

# A fusion of graphics and theatrical talent on stage

'Strange lines', a play to be showcased at Natarani, is based on a graphic novel anthology

## **Devika Chaturvedi**

Sitting by the bank of Sabarmati near the Natarani Amphitheatre is Amitesh Grover, an alumnus of National School of Drama. He is thinking hard on how to astound Amdavadi audience with his play 'Strange Lines' that is to be showcased at Natarani on Saturday evening.

Talking about his play, Grover says, "It is a cutting edge multimedia and multi-cultural play, based on the graphic novel anthology 'When Kulbhushan Met Stockli!'"



A scene from the play

"I read this book and was inspired by the colours used in the description and the way it is written. Graphic novels have never been dramatised before, so it was a big challenge," he says.

In the play, two young journalists one from India and the other from Switzerland write letters to each other. Through letters they talk about their lives, cities and country.

The play was first premiered at the

12th International Theatre Festival in India in January 2010.

"Strange Lines has two actors - Amit Saxena, an Indian and Julia Perazzini who is a theatre artist from Switzerland. There are a lot of video projections supporting the stage art. We have chosen about four to five stories from the novel which are to be enacted on stage," he says.

When asked why he chose a graphic novel, he replied, "There is something very amusing about the graphic elements as I believe we are all living in a digitised world. Moreover, as a director I am tired of adapting plays that were written in 18th century and thus we have tried to make it contemporary. Sometimes it work and sometimes it doesn't." So all of you, who didn't know what to do this weekend, here's something to experience.