



The Spotlight

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BE THE STAR



FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

The Special 'Firsts'

There's a quiet kind of magic that surrounds a first. It lives in the tremble of the unknown, in the wide-eyed anticipation of what could be. Your first step. Your first word. Your first act of courage. These moments may pass quickly, but they leave a mark that time can never quite erase. And today, you're about to create one of those unforgettable firsts.

You stand at the edge of something deeply personal and profoundly universal—the first time you offer your art to the world. Not just to a mirror or a closed room, but to people, to hearts, to breathless silence and erupting applause. This is not just a performance. It is a moment of becoming.

Think back to all the unseen hours. The stumbles, the revisions, the persistence. The way you chased a note until it felt like your own, the way a line of poetry echoed in your chest before it found its rhythm in your voice. Those countless, quiet decisions to show up—again and again—have led you here. And now, everything you've built in solitude is ready to meet the world in sound, movement, color, and emotion.

Feel that electricity in the air? That tightness in your chest? That's not fear. That's the weight of something real. That's your body reminding you that this matters. That you matter. It's not just adrenaline—it's anticipation, it's hunger, it's the spark of everything you're capable of.

You don't have to replicate perfection. You don't need to chase flawless. What you're here to do is far more powerful—you're here to connect. To open a window between your inner world and the hearts sitting just a few feet away. To show them what it means to feel, to try, to risk. Let them in. Let them see the trembling, the triumph, the truth.


Trust your voice. Trust the rhythm in your bones. Trust the artist who showed up through doubt and kept going. Because this isn't just any evening. This is a beginning. Your beginning. So take a deep breath. Step forward. Let the light find you.

A photograph of a dancer in a vibrant, patterned costume performing on stage. The dancer is in a dynamic pose with arms raised. A large, dark shadow of the dancer is cast onto the background, emphasizing the silhouette and the movement. The lighting is warm and focused on the dancer.

*The
Moment
is yours.
And it will
never come again
quite like this.*

CONQUERING THE JITTERS

5 EXPERT TIPS FOR A CONFIDENT STAGE DEBUT



So the lights are about to dim, and your name is about to be called. You feel your heart pounding in your chest, maybe even in your throat. Congratulations — you're alive, you're present, and you're exactly where you're meant to be.

A little nervous energy is completely normal. In fact, it's a sign that you care. But that doesn't mean you can't step on stage with clarity, confidence, and a calm demeanour. Here are five tried-and-true tips to help you channel those nerves into power:

Breathe Like It Matters — Because It Does

Before you take the stage, give yourself a moment. Close your eyes if needed. Inhale deeply through your nose, hold it for a few seconds, then exhale slowly through your mouth. A few mindful breaths can slow your heart rate and ground your body. Think of it as pressing 'reset' on your nerves.

Practice Presence, Not Perfection

Don't chase a perfect performance—aim for a present one. The audience isn't looking for robots. They want to feel something real. A stumble, a pause, a deep breath—all of it is part of a live performance. Own every second of it.

Make Eye Contact, Not Eye Escape

Looking up—even if it's not directly into someone's eyes—helps create a sense of connection. Scan the room. Let your energy reach the back row. If eye contact is too intense, focus on someone's forehead or between their eyes—it does the trick without the pressure.

Don't Apologize. Not With Words, Not With Energy

Even if you miss a word, a beat, or a cue—don't say "sorry" with your face or your body. Keep moving. Keep flowing. Chances are, the audience won't even notice. What they will notice is how you carry yourself through the moment.

Anchor Yourself

Pick a physical anchor—a gesture, a movement, a place on stage—that reminds you to return to your center. It could be pressing your thumb and forefinger together, shifting your weight slightly, or simply planting your feet. Find your ground and rise from it.



STAGE DO'S AND DON'TS: A QUICK GUIDE



DO:

Rehearse till your performance feels like muscle memory.

Check your mic or props beforehand if applicable.

Stay hydrated but avoid too much water right before going on.

Smile, nod, acknowledge, applause own the space.

Thank the organizers or hosts if your performance involves speech.

DON'T:


Apologize or explain mistakes keep going.

Fidget or play with clothes, hair, or props too much.

Speak too fast—nerves do this. Breathe and pace.

Whisper off-mic or break character midway.

Rush off stage—pause, take your moment, then exit.



*I walked in scared, heart pounding loud,
My words once strong, now lost in the crowd. I
stumbled, shook, yet did not flee—Each voice I
heard gave strength to me.
Now I rise, not to outshine, but to truly be me.*



REAL STORIES, REAL IMPACT

Barnali Hota



Born for the Spotlight, Rooted in Originality

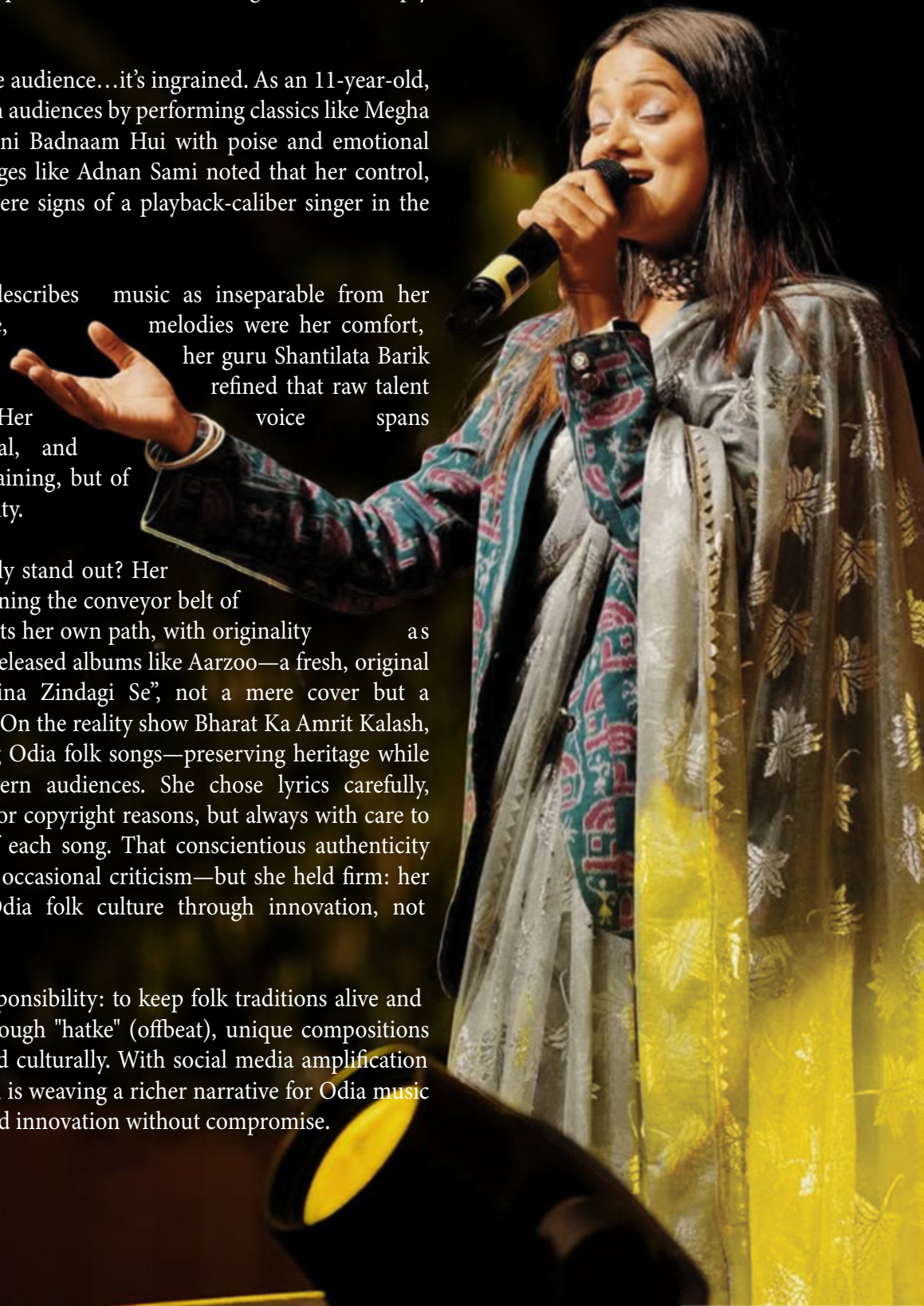
At first glance, Barnali Hota seems like a name that quietly echoes across Odisha's musical tapestry. But spend a few minutes watching her perform on stage—and that quietness is gone. She is a natural stage performer: confident, soulful, and fully in command. From her earliest days—singing on stage at age four—to performing before tens of thousands at festivals and reality shows, Barnali's stage presence is effortless, magnetic, and deeply engaging.

Barnali's ease in front of a live audience...it's ingrained. As an 11-year-old, she wowed national television audiences by performing classics like Megha Chaaye Adhi Raat and Munni Badnaam Hui with poise and emotional depth beyond her years. Judges like Adnan Sami noted that her control, confidence, and versatility were signs of a playback-caliber singer in the making.

In interviews, Barnali often describes music as inseparable from her identity. From the age of three, melodies were her comfort, her passion. Trained under her guru Shantilata Barik from a very young age, she refined that raw talent into disciplined artistry. Her voice spans Odissi, Hindustani classical, and folk—evidence not just of training, but of genuine curiosity and creativity.

What else makes Barnali truly stand out? Her artistic integrity. Far from joining the conveyor belt of reality TV contestants, she sets her own path, with originality as her compass. At just 17, she released albums like Aarzo—a fresh, original reinterpretation of "Tere Bina Zindagi Se", not a mere cover but a reinvention in her own style. On the reality show Bharat Ka Amrit Kalash, Barnali shone by performing Odia folk songs—preserving heritage while reimagining them for modern audiences. She chose lyrics carefully, sometimes modifying them for copyright reasons, but always with care to retain the emotional core of each song. That conscientious authenticity earned both admiration and occasional criticism—but she held firm: her mission was to promote Odia folk culture through innovation, not dilution.

She recognizes a cultural responsibility: to keep folk traditions alive and introduce them to youth through "hatke" (offbeat), unique compositions that resonate emotionally and culturally. With social media amplification and digital platforms, Barnali is weaving a richer narrative for Odia music globally—fusing tradition and innovation without compromise.



Singing & Dancing Competition

13th July

After our events were a hit in Puri and Bhubaneswar, our crew travelled all the way to the 2nd twin city of Odisha, Cuttack, to explore talent in its different forms. And as obvious as it was, the response was huge and the showcase was amazing. The competition was graced with the presence of Sweekruti Das, a versatile and professional classical dancer as our special guest, along with other internal members of the Arts Academy as the judges. From being awestruck by the moves of dancers to voices that were mesmerizing, the city gave us the most pleasant surprise we didn't expect.



RANG-AE-MEHFIL



There's something unforgettable about firsts. Especially the first time you step on stage. In this issue, we've celebrated that leap: the nerves, the courage, the connection. From expert tips to inspiring voices like Barnali Hota's, we hope these pages remind you that the spotlight isn't just about performance—it's about presence.

Here's to many more firsts, and the fearless artistry they spark. — ■ ■ ■

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