Katha Ek Kans Ki: A Timeless Tale Told Anew

(April 22, 2025 – Brahmapur, Odisha | National Theatre Festival by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi)

In a special conversation at the NSD, Rohit Tripathi, senior theatre practitioner and founder of Upstage Art Group, spoke about his recently staged play ‘Katha Ek Kans Ki’.

The play was presented on April 22, 2025, as part of the National Theatre Festival organized by the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi at Biju Patnaik Cultural Auditorium in Brahmapur, Odisha. Written by Padma Shri Daya Prakash Sinha and directed by Rohit Tripathi, the play reimagines the

mythological character Kans in a contemporary socio-political context.

Padma Shri Daya Prakash Sinha has skillfully retained the essence of Kans while presenting his character with deep psychological layers—on one side, he appears as a ruthless, tyrannical ruler, and on the other, he emerges as a music lover, emotionally fragile, lonely, and vulnerable human being. This duality adds depth to the narrative, making the character complex and compelling. Through this mythological tale, the playwright reflects the contradictions, challenges, and dilemmas of our current times.

The role of Kans was portrayed with striking intensity by Sahil Singh Sethi, whose powerful stage presence left a lasting impression. The supporting cast—including Nitin Tyagi, Ujjwal Raj, Priya, Nikita Gupta, Abhishek, Arjun, Ritesh, Aryan, and Rajesh—also gave commendable performances. Backstage, Mukesh Jha contributed significantly to the smooth execution of the production.

During our conversation, Rohit Tripathi expressed that his commitment to theatre extends far beyond the stage. He shared that after the performance, when the return journey had to be arranged, none of the team had confirmed train tickets. In such a challenging situation, he personally arranged flight tickets for the entire cast and crew from his own funds. It is heartwarming to know that even today, there are directors who show such deep dedication not only to their art but also to their fellow artists.

Katha Ek Kans Ki is not just a mythological retelling—it is a relevant, thoughtful, and stirring theatrical creation that resonates deeply with the present.