KHWAJA AHMED ABBAS MEMORIAL TRUST

Khwaja Ahmed Abbas Memorial Trust (KAAMT) is an arts and culture organisation inspired by the life and works of KA Abbas, established in 2013.

Over the years, the Trust has been instrumental in creating spaces for various art and culture programs and publications, enabling research into the works of Abbas, and taking forth the legacy of Abbas to inform the younger generation about his works, while reiterating its contemporary relevance.

This is achieved by organising international seminars on themes that reflect his ideals; screening films produced, directed and written by him; curating exhibitions of his selected writings and film memorabilia, as well as adapting his works into plays and musicals. These events have been organised across India in cities such as Delhi, Aligarh, Panipat, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Indore, Bhopal, Kolkata and Dehradun.

The Trust has also taken up the task of putting together a complete list of Abbas's works and creating a space for the Abbas archive by reprinting some of his memorable books and translating them into different languages, conducting research on the writings and films of KA Abbas; hoping that the efforts at documentation will lead to the preservation and propagation of his legacy.

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TRUSTEES

Syeda Hameed (Chairperson), Ahmed Zaheer, Aziz Qureshi,
S. Farooq, Sukhpreet Kahlon, Raza Mehdi, Anil Mishra

Ruth Zothanpuii (Executive Secretary)

SUPPORT US

Your engagement and support could help us pursue the path Abbas embarked on. We encourage you to be part of this endeavour.

For more information contact us at abbascentenary@gmail.com
www.kaabbas.com

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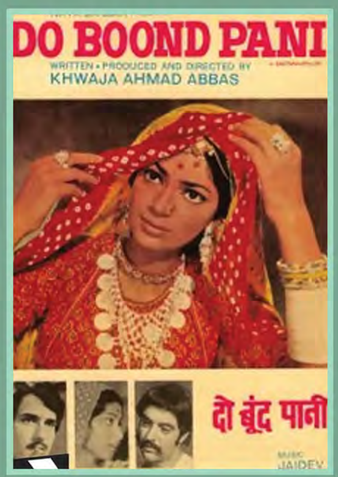
"The recent outbursts of communal fanaticism and frenzy have laid waste big areas in the country. Tens of thousands have died. Millions have been uprooted, rendered homeless. Unspeakable horrors have been perpetrated on both sides. The dehumanization of vast masses of our fellow-countrymen, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, who today are demented with hate, violence and murder-lust. They have to be pacified and reclaimed for humanity, and the values of sanity, tolerance and good-neighbourliness have to be restored to them… Thus we step across the bloody threshold of history. And we shall be better able to find our way in the future if we have a clearer perspective of the past. For the past lives on in the present and the present in the future. There is neither end nor beginning."

The End is the Beginning
Khwaja Ahmed Abbas
August 22, 1947



Khwaja Ahmed Abbas (June 7, 1914 – June 1, 1987) was a man of many talents who has contributed immensely to the world of literature, journalism and cinema. He was a film-maker, novelist, screenwriter, journalist, short story writer and playwright.

In a career spanning over half a century, Abbas emerged on the Indian and global scene as a communicator of great repute. He wrote more than 74 books. Besides numerous short stories, he also wrote several plays and stories for the film industry. As a journalist, his column 'Last Page' was the longest-running column in the Indian history of journalism. The column began in 1935, in the Bombay Chronicle and moved to the Blitz after the Chronicle's closure, where it continued until his death in 1987. His work flows in three languages- Urdu, Hindi and English.

As a writer, he consciously depicted the tales of ordinary people who accomplished heroic deeds simply by virtue of their undaunted spirit and sheer will to survive. Along with his concerns for the man on the street, he was, like the thinkers of his time, immersed in the vision for a newly independent India.

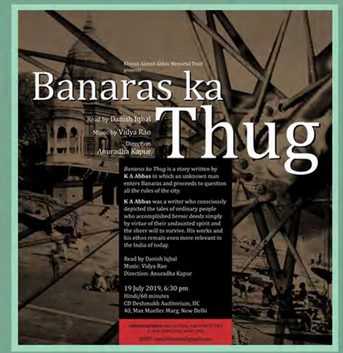
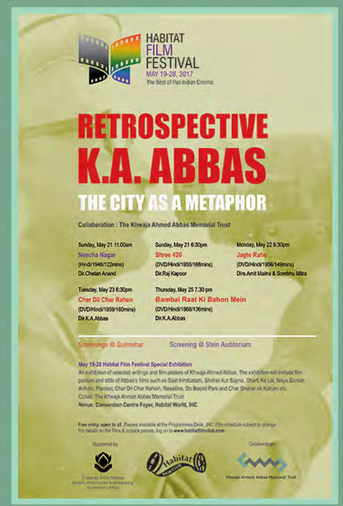
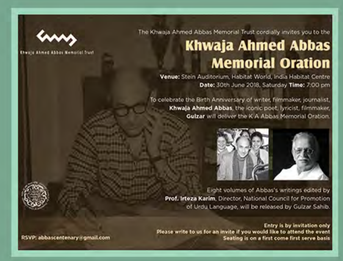
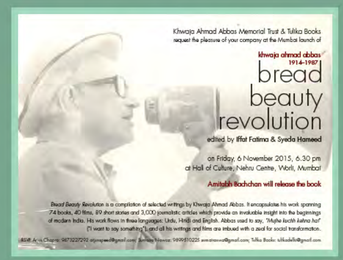
As a director and screenwriter, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas is considered one of the pioneers of Indian parallel or neo-realistic cinema. He penned a number of neo-realistic films, such as ***Dharti Ke Lal*** (which he directed), ***Naya Sansar*** (1941), ***Jagte Raho*** (1956), and ***Saat Hindustani*** (which he also directed) and as a screenwriter he is also known for writing Raj Kapoor's best films including the Palme d'Or nominated ***Awaara*** (1951), as well as ***Shree 420*** (1955), ***Mera Naam Joker*** (1970), ***Bobby*** (1973) and ***Henna*** (1991).

Some events organised by **KAAMT**

Shaping National Consciousness: The Words and works of K A Abbas, Seminar, 2020
KAAMT in collaboration with NCPUL (National Council for the Promotion of Urdu Language), is organizing a multi-lingual seminar where scholars will present their work on Abbas's writings and films.

Banaras Ka Thug, Musical Drama, 2019
Written by KA Abbas, the story is about an unknown man who enters Banaras and proceeds to question the rules of the city. The adaptation of the story into a musical drama was directed by Anuradha Kapur, with music by Vidya Rao and acted by Danish Iqbal.

Khwaja Ahmed Abbas Memorial Oration, 2018
In 2018, on the birth Anniversary of Abbas, the Trust organized the bi-annual Khwaja Ahmed Abbas Memorial Oration, which was delivered by the iconic poet, lyricist, filmmaker, Gulzar. On the same occasion, eight volumes of Abbas's writings edited by Prof. Irteza Karim, Director, NCPUL was also released.

KA Abbas: The City as a Metaphor, Exhibition and Film Screenings, 2017
As a special tribute to KA Abbas, a package of five films written/directed by Abbas and curated by Sukhpreet Kahlon, was organised as part of the Habitat Film Festival 2017. This was accompanied by an exhibition of selected film posters and photographs of Abbas.

Khwaja Ahmad Abbas: Bread Beauty Revolution edited by Syeda Hameed and Iffat Fatima, 2015
A compilation of selected writings by KA Abbas, the book encapsulates his work spanning 74 books, 40 films, 89 short stories and 3000 journalistic articles, which provide an invaluable insight into the beginnings of modern India. The book was released by Amitabh Bachchan and Shabana Azmi in 2015.