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**Note: High-resolution photos are available  
to the media at [www.vachikam.org/media](http://www.vachikam.org/media)**

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**U.S. TOUR OF SHEKHAR SEN'S "VIVEKANAND,"  
"KABEER," AND "TULSI" TO BEGIN APRIL 7**

DOWNERS GROVE, ILL.—After a successful tour in 2006, internationally acclaimed actor Shekhar Sen will once again bring his three plays "Vivekanand," "Kabeer," and "Tulsi" to theatre audiences across the United States during April and May 2007. The plays are presented in Hindi. An English synopsis of the play and English translations of songs will be projected during the performance. Printed translations of the play text also will be available upon request.

This Vachikam presentation celebrates the highest of human values, virtues and characters that inspire and empower us. Already proven as a talented singer, music composer, lyricist and actor, Shekhar Sen reinstates the power of entertainment to delight, to astonish and to uplift human values through these musical mono act plays. Vachikam is honored to present an artist of Shekhar Sen's caliber.

## **SHEKHAR SEN'S U.S. TOUR**

### **ADD ONE**

#### **Performance Schedule**

The U.S. tour of Shekhar Sen's plays includes the following performances:

- "Vivekanand" in Los Angeles: Saturday, April 7, 2007, 6:30 p.m., Wilson High School Auditorium, Long Beach, Calif.
- "Kabeer" in Columbus, Ohio: Friday, April 13, 2007, 8 p.m., Capitol Theatre (CAPA)
- "Tulsi" in Merrillville, Ind.: Saturday, April 14, 2007, 8 p.m., Merrillville High School Auditorium
- "Tulsi" in Chicago: Sunday, April 15, 2007, 5:30 p.m., North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie, Ill.
- "Tulsi" in Phoenix: Friday, April 20, 2007, 7:30 p.m., Dobson High School Auditorium, Mesa, Az.
- "Tulsi" in Dallas: Saturday, April 21, 2007, 7:30 p.m., McFarlin Auditorium, SMU
- "Tulsi" in Los Angeles: Sunday, April 22, 2007, 6:30 p.m., Aratami Japan America Theatre
- "Kabeer" in Detroit: Friday, April 27, 2007, 8 p.m., Groves Auditorium, Birmingham, Mich.
- "Kabeer" in Tampa: Saturday, April 28, 2007, 9 p.m., Ferguson Hall, Tampa Bay Art Center
- "Tulsi" in New York: Sunday, April 29, 2007, 4:30 p.m., Hindu Temple Society of North America, Flushing, N.Y.

## **SHEKHAR SEN'S U.S. TOUR ADD TWO**

- “Tulsi” in Raleigh, N.C.: Friday, May 4, 2007, 6:30 p.m., Hindu Bhavan Hall,  
Morrisville, N.C.
- “Vivekanand” in Boston: Saturday, May 5, 2007, 7:30 p.m., R.J. Grey Auditorium,  
Acton, Mass.
- “Kabeer” in Nashville, Tenn.: Sunday, May 6, 2007, 3 p.m., Father Ryan High School  
Performing Art Center

To purchase tickets, please visit Sulekha, the online media sponsor of the tour, at [www.sulekha.com](http://www.sulekha.com) or go to [www.vachikam.org/Shekhar\\_Sen.html](http://www.vachikam.org/Shekhar_Sen.html) to view contact information for each show.

### **About “Vivekanand”**

This two-hour play presents the stories of Vivekanand's childhood, the impact of Brhma Samaj, his eagerness to find God and meeting the great mentor Sri Ramkrishna Paramhansa, and thus the making of Swami Vivekanand. His unforgettable 1893 speech in Chicago, which brought India and Hinduism into the limelight in the United States, establishes his love for humanity and seeing the world as one family.

Written, composed, and acted by Shekhar Sen, this Vachikam presentation is once again committed to bringing awareness by enlightening the minds with Vivekanand's revolutionary thoughts.

## **SHEKHAR SEN'S U.S. TOUR ADD THREE**

### **About “Kabeer”**

This musical play depicts the life of Kabeer, saint, philosopher and poet whose message of tolerance and creative co-existence in times of recent communal tensions has never been more relevant. With 45 song sequences, this two-hour play portrays the making of this revolutionary social reformer who 600 years ago challenged the deep-rooted social evils ailing the society.

The play truly reflects the influence of great saints like Guru Raman, Raidas, and Sheikh Fareed on Kabeer. A touching enhancement of Kabeer's marriage to Loyee, his meeting with Sikandar Shah Lodhi, and other incidents underline Shekhar Sen's sterling performance. Sung in rich voice and supported by melodious music, Kabeer's poems are appropriately woven in the play and tenderly touch our soul. Audiences have been mesmerized as they rediscover Kabeer's message of love, peace and religious harmony.

Kabeer has been conceived, written, composed, directed and acted by Shekhar Sen.

## **SHEKHAR SEN'S U.S. TOUR**

### **ADD FOUR**

#### **About "Tulsi"**

This mono act musical play, written, composed, acted, and directed by Shekhar Sen, presents the pious soul of Goswami Tulsidas, who comes to earth for a day and tells his own story. Audiences have been inspired to learn how an orphan beggar boy became the greatest poet of India and are surprised by his great social reforms. Seeing the poor people of India exploited due to the ignorance of religion, he was inspired to write the Ramayan in Awadhi (a dialect of Hindi), the most popular "Ram Charit Manas."

This two-hour play has 52 musical sequences that merge with the story and give audiences a panoramic view of Goswamiji's revolutionary spiritual life.

#### **About Shekhar Sen**

A talented singer, composer, lyricist and actor, Shekhar Sen hails from a Bengali family with roots in Raipur (Chhattisgarh). He learned music from his musicologist parents, Dr. Arun Kumar Sen and Dr. Aneeta Sen, both renowned classical singers of Gwalior Gharana.

## **SHEKHAR SEN'S U.S. TOUR**

### **ADD FIVE**

The younger Sen established a distinct identity for himself, however, by singing medieval poets such as Raskhan, Raheem, Lalitkishori, Bhooshan and Bihari. As a singer, Sen has performed more than 1,000 shows all over the world and released nearly 200 cassettes and CDs. To his credit, he has composed the music for many TV serials and also sung for the famous TV serial Ramayan.

Sen's first musical mono act play was "Tulsi," launched in 1998, followed by "Kabeer" in 1999. "Vivekanand," his third musical mono act, represents yet another milestone for this gem of an artist dedicated to bringing the ageless and universal message of Hinduism to discerning people everywhere. He has traveled worldwide for his theatrical performances.

For more information about Shekhar Sen and all three plays, please visit [www.shekharsen.com](http://www.shekharsen.com).

### **About Pankaj Mang, Lighting Director**

Pankaj Mang has worked with almost all the theatre groups in Bombay. A consummate theatre buff since his student days, Mang loved the boards so much it led him to acting and directing for many dramas at inter-college competitions.

## **SHEKHAR SEN'S U.S. TOUR ADD SIX**

Today Pankaj is a member of the prestigious Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA) and has traveled worldwide with various theatre groups. He has also designed the lighting for such highly regarded film and stage directors as Ramesh Talwar, MS Sathyu, Raman Kumar, Kanti Madia, Siddharth Randheria and Sarita Joshi. Mang is the Lighting Director for Shekhar Sen's plays "Kabeer" and "Vivekanand."

### **About Pathikrit Mukherjee, Art Director**

A graduate of Calcutta University, Pathikrit Mukherjee has built up a sterling reputation as a commercial artist with a unique eye for blending ethnic Indian designs with a modern international outlook. He has worked for leading media companies, including Times of India, Super Cassettes and UTV.

Mukherjee, who is a principal member of the team of Shekhar Sen, is the art director of his plays. He has traveled with the team around the world.

### **About Nataraj Mishra, Production Executive**

Multi-talented Nataraj Mishra serves as Production Executive and is responsible for multiple backstage duties, including make up, costumes and stage set up. A versatile tabla player, he has been with the team since 1998 and has also traveled abroad with Shekhar Sen.

## **SHEKHAR SEN'S U.S. TOUR ADD SEVEN**

### **About Ajay Pingle, Music Coordinator**

Ajay Pingle operates the music tracks in the plays of Shekhar Sen. A musician himself (a gifted flautist), he has worked closely with Shekhar Sen since 2004. He has been traveling with the artist on performance tours across the length and breadth of India as well as abroad.

### **About Vachikam**

Vachikam, Inc. of Downers Grove, Ill., is the national promoter for Shekhar Sen's U.S. tour in April–May 2007. Vachikam is committed to bringing greater awareness and appreciation of the Indian performing arts and culture to audiences in the United States and Canada. As a national and local promoter, Vachikam showcases the rich and diverse mosaic of Indian theatre by promoting accomplished artists in high-caliber drama, dance, and musical performances. Vachikam also draws upon its extensive network of artists to orchestrate special social occasions and benefits for the Indian-American community.

Established by Ketki Parikh in 1995, Vachikam has developed the reputation of a premier promoter of Indian theatre among audiences and artists alike. For more information, please visit [www.vachikam.org](http://www.vachikam.org).

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