



**Disability hip hop project by Kolkata Centre for Creativity and Wild At Heart**  
***LOCKDOWN E BONDHO "BECAUSE OF THE LOCKDOWN"***  
**Single Release and Simultaneous International Launch**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> December - International Day Of Persons With Disabilities**

**Kolkata, 03 December 2021:** The project '*Lockdown E Bondho "Because Of The Lockdown"* is designed and directed by Reena Dewan, Director of Kolkata Creativity Centre and Phil Heuzenroeder, Executive Director of Wild At Heart. Dewan and Heuzenroeder met as participants of an international arts leaders program in 2019 and share a passion for access to creativity and community.

The ground breaking intercontinental disability hip hop project, *Lockdown E Bondho "Because Of The Lockdown"*, will launch to an international audience simultaneously in Melbourne and India on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021.

*During the lockdown*, facilitated by Kolkata Centre for Creativity and Wild At Heart had 6 students with intellectual disabilities from Manovikas Kendra School in Kolkata, India and 13 young Australian disabled hip hop artists who produced a bilingual hip hop track over Zoom in a bilingual workshop setting. The project involved writing, recording, filming and launching the music video in this ground breaking intercontinental cross-cultural collaboration.

The project explored the experience of the story tellers across two cities throughout the extraordinary period of the Covid19 pandemic - the struggle and suffering, the human solidarity and desire to overcome as told through the unique voice of people with disability. The English and Bengali title, *Lockdown E Bondho* translates to "Because of Lockdown".

Iconic Bengali rapper Cizzy (Kolkata) and Professional hip hop artiste Yung Philly (Melbourne) facilitated the writing, beat making and recording of the new song. Film makers from each city worked with the young disabled artists to shoot footage in both cities which was edited in Kolkata to create a unified music video from two distinctly different lands.

"Art has an empowering purpose as it is a phenomenal tool for self-expression. Through this multicultural collaborative project, it has been established that Art can facilitate self-expression and if right support is provided people who are differently abled can practice and create outstanding works. I hope we see these young performers forming a hip hop crew in future someday," said Reena Dewan, Director of Kolkata Centre for Creativity.

**ABOUT:**

Wild At Heart's *Inkrewsive* hip hop crew have been creating fresh hip hop tracks for the past 10 years achieving national recognition in Australia for their work. They have collaborated with local and international hip hop artists Keith Jones, Krip Hop Nation (USA), Motley (UK), Cissy (India), Mantra, Morganics, Pete Sette and many more. They recently opened Dylan Alcott's Ability Fest 2021 - Australia's only fully accessible and inclusive music festival and have featured on mainstream media outlets including Channel 10's The Project, SBS TV, ABC TV and ABC Radio.

Wild At Heart, one of Australia's leading community arts organisations, has been supporting artists with disability, mental illness and disadvantage to create music and develop their careers for over twenty years. The Kolkata Creativity Centre is a highly regarded cultural centre in West Bengal with a strong reputation and commitment to full inclusion and access to arts making for all.

**About Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)**

A unit of Anamika Kala Sangam Trust (AKST), Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multi-disciplinary interactive art and creativity Centre located in Kolkata, West Bengal. It is the first in Eastern India to make Art accessible to visually impaired and differently-abled under their 'Art for All' initiative. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal as its Chairperson, the 70,000 sq. ft. The centre champions the art and cultural landscape of contemporary India since November 2018. It comprises an Amphitheatre, Exhibition & Learning Spaces, Dance studio, Conservation Lab, Books & Materials Library, Creative Culinary space, Craft & Design outlet and a Skill Development Maker's section. Integrating several expressions of art and design to highlight their common creative core – KCC encourages visitors to explore, interact and design ideas on various art forms. KCC works in the areas of Capacity Building, Well-Being, Conservation & Restoration, Craft & Design, Culinary, Visual and Performing Art. It acts as a catalyst for Artistic enhancement through Displays, Presentations, Fellowships, Laboratories, Residences, Conservation, Research and Discourses.

The programs at KCC are designed on the principles of Cultural Diversity, Gender Equality, Conservation of the Environment and Inclusion of people with different abilities.

The Centre offers free entry to the public and is open between 11 am to 6 pm from Tuesday to Sunday. For more information about exhibitions and the conferences, please visit [www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org](http://www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org)