

Mannu Bhandari's Play: Mahabhoj

Playwright: Mannu Bhandari

Translator: Viplob Pratik

Director: Anup Baral

Group: Mandala Theatre, Nepal

Language: Nepali

Duration: 2 hrs 20 mins

The Play

Mannu Bhandari tells a story of how politics, press and police are connected with each other, and how the vulnerable voiceless people are caged in a 'chakravyuha'. She has scripted this play from her popular novel Mahabhoj. The news of a death in the village and violent activities happening around, spread to the city, influencing the media and setting fire in the centre of politics and police force. Will that fire calm down or become a burning coal of questions?

Director's Note

The picture of social and political conflicts experienced by the society should be reflected on the canvas of theatre in a lively way. This is my trust, and that trust has stimulated me to choose Mahabhoj. Politics is one of the finest practices in governance. But, if it is guided by corrupt thoughts, its nexus leads the society towards a weak state. Mahabhoj is the mirror of that corrupt nexus.

This is my ensemble with three generations of artists which I believe has created a new dynamics. I have tried to explore the painting techniques of renaissance period in this play. Chiaroscuro and Sfumato have been used in light design. I wanted to retell the story of Mahabhoj as if we are seeing contemporary events in a historical time frame. Almost monochromatic costumes, sets and props used in the play are a conscious choice.

The Director

Anup Baral is a renowned theatre director, actor and concept artist from Nepal. He has a master's degree in acting from the National School of Drama, New Delhi, India. During his two decade long journey, he has directed and conceptualized more than three dozen plays and performed as an actor too. His strong presence in Nepali theatre has been a source of inspiration for theatre lovers, theatre activists and practitioners.

The Playwright

Mannu Bhandari is an Indian author, known for her Hindi novels, Aapka Bunty and Mahabhoj. Bhandari's works reflect the changing moods of the society, as they shape her writing and subject matter. Modernism, prevailing social issues and transformations, contemporary social situations, daily struggles of an individual have all played a part in impacting and influencing Bhandari's works.

The Group

Mandala Theatre, Nepal is a group committed to develop and practice a creative style that is strongly based on Nepali theatre and culture, as well as deeply rooted in its desire to be a strong and aesthetic voice for social justice, political awareness and human rights. It owns a theatre centre in Anamnagar, Kathmandu where regular theatre shows are staged.

Cast & Credit

Atal Singh	Dayahang Rai /
Buddhi Tamang	
Ramesh Bikram	Ramesh Budhathoki
Bisu	Rajan Khatiwada
Rita Chamling	Sirjana Subba
Rishikesh	Viplob Pratik
Sijapati	Bijay Baral
Bhawani Giri	Som Nath Khanal
Juddhabir	Pradip Kumar
Chaudhary	

ASI D K Singh	Bikash Joshi
Sonam	Umesh Tamang
Dinesh Babu Panta	Shekhar Chapagain
Katuwal	Ghanashyam Joshi
Sapana/Villager	Sapana Chaudhary
Jamuna	Sushma Niraula
Gauri/DIG's Wife	Pramila Khanal
Rushma	Ranjana Oli
Head Constable/Villager	Sagar Dahal
Tirtha Kailo/Villager	Arjesh Regmi
Jogeshwar/Villager	Sabin Ghalan
Binod	Milan Karki
DIG	Raj Neupane
Shambhu/Villager	C K Bista
Hira/Villager	Devin Chaudhary
Mohan Singh/Villager	Kabiraj Rai
Mahesh	Sandeep Shrestha
Narayan/Villager	Rijan Pariyar
Music Director	Utsav Budhathoki
Sound Craft	Dev Neupane
Sound Operator	Chhejing Bhotia
Light Designer	Umesh Tamang
Light Operator	Vijaya Karki
Multimedia Operator	Sachin Lama
Choreography	Deeya Maskey
Set Designer	Bimal Subedi
Set Constructors	Hum B C/Johnen
Kshetri	
Set Painting	Bikash
Tamakhu/Sanisa Makaju	
Costume Designer	Arpana Nagarkoti/Sunu Rai
Poster Sketch	Anamika Gautam
Graphic Designer	Siddhanta Pudasaini
Photographer	Nabin Babu Gurung
Videography	Foto Crystal
Social Media	Sagar Prasain

Box Office	Nabina Aryal
Finance	Govind
Parajuli/Santosh Ghimire	
Backstage Volunteers	Abhishek Sharma/Deenju
Karki/Sanjay Gupta	
Stage Manager	Bijay Baral/Rijan
Pariyar	
Production Designer	Dev Neupane
Assistant Director	Som Nath Khanal
Script Translator/Lyrics	Viplob Pratik
Playwright	Mannu Bhandari
Director	Anup Baral

Contacts

Director, Mandala Theatre
Anamnagar-32, Kathmandu
Nepal- 044600
M: +977 15705761, 9849296461
E: program@mandalatheatre.com

Bratya Basu's Play: Rani Creusa

Playwright: Bratya Basu
Director: Sujan Mukhopadhyay
Group: Chetana, Kolkata
Language: Bengali
Duration: 2 hrs 10 mins

The Play

The childless couple of ancient Athens, Greece, King Xuthus and his gorgeous wife Queen Creusa, seeks the blessing of God

Boreas and then visits God Apollo's temple in Delphi. Priestess Daphnis informs Creusa, daughter of King Erectheus, about the oracle of God Apollo that the royal couple will soon bear a male child, Doris. But till the prophecy comes true, they will have to adopt the attractive and handsome young man, Ion, who has grown up in the temple and crown him the prince of Athens. While King Xuthus happily agrees to obey the divine command, the Queen does not. As the King goes ahead with the plan of the adoption ceremony Creusa loses her cool and conspires with her servant Danius to kill Ion by poisoning his drink. Danius fails to carry out her order and gets caught red handed. Aghast, Ion returns to the temple of Delphi. Creusa admits her role in this conspiracy publicly. King Xuthus has no option but to initiate the trial for justice in a democracy. The arguments and counter arguments in the trial come to an abrupt end after the sudden appearance of Delphi's chambermaid, Pythia. The truth about Ion's birth leaves the royal couple stunned and overwhelmed...

Director's Note

There lies an innate resemblance in almost all the stories of tragedy of human conflicts and political conspiracies; and of the great wars waged by men. The most significant resemblance lies in their staying relevant throughout the years. Therefore, to rediscover the age-old mythical tale of 'Ion and Creusa', Bratya Basu penned Queen Creusa, a tragic-satire. In the play, where the people demand retribution for a sacrilegious crime committed by the Queen herself, the hypocrisies of the elite are elucidated and illuminated as the fallacies hidden in the constitutional structure.

The Director

Sujan Mukhopadhyay has acted in about 30 plays and written several scripts for theatre, television and cinema. He was awarded the Stagecraft Award for Ghasiram Kotwal and Popular Viewer's Choice Award for Don..Take Bhalo Lage. He has performed in Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Chennai and all

the major cities of India, as well as USA. He has also directed a Bengali feature film Chocolate (available on Netflix).

The Playwright

Bratya Basu is an accomplished theatre artist, a playwright and director who started his career as a sound operator. He is a theatre thinker and activist, and has served Bengali theatre for nearly 20 years. His plays have been staged by eminent directors and a compilation of his plays has been published in three volumes.

The Group

Chetana was founded in 1972. It has produced 33 full-length Plays and 13 short Plays in its journey of 46 years. Chetana received numerous awards and citation from various cultural institutions. It has organised a number of Theatre Festivals, Seminars and Workshops etc., and performed in all the districts of West Bengal and in almost all the major cities of India. Chetana has staged different plays in the Theatre Festivals organised by the National School of Drama and Sangeet Natak Akademi. It has toured USA and Canada with its productions in 1980 and 1990. Chetana performed Mareech Sangbad in Bourdeaux (France) in 1999. Sponsored by the ICCR it took part in the Ibsen International Theatre Festival held in Oslo (Norway) in 2004 and performed in London (UK) the same year.

Cast & Credits

Rani Creusa

Nivedita Mukhopadhyay

Glaucas

Supriya Dutta

Raja Xuthus

Shaheb Chattopadhyay

Ion

Subhra Sourav Das

Eziptus

Tarun Bhattacharyya

Senior Priest

Amitabha Ghosh

Danaus

Sushovan Guha

Orion

Rahul Sen Roy

Petroclus

Rajat Narayan

Bhattacharya

Clotho

Lachesis

Atropos

Pythia

Daphnis

Singer

Chorus

Debashis Naskar, Biswajit Nayak,

Sayan Maji

Somrashmi Ghosh

Monalisa Das

Ashmita Ghosh

Ruma Bakhuli

Santwana Banerjee

Daayaad Mukherjee

Parikshit Ghosh,

Prateek Banerjee, Parag Roy,

Music

Light

Sound

Costume

Make-up

Set

Vocalists

Dibyendu Mukherjee, Sujan Mukhopadhyay,

Prabuddha Banerjee, Bodhisattwa Banerjee

Assistant Director

Prabuddha Banerjee

Soumen Chakraborty

Anindyo Nandy

Prabal Mondal

Ayon Ghosh

Partha Majumdar

Dipanwita Chowdhury,

Shaheb Chattopadhyay,

Snehansu Biswas

Playwright

Director

Bratya Basu

Sujan Mukhopadhyay

Contacts

Chetana

131, N.S.C. Bose Road, Govt. Housing Est.

Block-7, Flat 2 Kolkata – 700040, West Bengal

M: +91 9433075751, 9830253530

E: chetanakolkata.1972@gmail.com

sujanmukhopadhyay@gmail.com

Watch Prof. Khushalani's review of the play and interview with the director –

<https://youtu.be/9x4IIIdxNTPU?t=3724>

Bhas ' Play: Madhyam Vyayog (Turan Kalangi)

✘ Playwright: Mahakavi Bhasa

Director: Hafiz Khan

Group: Ankur Rangmandal Samiti, Madhya Pradesh

Language: Malwi & Rajasthani

Duration: 1 hr 10 mins

The Forms

Maach is a folk theatre form of Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh, started in Ujjain by Guru Gopalji of Bhagsipura.

Turra Kalangi form of poetic and musical dialogues was jointly initiated by two saints Tukhangir and Shah Ali. Tukhangir was a Gusaain saint who wore saffron clothes and worshipped Shiva. Shah Ali was a Muslim Faqir who wore green and worshipped Shakti. Yet, both these forms have some common features.

The Play

A Brahmin family is passing through the forest where the exiled Pandavas are dwelling. The family encounters Ghatotkacha who is in search of a human for his mother Hidimba's meal. He holds the family captive and asks them to decide who should accompany him. The eldest son of the family being dear to the father, and the youngest to the mother, the middle son is the only choice left to be handed over to Ghatotkacha. Being the middle one he is called 'Madhyama'. Madhyama is thirsty and requests Ghatotkacha to be allowed to go to a nearby pond for water. Ghatotkacha agrees and asks him to return quickly. But Madhyama gets delayed and Ghatotkacha starts calling out to him, "Madhyama...Madhyama..." Bhima, who was

passing by, and he too being the middle son (Madhyama), thinking that someone is calling out to him, reaches where the family is being held captive. On hearing the story of the family, he offers himself as Hidimba's meal, on the condition that Gatotkacha defeats him in a duel. Gatotkacha defeats Bhima in a wrestling bout and takes him to his mother only to discover that Bhima is his father.

The Director

Hafiz Khan graduated from National School of Drama in 1981. He has been actively working in theatre, especially in the field of Children's theatre. He has been the founder member of the TIE Company of NSD. He has also been a part of many theatre workshops organized by NSD all over the country. As he was born and brought up at Ujjain, the local folk forms have always attracted him. The present production is the result of one such workshop.

The Co-Director

Born on 11th of October 1963 in village Nayakhe of district Ujjain, Babulal Deora, at the age of 15, joined Lokarg and Tejati Maharaj Katha Group and started his association with the folk theatre 'Maach'. His initial inspirations were Guru Shri Siddheshwarji Sen and his elder brother Ratan Maharaj Lokesh Sen. He started as a chorus singer in the group. He continued the tradition after his guru died.

Director's Note

I had conducted a workshop on Turrakalangi in December 2014 at Ghosunda, Chittor village. The workshop began with Kalangi Ustad Mirza Akbar Baig Kaghzi and Turra Ustad Narayanji Joshi, and around 20 artists of Turralalangi. I felt as if I was transported to Indra's Darbar 300 years ago where Turrakalangi was Khayal, and Khayal was Maach. If one was to forget the intricacies of music and Rag-Raginis, then one finds that the form of rhythm, melody, abhinaya, singing and storytelling are all common in both. Thus, we selected Madhyam Vyayog of the

great Sanskrit playwright Mahakavi Bhasa to be presented as a bouquet of Turrakalangi Khayal and Maach by the artists of Ujjain.

The Playwright

Mahakavi Bhasa (5th Century B.C.) was an Indian playwright who wrote in Sanskrit. His plays were lost to the world until 20th century A.D. when his manuscripts were rediscovered. Some of his available plays are Swapnavasavdutta, Pratibha-Natak, Panch-Ratra, Madhyam Vyayog, Doot Gatotkach, Urubhangam, Karnabharam, Hari Vansh, Abhishek Natak etc.

The Group

In the past four decades Ankur Rangmanch Samiti Ujjain has organised numerous theatre festivals, theatre camps, workshops and theatre productions. The primary objective of the group is education, literacy, health, social sciences and social justice. It uses regular theatre, children's theatre, educative theatre, folk theatre, literature and art as its medium. The group has participated and organised events in collaboration with the Ministry of culture (Govt. of India), Sangeet Natak Akademi, National School of Drama (New Delhi), Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad, Madhya Pradesh Museum, Kalidas Akademi Ujjain and many local organisations. Malwa Maach organised in 1999, 2005, 2007, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been known for a wider promotion of this folk tradition.

Cast & Credits

Sutradhaar1	Babulal Deora
Sutradhaar2	Rajesh Bhati
Hidimba	Vishnu Chandel
Ghatotkach	Narendra
Bhanvariya	
Brahmin	Tikaram Bhati
Brahmani	Seema Kushwah
Son 1	Dilip Chauhan
Madhyam (Son 2)	Sonu Bodana
Son 3	Chirag Chandel

Bhima

Sudhir Sankhla

Harmonium

Ramesh Aswaar

Dholak

Pappu Chauhan

Tek

Raju Bhati

Synthesizer

Nilesh Manohar

Costume & Make-up

Vishal Mehta

Stage Management

Irshad Khan

Set

Ivan Khan

Light Operation

Amit Bhandari

Production Design

Kailash Chauhan

Stage Manager

Prakash Bhatia

Co-ordinator

Shailendra Vikal

Playwright

Mahakavi Bhas

Co-Director

Babulal Deora

Director

Hafiz Khan

Contacts

Ankur Rangmanch Samiti

C/o Vishal Steel, 64 Fawara Chawk

Ujjain- 456001

M: +91 9868511508

E: hafeeznsd@gmail.com

Prof. Khushalani's review of the play and interview with the director –

<https://youtu.be/9x4IIIdxNTPU?t=1956>

Girish Karnad's Play: Nagamandal



Playwright: Girish Karnad

Translator: Sukesh Panda

Director: Malini Nihar Nayak

Group: New Quest Repertory, Rourkela

Language: Odia

Duration: 2 hrs 15 mins

The Play

Almost all creation, be it animals, birds, trees or men, has two elemental components – male and female. Each wishes to keep the other under subjugation. Girish Karnad, in his play Nagamandal conveys that the companions should remain complementary to each other. Rani weds Apanna, who has the typical 'I am the master' role and expects his wife to submit unquestioningly to his shenanigans. Suppression of womanhood in this male-dominated society is a common phenomenon. The writer advocates gender-justice and freedom through Rani. By integrating folk tales into the play he has been able to create a drama of varied hues.

Director's Note

Trouble in the universal yet intricately delicate relationship between a man and a woman creates an imbalance, a disturbing ripple. Incorporating this social message, the play Nagamandal by Girish Karnad really fascinated me. I am able to relate to folktales and legends of such essence, since they are prevalent in my culture, land, and people. Hence I was allured to recreate this folktale. And in doing so I used many indigenous and dying art-forms of Odisha like Mayurbhanj Chhau dance, Odissi dance and song, Sambalpuri dance and songs, etc. The music is played using classical instruments, for classical

dance forms beginning with Ranapa to Odissi and Bharatnatyam. I have tried to make it a musical and choreographically expressive play, hoping it will be well received by the audience.

The Director

Nalini Nihar Nayak is a well-known theatre director, actor, designer, and music composer of Odisha. He is a trained Chhau dancer in the Mayurbhanj style and has won many awards like the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar 2012 in the field of theatre direction awarded by Sangeet Natak Akademi, Rajiv Gandhi Professional Award, National Youth Award, Baisakhi National Excellency Award, National Natya Vibhushan, and more than 200 Government & non-Government Awards. He has acted in 85 plays, directed 41 plays throughout India and abroad. He has participated in SNA Festival New Delhi; EZCC Festival; National Youth Festival; Inter-University theatre festival; Bharat rang Mahotsav and many more.

The Playwright

Girish Raghunath Karnad was an Indian actor, film director and Kannada writer. He is the recipient of Jnanpith Award, the highest literary honour conferred in India. For four decades Karnad composed plays, often using history and mythology to tackle contemporary issues. He was also active in the world of Indian cinema working as an actor, director, and screenwriter, and earning numerous awards along the way. He was conferred Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.

The Group

New Quest Repertory was established in 2003, under leadership of Nalini Nihar Nayak, with an objective to train young artists in theatre and to use their learning in professionally; to resurrect the dying art form of Odisha. It has participated in festivals organized by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, Yuva Pratibha Mahostav, and SNA New Delhi; and experimental theatre festivals hosted by EZCC, Kolkata; National Youth Festival by Ministry of Youth Affairs, Govt. of

India; 18th Bharat Rang Mahotsav, NSD; National Theatre Festival by Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal; Konark Festival and many more across the country besides theatre festivals by Govt. and non-Govt. organizations.

Cast & Credits

On Stage

Niranjan Acharya, Lalatendu Panigrahy, Pragyan Ranjan

Panda, Dwiti Krushna Panda, Swarup Ranjan Das, Chinmaya

Kumar Panda, Nabakishore Ghosh, Soumyaranjan Mohanty,

Pankaj Nath, Dinesh Mohanty, Surajsatapathy, Barsharani

Barik, Rashmita Das, Pinkiraninayak, Afreen Begum,

Shubhasmita Singh, Manasi Das, Tanushree Parida

Sound

Jasobanta Narayan Ray

Light

Sagar Swaroop Swain

Set

Chintamani Biswal

Make-up

Ramesh Chandra Sahoo

Music

Kailash Chandra Senapati

Props

Amit Kumar Meher

Camera

Dipankar Janah

Odia Translation

Sukesh

Panda

Playwright

Girish Karnad

Choreography, Light,
Design & Direction
Nihar Nayak

Nalini

Contacts

Director, New Quest Repertory
TF-7, NIT, Rourkela 769008
Distt. Sundargarh, Odisha
M: +91 9937556626, 7978071741
E: nalinidrama@gmail.com

Watch Professor Khushlani's review of the play and interview
with directors –

<https://youtu.be/9x4IIIdxNTPU?t=124>

Abhishek Garg's Play: **Jadu Mantar**

Playwright & Director: Abhishek Garg

Group: Switch on Scurry Art Organization, Bhopal

Language: Hindi

Duration: 1 hr 10 mins

The Play

The central character of this story is Madhav, the best student in the ashram. Guruji is very happy with the helpful nature of Madhav and gives him a magic shankh which can fulfill all his wishes and desires. But Guruji puts a condition with this magical shankh that although whatever

Madhav asks for himself will be duly fulfilled, but along with that his neighbour will get the double of the same.

So Madhav, out of jealousy, does not ask anything from the shankh, so that his neighbor shouldn't benefit from it. In the end he realize his mistake. This play compels the audience to see where we are headed in the present society and its degenerating values.

Director's Note

With the meaning of humanity gradually dying and man being totally self-driven, no one comes forward to help others and those who do make an effort, find themselves trapped. Thus I found this interesting folk tale apt in the context of present times. This play is a comic satire and the most important part is the style of the script and performance which has been woven around songs and poetic dialogues. This performance compels the audience to think and change its attitude and behaviour towards the world around it.

The Director & Playwright

The journey of playwright & director Abhishek Garg started in 2001 with Jabalpur's Vivechana Rangmandal, in which he acted in various plays including street plays. He joined Bharatendu Natya Akademi, Lucknow in 2007 and after completing PG diploma in 2009, was selected by Theatre-in-Education (Sanskar Rang Toli) as actor-teacher (Acting). He completed his tenure there in 2016 and since then he is carrying forward his theatre activities with his own group Switch On Scurry Art Organisation.

The Group

Switch on Scurry Art Organization, Bhopal has been producing and performing plays since 2015. It started with a solo drama Nachani written by Bhanu Bharati. Since then the group has been staging plays every year viz. Kaggrajraj, specially designed for children, parents and teachers; two nukkad dramas, Bhagmabh and Cham Chama Chaat; and Jas Sangat Tas Rangat, performed in Yashodhara theatre festival organized by

Tribal Boli and Vikas Academy of Bhopal, and selected for the 4th Minerva Theatre Festival (2019) organized by the Ministry of Culture of West Bengal. The group has also performed shows of its plays with the help of Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi and in different cities of Madhya Pradesh. This year it has produced a new play *Jadu Mantar*, based on a Bundeli folk tale, which will soon be staged at different theatres.

Cast & Credits

Guruji, Dhol (Padosi Bachcha1) Wasim Khan

Buddhia Ramesh Ahire

Hariya Rahul Jadhav

Maakhan Ashwini Mishra (Prabhu)

Rukmini (Rakku, Makhan's Wife) Priyanka Garg

Gachar (Bachcha 1) Vivek Tripathi

Pachar (Bachcha 2) Tilak Sharma

Seth, Dhamaka (Padosi Baccha2) Priyesh Pal

Birju (Maakhan ka Padosi) Amitesh Pratap Singh

Lila (Birju's Wife) Sangatna Bankar

Chorus All Artists

Stage Management Priyesh Pal

Stage Design Assistance Ashwini Mishra

Light Design & Operation Dhannulal Sinha

Music Shruti-Dharmesh

Rhythm T.S. Dharmesh, Prashant Shrivastav, Shrutdharmmeet

Harmonium T.S. Dharmesh

Singers T.S. Dharmesh, Shruti Rawat, Shailender Soni,

Nikhil Bakare, Bhavna Navale, Swati Saraf, Priyanka Garg

Percussion Shruti Rawat & Priyanka Garg

Speed Control Wasim Khan

Costumes Design Priyanka Garg

Costume Making Rakesh Bhaiyya

Gond Painting Rashmi Acharya

assisted by Priyanka, Gunjan, Sangartana, Nupur, Priyesh, Amitesh, Priti, Tilak

Head-Gears Mukesh Prajapati

Stage Property Devendra Sharma (Joshi Ji)

Make-Up Sonam Sahni

Assistant Director Wasim Khan

Playwright & Director Abhishek Garg

Contacts

Director,

Switch on Scurry Art Organization

E-8, 290 Trilanga, Bhopal, M.P

M: +91 9717156005

E: abhishek81garg@gmail.com

Farid-ud-Din Attar's Play: Conference of the Birds



Poet: Farid-ud-Din Attar

Director: Wendy Jehlen

Group: Anikaya, USA

Language: English (???)

Duration: 1 hr 20 mins

The Play

Conference of the Birds is an evening-length movement theatre work, conceived and directed by Wendy Jehlen and inspired by

the epic poem of Farid ud Din Attar. It is a tale of a group of birds that set off in search of the mythical bird, the Simurgh. Many of the birds abandon the quest. When the remaining birds arrive in the land of the Simurgh, they find themselves reflected... they are the Simurgh. We use Attar's text as a frame for narratives gathered from refugees and other migratory people, symbolizing the journey that we, the diversity that is humanity, take together. It is a story of found community, of the necessity of difference. Conference of the Birds has been supported by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, The Boston Foundation, Jacob's Pillow, Arts Emerson, Theatre Communications Group, New Music/USA and National Endowment for the Arts.

Director's Note

Conference of the Birds poses the question: How can we be different together? The performance proposes an answer. Anikaya explores this question by translating contemporary migrant stories into dance. In the creation of the work, the company directly engaged with refugee and other migrant communities throughout the creative process. Through a community-based, artist-led process, we have created a framework within which a dynamic evolving presentation can happen – relevant to the moment. Conference of the Birds addresses many narratives at once. It addresses issues pertinent to religious and cultural minorities, gender and sexuality, refugees, and works to counteract xenophobia in its many manifestations – both in content and in the composition of the company. Re-contextualising this classical Sufi text illuminates current moment in history, bringing to full circle the idea that human history is a history of movement, mingling and entanglements.

The Director

Wendy Jehlen's career has been marked by international explorations, study and creative collaboration. Wendy engages in collaborations across languages, culture, media and genres.

Her work questions the boundaries that we imagine between ourselves, and seeks to break down these imagined walls through an embodied practice of radical empathy. Her unique approach to choreography incorporates elements of Bharat Natyam, Odissi, Capoeira, Kalaripayattu, West African dance, Butoh, and a wide-range of contemporary movement forms. Her emotionally powerful choreography has been created and performed in the US, Canada, Italy, India, Japan, Brazil, Benin, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Mali and Turkey. Her works include *Delicateness in Times of Brutality* (2017), a duet with Deaf Butoh artist Dakei; *Entangling* (2015), a duet inspired by Quantum Entanglement; *The Deep* (2015), a work for 25 dancers created in Brazil; *Lilith* (2013), a solo on the first woman; *The Knocking Within* (2012), an evening-length duet on a disintegrating relationship; *Forest* (2010), a journey through the archetypal forest; and *He Who Burns* (2006).

The Poet

Abū Ḥamīd bin Abū Bakr Ibrāhīm, better known by his pen-name Farīd ud-Dīn Aṭṭār, was a Persian poet, theoretician of Sufism, and hagiographer from Nishapur who had an immense and lasting influence on Persian poetry and Sufism. *Manṭiq-uṭ-Ṭayr* (The Conference of the Birds) and *Ilāhī-Nāma* (The Book of Divine) are among his most famous works.

The Group

Anikaya's mission is to break down the perceived boundaries between people, cultures and art forms. Our work has so far extended to the US, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, France, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mali and Turkey. Anikaya weaves together music, dance and storytelling to create works that pull from the full range of the body's communicative capabilities. We incorporate traditional forms, internalizing them and then allowing them to reemerge as part of a new contemporary movement vocabulary. The result is work that is resonant of deep-rooted traditions, without being bound to any particular genre, place or practice. The ensemble includes

performers from Benin, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, India/South Africa, Japan, Turkey and the US.

Cast & Credits

Dancers Ibrahim Abdo
(Egypt), Yasin Anar (Turkey), Sarveshan Gangen (South
Africa/India), Kae
Ishimoto (Japan), Danang Pamungkas (Indonesia),
Luciane Ramos da Silva
(Brazil)

Music created by Fraction (Eric Raynaud)
(France), Shaw Pong Liu (USA), Shaho Andalibi
(Iran/Canada), Deraldo

Ferreira (Brazil/USA)

Light Design Stephen Petrilli (USA)

Light execution Gregory Casparian (USA)

Projection Design David Bengali (USA)

Calligraphy artist

& content consultant Pouya Jahanshahi (Iran/USA)

Director/Choreographer Wendy Jehlen (USA)

Contacts

Director, Anikaya

67 Dane St., Somerville, Massachusetts,

USA- 002143

M: +1 6178617930

E: wendyjehlen@gmail.com

Dharamvir Bharati's Play:

Andha Yug

Playwright: Dharmavir Bharati

Translation: Sukesh Panda

Director: Chavan Pramod R.

Group: Department of Dramatics, M.S. University, Vadodara

Language: Gujarati

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins

The Play

Prologue: The prevailing fight between power and survival in the world, the wrath of the blind age.

Act 1: Dhritarashtra and Gandhari crying for their dying sons and eagerly waiting for Sanjay. The Vrudhha Yachak enters with his predictions.

Act 2: Ashwatthama transforms himself into a destructive being and tries to kill Sanjay and Vrudhha Yachak, Krutvarma and Krupacharya question Ashwatthama's intentions.

Act 3: Yuyutsu enters Hastinapur after winning battle with Pandvas, and Gandhari dishonours him. Ashwatthama justifies his intentions, and Krutvarma and Krupacharya join his struggle.

Interlude: The Vruddha Yachak explains Andha Yug and the characters give a description of their world.

Act 4: Vidur and Sanjay narrate the details of Ashwatthama's cruelty to Gandhari. Ashwatthama releases Brahmastra. Sanjay leads Gandhari to the corpse of Duryodhan. Gandhari blames Krishna and curses him.

Epilogue: Question – "How to save humanity?"

Director's Note

This piece of work focuses solely on the thematic content of the play, rather than abiding by the conventional structure. It attempts to look beyond the barriers of time and space and emerges subtly and symbolically. The questions raised are regarding human tolerance and the atrocities of war, where women, children and youth are the major victims. "When will

the world be peaceful?" is the quintessential quest. I have attempted to depict my perceptions about how various systems drive a region and its inhabitants into insoluble problems of restless society and political turmoil, where the sole sufferers are the common people.

The Director

A recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Ustad Bismillah Khan National Award for Theatre Direction, Dr. Chavan Pramod R. is a disciple of Guru Kavalam N. Panikkar, under whose guidance he pursued training of Natyashastra and Sanskrit Theatre. He also underwent the basic training of Kutiyattam at Kalamandalam and worked in-depth on different forms of Kerala. Dr. Chavan Pramod has done Ph.D., Masters and Bachelors in Theatre with 4 gold medals from the Dramatics Department, M. S. University of Baroda. Some of the plays designed and directed by him are Andhayug, Uttararmcharitam, Venisamhara, Ashadh Ka Ek Din, Waiting for Godot, Vikramorvashiyam's fourth Act, Dak Ghar, Julooos, Hayavadan etc. His book Rang Saptak – An Anthology of Panikkar's Plays Translated in Hindi has been published by Rajkamal Prakashan.

The Playwright

Dharmavir Bharati was a renowned Hindi poet, author, playwright and a social thinker of India. He was the chief editor of the popular magazine Dharmayug. Bharati was awarded the Padmashri for literature in 1972 and Sangeet Natak Akademy Award in playwriting in 1988. Prominent works by him include Gunahon ka Devta, Suraj ka Satwan Ghoda, Andha Yug etc.

The Group

Department of Dramatics, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda has nurtured a number of aspiring artists wanting to pursue theatre as profession. Along with the academic experience it also creates a platform for art events, festivals, workshops, seminars and research. It has started "Satur Theatre" to inculcate performance skills in the students and orient audiences for the Theatre Movement. It has

been conducting the Manch Parva – National Theatre Festival since 2011.

Cast & Credits

Gandhari 1	Mallika
Lokhande	
Gandhari 2	Riya Doshi
Gandhari 3	Vaidesha
Lobiyal	
Dhrutarashtra	Shashank Jha
Ashwathama	Bhavesht Thakarel
Yuyutsu	Priyank
Gangwani	
Sanjay	Saket Chouhan
VruddhaYachak/ Western Dance	Prashanjit Dey
Vidura	Mohammad
Nawaz Khan	
Krutvarma /Western Dance	Akhil Nair
Krupacharya	Hardik Soni
Prahari 1	Nirav Popat
Prahari 2 /Fashion Show	Himadri Vyas
Vyasa/Fashion Show	Ivan MD Khan
Chorus 1/Western Dance/ Fashion Show	Parth Nair
Chorus 2	Sanket Chouhan
Garba Dance	Nupur Thaker, Shweta
Jain	
Music Composer & Vocal	Vipul Barot
Music Composer & Instrument	Manish Barot
Music Arranger	Birju Kanthariya
Music Operator	Sanket Chouhan /
Riken Chokshi	
Light Design	Rishikesh

Karanjgaokar

Make-up

Gaurav Chaturvedi

Playwright

Dharmvir Bharati

Director

Chavan Pramod R.

Contacts

Dr. Chavan Pramod R.

Director, Department of Dramatics

Faculty of Performing Arts

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

Opp. Sursagar, Nyay-Mandir, Gujarat

Vadodara- 390001

M: +91 9898822624

E: chavan_pramoduma@yahoo.co.in

chavan.pramod-dramatics@msubaroda.ac.in

Nishantha De Silva & Rajitha Hettiarachchi's Play: Grease Yaka Returns

GREASE YAKA RETURNS

Playwrights & Directors: Nishantha de Silva & Rajitha Hettiarachchi

Group: Ananda Drama, Sri Lanka

Language: English

Duration: 1 hr 05 mins

The Play

Prologue – Fear Walks

Study Partners – Sahani and Arun 'study' despite Kalana, when

they see their creepy neighbour.

Lu, Lu – Sahani posts a story that goes viral.

Bus Stand – Kanthi and her daughter Charini learn about the grease yaka.

Shoe Shopping – Arukshi is shoe-shopping with Kishan, helped by a greasy salesman.

Lunchtime – Supun, Hansani, Ms. Shriya and Mr. Manjula are public servants. What happened to their dessert?

Channel Surfing – TV shows enthrall the nation. What is this grease disease?

Warriors – Sahani conducts a make-up tutorial, but can 'darkies' discuss beauty?

Spilt Coffee – Charini appeals to Arukshi for help against discrimination.

Fairness Treatment – Sahani needs help to become fairer.

Mirror – The politicians are with us.

The Cure – Kanthi seeks medical help for Charini.

Consequences – Riots!

Another Beginning – We look to our leaders.

Epilogue: A Mother's Love – Is there a cure?

Directors' Note

The Grease Yaka (grease demon) myth describes scantily clad, grease covered men suspected of crimes ranging from voyeurism to rape to abduction and murder in Sri Lanka. Although no grease yakas were ever caught, grease yaka 'sightings' hogged the headlines from time to time, causing widespread alarm and panic, especially during the conflict period. Ananda Drama's Grease Yaka (2014) examined the emergence and proliferation of fears in the society by using this urban legend as a metaphor and a tool.

Grease Yaka Returns, first staged in 2018, explores the corrosive and sometimes devastating consequences of those fears. It looks at how easily distrust can be sown between various groups in the society through the aggregation of relatively small event and incidents. It looks at how quickly this distrust can morph into social divisions, sometimes even

erupting in violence. It holds a mirror, and a warning, to the society.

The Directors & Playwrights

Nishantha de Silva is the founder of Ananda Drama, a non-profit theatre company based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Before *Grease Yaka Returns* (2018), Nishantha co-wrote and directed the trilingual political satire *Picket Republic* (2017) and a comic adaptation of *Dracula* (2015). He produced *Grease Yaka* (2014) and *Grease Yaka Returns* (2018) for Ananda Drama. Together with Rajitha, he won the awards for Best Direction and Best Original Script at Sri Lanka's State Drama Festival 2019 for *Grease Yaka Returns*, which won a total of 10 awards including Best Play. His other directing credits include *The Tempest* at The Workshop Players' Shakespeare in the Park Festival 2017 and Stuart Paterson's adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's *Kensuke's Kingdom* (2013). He holds an M. Phil from Cambridge University and a Fellowship in Directing from Trinity College London.

Rajitha Hettiarachchi joined Ananda Drama as a writer and director following its establishment in 2013. Rajitha co-wrote *Grease Yaka* (2014) with its director Ruwanthie de Chickera whilst also acting in it. He acted in Stages Theatre' Group's *Walking Path*, which won Best Play and Best Ensemble Cast at the THESPO theatre festival in Mumbai in 2014. Rajitha founded the performance company *Idea Couch* and was an Art Think South Asia Fellow in 2018. He holds a B.A. in English from Sri Jayawardenepura University and is an Attorney at Law.

The Group

Ananda Drama grew from the work carried out by its founder Nishantha de Silva and other alumni at Ananda College, Colombo, since 2006. With many students involved in the school's English theatre activities wanting to continue their work in theatre after graduating, Ananda Drama was formed as a non-profit entity in 2014 to showcase their work to the general public.

Cast & Credits

Students Leeth Singhage
(Kalana), Eshani Seneviratne (Sahani)

Lakshitha Edirisinghe (Arun),
Mother and Daughter Dmitri Gunatilake (Kanthi),
Dinoo Wickramage (Charini)

Couple Ashini Fernando
(Arukshi), Chalana Wijesuriya (Kishan)

Government Servants Jayavi Jayawardhana
(Hansani), Sabreena Niles (Shriya),
Lithmal Jayawardhana (Supun), Gavin Ranasinghe (Manjula)

Opportunists Charith Dissanayake,
Nandun Dissanayake

Pemanthi Fernando, Eraj Gunawardena
Ayudhya Gajanayake, Rithmaka Karunadhara
Vidura Manoratne, Malith Kulathilake
Amandi Kulathilake, Hiruni Herath

Designer Jayampathi Guruge
Stage Manager Ishtartha Wellaboda

Playwrights & Directors Nishantha de Silva
and Rajitha Hettiarachchi

Contacts

St. Rita's Road,
Colombo – 00350

Sri Lanka

M: +94 777268164

E: pem4christ@gmail.com

W: www.anandadrama.org

Henrik Ibsen's Play: Peecha Karti Parchhaiyan



Playwright: Henrik Ibsen

Adapter: Ila Arun

Director: K. K. Raina

Group: Surnai Theatre and Folk Arts Foundation, Mumbai

Language: Hindi

Duration: 2 hrs 20 mins

The Play

This is an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's controversial play Ghosts which was first staged in 1881 causing quite a stir. This is the story of the family of late Maharaja Kunwar Viraj Bhanu Pratap Singh, whose death is shrouded in mystery, talked of in whispers, and hidden in the inscrutable eyes of his widow, Yashodhara Baisaheb. As the story unfolds, we see the causes of the break-down of families, symbolised in the destruction of the havelis they inhabit. But yet the ghosts of the past cannot be destroyed. The play deals with the issue of domestic violence and suppression of women, whose voices are silenced by tradition and society. The voices of Ibsen's women, just as the voices of women all over the world, need to be heard.

Director's Note

Ghost is a family drama that deals with the conflict between generations due to changing human conditions, beliefs and customs which are handed down from one generation to another, thus degenerating the social system that was created to protect and nurture. These beliefs and customs turn into ghosts and keep haunting us in one way or the other. This relationship between past and future can make our present unbearable if not understood and analysed well. Ibsen had said "we sail with a corpse in cargo". Therefore these ghosts need to be re-examined in the light of each individual's experience, and socio-political and religious system he is confronted with. If not, the most gifted of society's future generation will face destruction.

The Director

With over 30 years of experience actor, director and writer, K. K. Raina is a graduate of the National School of Drama, New Delhi. He joined Surnai theatre group as an actor but soon was entrusted with additional responsibility of direction. He has been directing and acting in all its plays since 1983 and is amongst the earliest members of the core group.

He has acted in over three hundred theatrical performances and directed over two hundred fifty shows. He has directed two short T.V. films and has been writing, directing and producing T.V. serials for Kashir Channel independently. He has acted in prime roles in over 30 Bollywood films and continues to do so. In the past he had acted in many T.V. serials.

The Playwright

Henrik Johan Ibsen (20 March 1828 – 23 May 1906) was a Norwegian playwright and theatre director. As one of the founders of modernism in theatre, Ibsen is often referred to as 'the father of realism', and one of the most influential playwrights of his time. His major works include Brand, Peer Gynt, An Enemy of the People, Emperor and Galilean, A Doll's House, Hedda Gabler, Ghosts, The Wild Duck, When We Dead Awaken, Rosmersholm, and The Master Builder. He is the most

frequently performed dramatist in the world after Shakespeare, and by the early 20th century A Doll's House became world's most performed play.

The Group

In 1982, Surnai began its journey with the twin objectives of promoting the folk arts of India and staging contemporary plays which are thought-provoking and focus on relevant social issues. In 2016, the group re-established itself under the aegis of its newly-established Surnai Theatre and Folk Arts Foundation. This foundation is committed to the uplift of women, starting with the survival of the girl-child, her literacy, health and the seemingly insurmountable problem of child-marriage and widowhood. The Surnai Foundation, with its focus on folk theatre, puppetry, and traditional story-telling forms like the phad hopes to reach out not only to urban audiences but also to rural platforms to carry these themes to villages in far-flung areas.

Cast & Credits

Yashodhra Baisa	Ila Arun
Purohitji	K. K. Raina
Yuvraj Bana	Rahul Bagga
Thomas	Rajeev Pandey
/ Gaurav Amlani	
Reena	Mia Maelzer

Music Arrangement	Ila Arun.
Sets & Lights	Salim Akhtar
Music Operation	Sanjoy Daz

Adapted by	Ila Arun
Director	K K Raina

Contacts

Director, Surnai Theatre and Folk Arts Foundation
401, Paradise Apts, 7th Road, Santa Cruz East
Mumbai- 700055

M: +91 9820047176

E: antardhwani5@gmail.com

Pranjal K. Saikia's Play: Chengpung Border

Playwright & Director: Pranjal K Saikia

Group: Team Indipity, Guwahati

Language: Assamese

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins

The Play

A retired teacher of Chengpung village of Assam and Nagaland border, Mr. Dharmeshwar Bora has a small happy family – his wife, a goat and a dog. Although Mr. Bora has had a dream to be a car owner since he was young, his dream became stronger with the provident fund money he received on retirement. On being a car owner, he realised that it is not easy to survive in a bordering village, due to car-lifters, militant's etc. Day by day Mr. Bora became very possessive about his car, to the extent that the fear of losing his beloved car took away his sound sleep. The story takes a turn when Mr. Bora tries to save his car from such circumstances (Border miseries seem to have no end....).

Director's Note

Every border (national or state) has its own stories to tell. Living in a village of Assam and Nagaland border, I have experienced the border that has fear, relentless mountains and way-faring rivers. The border that has tasted blood, militant movements, illegal arms, cannabis (Ganja), banned pseudoephedrine tablets etc. The common and innocent people of

bordering villages have endless miseries; their dreams are meant to be shot. This play deals with the struggle of their survival, aspirations, dreams and downfall.

The Director & Playwright

Pranjal K Saikia is a commerce graduate from Guwahati University and holds a diploma in Dramatic arts from the Himachal Cultural Research Forum, Mandi (Himachal Pradesh). Since then he has worked as an actor, theatre director, script writer and also theatre trainer in different parts of India including Delhi, Bhopal, Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. Few of the important plays that he has acted in are Lower Depths, Andher Nagari Choupat Raja, Gaatha- the 1st text, Ashaad Ka Ek Din, Yatra Subha Houk etc. His major directorial works are Badal Sircar's Ballavpur ke Rupkatha and self-written Bhumura, Status Complicated, Indipity, Bhou, Kiri Daloi (Jaintia Play) etc. Apart from these he has worked with different NGOs on different social issues in Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Tripura. One of his plays Indipity was selected for the 8th Theatre Olympics, 2018, and his Play Bhou was selected for the inauguration of 20th BRM, 2019 at Dibrugarh. Both of these plays were written & directed by him.

The Group

Established in 2012 at Guwahati, Assam Team Indipity is a group of young and energetic Theatre Artists. Team Indipity conceived with the idea of raising consciousness about social and psychological issues through meaningful theatre activities. Right from its inception the group also conducts theatre workshops, street play in all over north-east. The group is dedicated towards establishing new practices of art forms in the drama world and to articulate talents both physically and mentally. The group has performed in various theatre festivals including 20th Bharat Rang Mahotsav.

Cast & Credits

Dharmeshwar
Sakuntala

Bora Monuj Saikia
Rimjhim Deka

Naga Militants	Arup Jyoti Rabha,
Gokul Mipun, Utpal Hazarika	
Goat	Monalisha
Rajbongshi	
Dog	Suraj Das
Villagers/Body Movements	Abhijit Chutia, Abhijit Roy,
Kulumoni Bharali, Rijumoni Deori	
	Jyotishman Kaushik,
Sanjiv Das Rakesh Bora, Bhaskar Dutta, Rinku	
	Bora, Bidyut Bikash
Borah, Desh Adhikari, Nandini Das, Achurjya Bora	
Light	Tapan Borua
Music	Mandeep Mahanta
Costume	Rijumoni Deori
Production Manager	Achyut Saikia
Assistant Director	Gokul Mipun and
Bhaskar Dutta	
Playwright & Director	Pranjal K Saikia

Contacts

Director, Team Indipity
Ivy Enclave, Flat No – 404, Bye Lane No. 9
Dr Zakir Hussain Road, Sorumotoria
Down Town, Guwahati – 781006
Assam, P.O- Dispur
M: +91 8638846349, 8638002401
E: teamindipity@gmail.com