

RELEASE FOR LISTINGS

## **Free arts festival at health conference**

A MINI arts festival to complement a conference on ethics in healthcare will take place at St Johns Medical College next month.

Award-winning films, specially crafted plays and an evocative exhibition will be **FREE and open to the public** during the 5<sup>th</sup> National Bioethics Conference (<http://5thnbc2014.in/>) being held from December 11 to 13.

While health professionals address issues of integrity and corruption in medical practice, a line-up of documentaries, short 10-minute plays and a dolls exhibition will flag up the relevance of empathy and ethics in medicine.

*The programme is being organised by Empathize Now! (<http://empathizenow.com/>), an initiative to advocate the role of empathy in prompting positive social change, and the Health and Humanities division of St Johns Research Institute.*

### **Summary of plays**

**Venue: Nursing College Auditorium**

**DECEMBER 11, 7pm**

*These plays have been specially written for the 5<sup>th</sup> NBC. **Mahesh Dattani**, India's foremost English playwright has reviewed the final drafts and Tortilla Entertainment Company is directing the production. A discussion with the audience and a select panel will follow after the performances.*

**A Heart to Heart:** A patient in touch with his body – and the Internet – insists he knows what is wrong with him, even though his doctor would have him believe otherwise. (Playwright: Kusum Punjabi)

**MPL:** Here the adage 'health is wealth' is taken literally – where the best medical services go to the highest bidder (Playwright: Adarsh Satish)

**Can You Feel This?:** In 2045, will diagnosis of a disease from inexplicable symptoms require the ear of a doctor at all? (Playwright: Deepak Hariharan)

### **Summary of films**

**Venue: Pope Paul VI Auditorium**

*(A discussion with the audience and a select panel, including directors of some of the films, will follow after the screenings)*

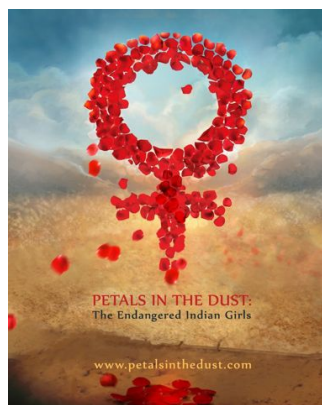
## DECEMBER 11

11.30am

**The Human Cost of Healthcare:** Many medical products used by the National Health Service in the UK are made in the developing world where workers are exposed to hazardous conditions, risking serious injury and even death. This film questions the ethics behind the NHS supply chain – how do you justify risking lives to save lives? (12min, produced by British Medical Association)



*“It is difficult not to be moved by the personal stories of workers injured in the manufacture of surgical instruments used in the NHS. But how do you translate the feelings of empathy and concern into action?” – Guardian, UK*



11.45pm

**Petals in the Dust – The Endangered Indian Girls:** A powerful trailer of a movie in the making. It highlights how age-old beliefs and a preference for sons, combined with growing materialism and technology is leading to increased incidences of discrimination and violence against Indian girls and women, 7,000 of whom are murdered every day. (7mins, director: Nyna Pais Caputi)

2pm

**Fire in the Blood:** An intricate tale of medicine, monopoly and malice, it tells the story of how Western pharmaceutical companies aggressively blocked access to low-cost AIDS drugs for Africa and Asia resulting in 10million unnecessary deaths – and the remarkable coalition that came together to battle against this blockade. (89mins, director: Dylan Mohan Gray, India)



*“hard-hitting... systematically exposes how patents enabled Western pharma corporations to increase their profits while millions of people in the developing*

*world lost their lives... A must-see for the medical community, especially in India” – British Medical Journal*

## **DECEMBER 12**

**11.30am**



### **Love, Hate & Everything In**

**Between:** Man's capacity for kindness and compassion is overshadowed only by his ability to be as cruel and destructive. Can empathy solve issues of aggression, segregation and subjugation, where wars, politics and economic sanctions have failed? The

film looks into the fields of neuroscience, psychology, education and technology to explore the extraordinary relevance of empathy in today's increasingly interconnected world. (52mins, director: Alex Gabbay, UK)

*"Love, Hate and Everything In Between is a critical and insightful contribution to the conversation about the value and impact of a more empathic civilization." - Paul O'Hara, Director, Ashoka Europe*

**2pm**

**The English Surgeon:** Shot in an Ukrainian hospital full of desperate patients and makeshift equipment, this award-winning BBC film is an intimate portrait of brain surgeon Henry Marsh as he wrestles with the dilemma of the doctor-patient relationship. Tense, heartbreaking and humorous, it is a remarkable depiction of one doctor's commitment to relieving suffering and the emotional turmoil he undergoes in bringing hope to a desperate people. (94mins, director: Geoffrey Smith, UK)



*"Astonishing...these men perform miracles but they are also agonizingly human" – The New York Times*

## **Dolls exhibition**

**Venue: 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Humanities Building**

**DECEMBER 11: Noon to 6.30pm; 12-13: 9am to 6.30pm**

**The Dolls Speak – Listen!:** Francoise Bosteels, a Belgian nurse who has made India her home, exhibits about 80 miniature dolls she has made over a period of 35 years. Inspired by the real life stories of despair and hope that her dolls depict, it is the viewer’s empathic response to what her dolls say that motivates Bosteels to pick up her needle and thread over and over again.



*“Creativity and feelings are expressed through the dolls as well as... an amazing connect.” – viewer, 1 Shanthy Road, Bangalore*

**Contacts for more information**

For conference – [nbc@stjohns.in](mailto:nbc@stjohns.in), 080 494 66346

For Empathize Now! – [empathizenow@gmail.com](mailto:empathizenow@gmail.com), +91 99451 86802

For plays – [anita.mithra@gmail.com](mailto:anita.mithra@gmail.com), +91 99868 84372

For exhibition – [humanities\\_events@sjri.res.in](mailto:humanities_events@sjri.res.in)