

Surprise in Miami

Here is an excerpt of some notes taken by Yoram Weiss

Maharaji begins by saying "You probably thought I was still in India, but here I am. I've only been here a few hours but wanted to come a speak to you. You came here to hear some statistics, so I thought I'll give you some of my own statistics from India: I have just completed 26 events in 40 days, attended by 950,000 people, with additional 5 live broadcasts viewed by 2.25 million people. So total 3.2 million people heard my message in a tour of 3,555 nautical miles. Each month in India there are 35,000 new aspirants and they keep on coming..."



You can see his excitement and pride in this growth, very much shared by everyone there, who are also amazed by his endless efforts and admirable dedication. He talked about his incredible event in Kolkata. That event was with a little over 2,000 young people, who engaged him in one of the most interesting interaction, some of the questions wild but extremely exciting. He was scheduled to speak for less than an hour and ended up with 1 hour and 40 minutes.

He described how a group of young people with Knowledge put together a full curriculum on the subject "Peace is Possible", and approached the University offering a course on Campus consisting of several DVDs at the end of which the students will receive a certificate of completion. Those students were there, and he had so much fun with them.

Maharaji speaking to young people in Kolkata

Here is an excerpt of some notes taken at the meeting

Maharaji met with some young people with Knowledge in Kolkata yesterday. They were keen to help him spread his message of hope and peace:

Young Woman: "I love you Maharaji, you're my hero."

Maharaji: "But I'm not a hero."

Young Woman: "Maharaji, you're not a hero, you're a star."

Maharaji: "No, I definitely don't want to be a star. No hero, no star."

Young Woman: "Maharaji, you are a true friend."

Maharaji: "Ok, that's Ok. I can accept that."



People make heroes. Who are their heroes? Superman. Who are their heroes? Spiderman. And then two days later, they find out, this hero wasn't really a hero. This is what goes on.

People don't need heroes. They need to look at themselves. They are their own heroes. There are angels walking amongst us all the time. When we do something beautiful. When you go and tell somebody about the possibility of Knowledge, you are an angel. In that moment, you become and angel.

There are angels walking amongst us every day. I saw that in Jaipur. There was this bus, and the bus started to leave. This old man was running behind

the bus, yelling. His luggage was in the bus. And for some reason, he missed his bus. And he's running, running, running. And I'm watching this. There was a guy between him and the bus on a motorcycle, and he just accelerated a little bit, and told the conductor that somebody wanted to get on. The driver stopped the bus, and the man got on. And that guy on the motorcycle disappeared.

I realized in that moment, that person was an angel - because he did something so sweet, so nice. When you go and tell people about Knowledge, in that moment, you become and angel. Not any better hero than that.

Connecting with 4000 people in India

Abhishek Agarwa from India helped to develop the 'Education Performances' package which has already been presented at 35 universities in India and reached 4000 students. Abhishek describes Education Performances here.

Education Performances

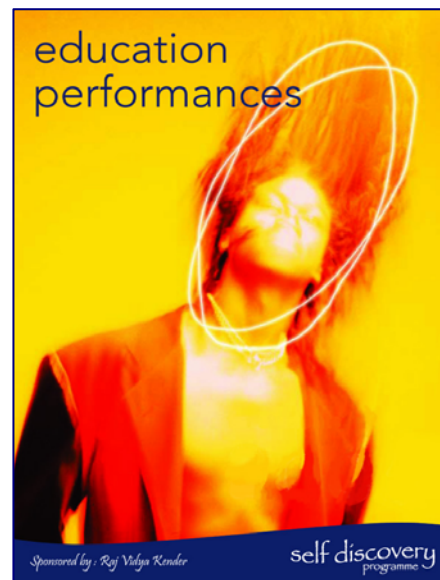
The mission of Education Performances is to exponentially grow propagation amongst youth and the strategy which works is to through programs in schools, colleges, institutions, and hostels.

Education Performances is a course on self discovery which consists of video presentations of Maharaji, based on his addresses at various universities, colleges and other prestigious venues around the planet.

Teamwork

To successfully present Education Performances they had two teams in India: the Presentation Team and the Execution Team. The Presentation team takes the charge of getting confirmed dates for screening of performances at various universities with the help of brochure. They meet with school or college authorities and present Maharaji and his message. They explain the Education Performances package and get dates for screening the event. A pre and post presentation checklist is prepared. It is really very helpful.

The Execution team conducts the screening of the video presentation at institutions' premises. They organize the events in schools and colleges on the appointed dates. The Execution team comprises of a coordinator, two audio-video people and one public relations person. At the end of the last event the execution team has a form which has to be filled by the interested people, this helps in follow-up.



Resources

Resources that are available to support the presentation include the Education Performances brochure which contains all the details of the Education Performances program. It introduces Maharaji and Raj Vidya Kender (the presenting organization in India) and includes various awards and honors received by Maharaji and what people say after listening to him. Another resource is the proposal letter which is to be given along with the Performances Brochure and gives a fair idea to the institutions authority on who we are, what we want and also how the students will benefit. Other leaflets such as Leaders Magazine, BR International, USBR, etc. can also be resourceful during presentations.

The Education Performances package includes four 40-minute DVD presentations which showcase Maharaji speaking to a distinguished audience at various prestige events. (The university package for the west includes 3 DVDs). The last presentation has an introduction to the Keys which helps the interested people to get connected with the preparation process for Knowledge.

Reaching People – History in Making

Education Performances has vast potential to spread the message of Maharaji amongst youth through programmes in schools and colleges and should reach people who have never heard Maharaji.

From last 25 weeks the self discovery programme has been screened in 35 institutions and reached more than 4000 students. Many requested to meet Maharaji in person. Now they will have an opportunity to listen to Maharaji in person in the 2nd weekend of April'07 in the city of joy, Kolkata.

The challenge for Education Performances is to connect all of these students to the Keys and then it will be 'performance delivered'. Our service is to facilitate these students to complete the Key's process and receive the gift of Knowledge.

Young students introduced to The Keys attending Maharaji live in Kolkata: 'It's the real history in making'.



An Impossible Dream?

In Salamanca, Maharaji spoke of his dream that all civilizations, all people on the face of this earth will be in peace. He said that some people may say that it's reaching too far, an impossible ideal. If that is true, Maharaji said, it is the only ideal worth having.

Here is a new tool that can help us to effectively connect people with Maharaji, and play a part in fulfilling this noble dream.

Connecting with people in your community... What is available?

The 'Education Performances' package developed in India has been tailored for use outside of India. The 'Who You Are' series consists of a set of DVDs, each one hour, to be viewed as a series:

- 1 Introductory DVD (including excerpts from Maharaji's addresses at Universities)
- 2 Discovering More
- 3 Introduction to the Keys

After watching this 3-part series, an interested person is already connected to the Keys and provided with an opportunity to sign up and begin their own self-paced journey to Knowledge.

Along with the DVDs, there is an information package, a bright yellow folder that people can take home from the course. It includes a course outline describing the DVD series, background information on Maharaji, global contact details, and an excerpt from a recent event.

How to use the resources in your community

Universities

The optimistic, learning environment of Universities seems like a perfect place to start with the promotion of this series. The series could be offered to university students as a free 3-day course in self development or peace. Sometimes you can run courses through the university as a non-credit course, or it may be simpler just to rent a room on campus. A cover letter has been developed that can be given to University staff presenting and introducing the course, you can also use some of the excellent material already developed such as magazine articles, brochures and DVDs.

Rent a room on campus and schedule the series at a time that is most convenient for students, outside of exam times and a time close to the end of class, so students won't have to go home and come back. Depending on what is most convenient, you could run the series over three consecutive nights in a week, or on the same day of the week for three weeks. You will need a small team to put on the event to help with promotion, MCing, room and AV setup.

Promote the course through the university newspaper and radio station, with flyers and posters and whatever is available to you. Templates for invites, emails, newspaper ads, posters, and flyers will be available soon that can be tailored to suit your needs. Contact student groups, clubs and societies that have an interest in peace – such as Amnesty International and Project Ploughshares and let them know about the series. They may be interested in running the series for their members or promoting it through their mailing lists. Details about organizing events at Universities are available at www.coolchill.org.

Think Creatively

This wonderful package is available to you, the possibilities for how it can be used to connect people with the Keys are many and varied and limited only by your creativity and looking at what works in your community.

- Set up a lunch and learn series at your workplace
- Present the series through an adult education centre
- Present the series at your local community centre

If you are interested in organizing something in your community using this package, please contact ypteam@coolchill.org

Thank-you to Candice Wilmore, Cindy Lategan, David Weinberg, Janaki Perairavan, and Abhishek Agarwa for their help in developing this university package.