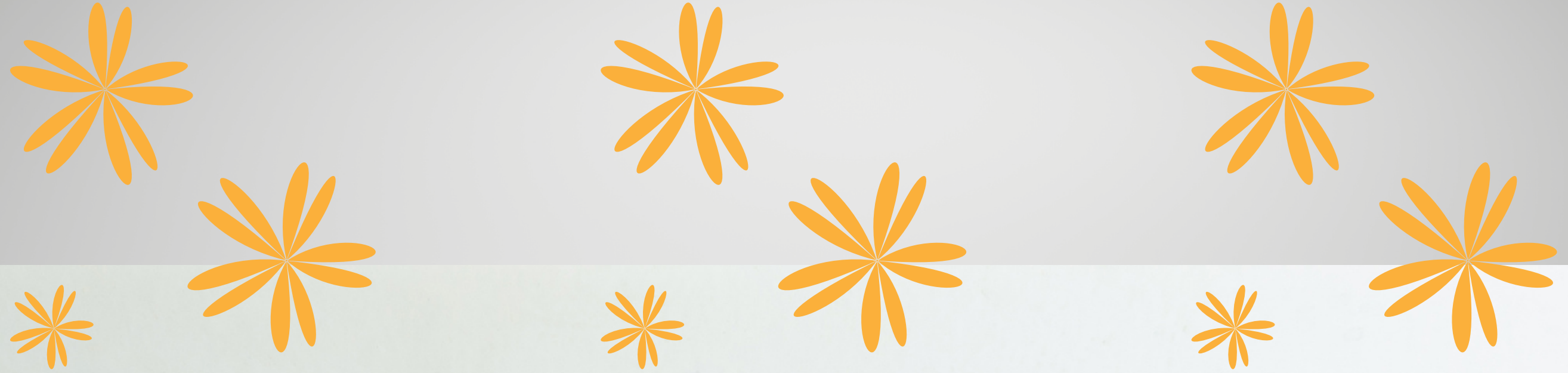
Sonali Shani



Varsha Visal



Shweta Perswal



THANK YOU