

# A transcultural theatre experiment in Absurdism – ABSURDO by Kaivalya Plays and Instituto Cervantes Nueva Delhi

*A new multilingual theatre performance brings together 6 stories from 3 Hispanic playwrights to explore absurdist narratives on stage.*

NEW DELHI, DELHI, INDIA, November 22, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The latest production of a 10-year collaboration between [Kaivalya Plays](#) and Instituto Cervantes New Delhi examines the work of 3 Hispanic authors.

Kaivalya Plays and [Instituto Cervantes Nueva Delhi](#) invite you to an evening of absurdist storytelling based on texts from Enrique Jardiel Poncela, Fernando Arrabal and Virgilio Piñera, that delves into the heart of absurdism—a genre celebrated for its defiance of conventional norms and its ability to provoke intellectual discourse. The production, called “ABSURDO” is directed and designed by Varoon P. Anand and Gaurav Singh Nijjer..

One chases the enemy, another chases sleep. Somewhere, one devours an entire mountain while the other slurps on custard. Together they try to make sense of what’s between the lines, and the lines start to disappear. They let go of the questions when the answers begin to appear. Elsewhere, a town awakens to a dwindling yet satisfied populace, whilst a couple lay a picnic table amidst the gunfire. At the core of Absurdism is the acknowledgement that human endeavours to find



‘ABSURDO, a multilingual theatre performance by Kaivalya Plays



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meaning are often met with a universe that remains indifferent, and the search for inherent purpose is akin to chasing a mirage in a desert of existential uncertainty. Imagine a theatrical performance where the script is written in disappearing ink, and the actors are left ad-libbing in the face of an ever-changing narrative.

Absurdist theatre, a genre characterized by its exploration of the irrational, illogical, and chaotic aspects of the human experience, finds unique expressions in the works of Enrique Jardiel Poncela from Spain, Fernando Arrabal, also from Spain, and Virgilio Piñera from Cuba. While these playwrights share the label of "absurdist," their individual contributions exhibit distinct nuances and cultural influences. Poncela's absurdist works often showcase a satirical and humorous exploration of societal norms and human behaviour. Kaivalya Play's adaptation of his play "You Have the Eyes of a Femme Fatal," delves into the absurdity of modern love, desire, and human connection. Poncela's writing is characterized by wit and a keen observation of societal absurdities, often using humour as a lens to dissect human folly. Arrabal's absurdist plays, like "Picnic on the Battlefield," take a darker and more surreal turn. This piece portrays the futility and meaninglessness of war, exploring the absurdity of conflict where soldiers fight for indistinguishable motivations. Arrabal's unique blend of absurdity and surrealism creates a heightened, dreamlike atmosphere, challenging conventional narratives and norms. Piñera, hailing from Cuba, brings a distinctly Latin American flavour to the absurdist genre. Kaivalya Plays is staging pieces from his collection of short stories called "Cuentos Frios" (English: Cold Tales), where he navigates the complexities of identity, civil rebellion, and mental health through a piercingly neutral, almost cold narration. Piñera's works often carry a socio-political undertone, reflecting the tumultuous history of Latin America. The absurdity in his plays serves as a mirror to the region's socio-cultural struggles, blending existential questions with the collective experiences of Latin American societies. While united under the umbrella of absurdist theatre, the works of Jardiel Poncela, Arrabal, and Piñera each offer a unique perspective on the absurdities inherent in the human condition. From Poncela's humour-infused societal critiques to Arrabal's surreal and dark exploration of war, and Piñera's socio-political reflections on identity and mental health, these playwrights contribute richly diverse layers to the tapestry of absurdist theatre



`ABSURDO, a multilingual theatre performance by Kaivalya Plays 3

Since its inception in 2012, Kaivalya Plays has been a conduit for bringing the voices of Latin American authors to the Indian stage. ABSURDO marks their thirteenth project in this genre, a testament to our ongoing commitment to Latin American drama and literature. Collaborating with Instituto Cervantes Nueva Delhi and various embassies, they've adapted and staged works by prominent authors, making these narratives resonate with Indian audiences. In ABSURDO, the

group employs a diverse range of artistic techniques, from traditional theatre methods to non-conventional staging. Live projections, cameras, drawing, multilayered projection fabrics, and a multilingual performance (in English, Hindi, and Spanish with subtitles) enrich the audience's experience, breaking down language barriers and emphasizing the global relevance of the absurdities explored on stage. The stories composed through the latest digital technology tools create an engaging experience that often veers away from a traditional narrative to abstract voyages into themes of violence, excess, alienation, identity and meaninglessness.

#### DATES & TICKETS

Premiere Night: Monday, November 27, 2023, at 7:30 PM

Second Night: Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 7:30 PM

Closing Night: Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 7:30 PM

#### LOCATION

Instituto Cervantes Nueva Delhi, 48 Hanuman Road, New Delhi 110001

#### TICKETS

Free entry with prior registration. Reserve your seats at [www.kaivalyaplays.org](http://www.kaivalyaplays.org)

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Gaurav Singh Nijjer

Kaivalya Plays

[gaurav@kaivalyaplays.org](mailto:gaurav@kaivalyaplays.org)

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