

Bhuvneshvar Prasad's KALA DHABBA BADAL KI TARAH AA RAHA HAI

Director and Dramaturge:
Avijit Solanki



Playwright: Bhuvneshvar Prasad

Director and Dramaturge: Avijit Solanki

Group: N.S.D. Diploma Production, New Delhi

Language: Hindustani

Duration: 1 hr

The Play

When Bhuvneshwar Prasad's story 'Bhediye' was first published it created quite a stir in literary circles of 1933 India. The story begins by asking what is a bhediye? (a wolf). Kharu

says there's none other as dangerous as them, appearing in packs, nothing satiates their hunger. Kharu recites a story in which he, his father and three Nataniyas were traversing from Gwalior to Punjab when they were attacked by a hungry pack of bhediyas. Chasing and compelling him to abandon all his belongings/possessions behind. Running to save his life he loses his father. It story ends after Kharu spits and tells that the very next year he killed a pack of sixty bhediye!

Director's Note

Bhediye is a narrative of a progressing violent swarm, being run over by it, and losing all one has to it. A new light of meaning emanates from this story every single time I read it. Its approach to language, structure and characterizations are cold and brutal. Like a hammer thumping onto a nail penetrating your bleeding soul. It has an odor of fear and terror – a topical subject to reflect upon as our country's crisis. An evolving society, whose minorities – are people who belong nowhere – are chased, lynched.

Survivors though saved but scarred for life holding anger, betrayal, loss, revenge and guilt within. Feelings, which compel him to attack the swarm that swept everything he called mine. Attacker and attacked let loose a trail of disaster and stories of inhumane horror.

It was quite challenging for us as a team to create performance out of this text because of its narrative nature. To cull out its visual elements, through the physicality and material expression it offers. We are thankful to all friends who kept visiting us during rehearsals and contributed to make the work what it is.

The Director

Avijit Solanki is a Bhopali who debuted as a director with an adaptation of Tagore's *Daakghar* in Gondi dialect. After completing his diploma from Madhya Pradesh School of Drama

(2012), he founded Other Theatre. Some of his directorial ventures are- *Daakghar*, *Antigone*, *Bade Bade Pankhon Wala Boodha*, *Kucch Vakya*, *Jaadui Macchi*, *Ismat ki Id*. He has worked with children from different backgrounds and communities.

The Playwright

Bhubaneswar (1911 – 1957) born to a middle-class family in Shahjahanpur (U.P.). His periodic compositions exposed the boundaries drawn between the ideal and real so that they started spearheading beliefs, traditions and a new voice.

Bhubaneswar was an outspoken and distinct literary voice, which was hitherto unknown and unspoken then. He exposed classic irregularities in the form of bitter truths through his writings. His contribution to literature and language was an enrichment brought to life with his courage to experiment with new technical compositions. Some of his path-breaking works were published in Hans, 'Shyama: A Marital Paradox', 1933 and a collection of one-act plays in 'Caravan', 1935, established him as a monolith in literature. The play *Tambe Ke Keede*, he wrote in 1946, found its honour of place as first incompatible and incomprehensible absurd drama written in any language of the world.

The Group

This is a diploma play presented as a part of National School of Drama's graduate showcase (class of 2018), which aims to provide a platform, for emerging theatre practitioners, allowing them to share their work with wider audience.

Cast & Credits

Actors: Sarfaraz Ali Mirza, Bhagyashree Tarke, Rachna Gupta, Susheel Kant Mishra, Meenakshi Thapa, Ravi Chahar, Paramanand.

Chasers: Mahadev Singh Lakhawat, Parag Barua, Pradeep Gautam, Akshay Wadera, Kamalpreet Singh, Jordan, Vishal, Ankit

Ambavat, Tejendra, Suraj Kumar, Dhananjay Sharma, Tapan Kosh, Akshay Kumar, Ramjeet Yadav, Ashish Kumar Nayak, Tushar Karan, Deepak Pandey, Pankaj Verma, Sahil Khanna, Abhishek, Manjeet Kumar, Akash Shrivastav, Rajai Thakral, Abhay Kumar, Shivam Bansal, Nidhi Singh.

Cart Pullers: Akash Shrivastav, Akki, Rajat Thakral, Abhay Kumar

Sceneography: Nitish Arora

Light Design: Sarthak Narula

Costume Design: Rachna Gupta

Video Projection: Saras Kumar

Saxophone :Rahul Kumar

Drums: Vikesh Bisht

Publicity Design: Nitish Arora

Sound operation: Ankit Gupta

Dramaturgical Advice: Sandeep, Nitish Arora

Original story: Bhuvneshwar Prasad

Dramaturgy & Direction: Avijit Solanki

Buddhika Damayantha's THE DEPARTMENT



Playwright & Director: Buddhika Damayantha

Group: Red Wings Theatre Group, Sri Lanka

Language: English / Sri Lankan

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins

The Play

The Department is a play inspired by Harold Pinter's The Hothouse. The director of the department, Roote is stressed to the point that he is losing his sanity. His subordinate Gibbs is so ambitious that he undercuts his authority; subordinate Lush is an alcoholic; and his mistress, Miss Cutts, is scheming and having an affair with Gibbs. One of the patients at the house is supposedly murdered, and another is raped and impregnated, so Roote assigns Gibbs to investigate the matter. However, all evidences point to Roote as the perpetrator, and Gibbs takes over, leading to further mayhem.

Director's Note

The play is wrapped around a disoriented officer in a certain department of a powerful state where the rulers are all out to remain in power using unacceptable ways and means. The psychiatric unit run by this department calls patients by numbers and not by names. A retired dictatorial army officer

by the name Roots is in charge of this unit and its officers are called by indicative short names such Gibbs, Labb, Kates, Tubb, Pate etc... Patient number 6457 passes away in a mysterious suspicious manner, and in a very short time an employee of the institute gives birth to a child. Murderers and rapists are freely moving in the society. At the end Gibbs who is meeting with the superior higher officers of the department complains that all the officers except him were murdered by the patients. This raises the suspicion that Gibbs himself did these...

The Director & Playwright

Buddhika Damayantha is one of the few theatre directors in Sri Lanka who is engaged full-time in this profession. He has directed 18 Sinhala plays, out of which 17 are adaptations of world renowned classics, such as the works of Beckett, Albee, Williams, Schisgal, Fugard, Pinter, Arbuzov, Tendulkar, Ibsen, Simon, Rivera and Shakespeare. During his illustrious career, Buddhika Damayantha and his plays have won many significant awards at the state drama festivals held annually in Sri Lanka. Buddhika Damayantha is a dedicated theatre enthusiast who strives to uphold his responsibility as an artiste and works for the betterment of his profession and the quality of Sri Lankan theatre. He dedicates a lot of his time conducting workshops and various other activities to enforce theatre education among youth in Sri Lanka and to invoke the enthusiasm for thought-provoking theatre in society.

The Group

Red Wings is a theatre group actively contributing in the field since last decade. It makes efforts to promote plays in the country by conducting workshops for beginners and introducing various new trends and significant changes in the field. Being a trainer as well as an ardent learner, the group has conducted many training sessions and workshops in the past. During the period when the country was severely affected by civil war, Red Wing made a tremendous effort to preserve

Sinhala stage and attract the audience. One of the main objectives of the group is to inculcate love for the stage among the people.

Cast & Credits

Roote: Mahendra Weeraratne

Miss Cutts: Kithmini Hemachandra

Gibbs: Sumith Rathnayake

Lobb / Tubb: Nandun Alwis

Lush: Arunodh Wijesinghe

Lamb: Buddhika Damayantha

Make-up: Shiran Lakshitha

Lighting: Kapila Kithsiri

Set /Costume Design: Buddhika Damayantha

Production Manager: Pamoda Wimalasiri

Sound Mixing: Pamoda Wimalasiri

Stage Management: Chandana Irugal Bandara

Assistant / Prompter: Dhanushka Chinthaka, Mihili Punsala

Publicity/Photography: Pamoda Wimalasiri

Director / Writer: Buddhika Damayantha

Watch Meet the Director segment for this play

M. K. Raina's STAY YET AWHILE

Playwright & Director: M. K. Raina

Group: Peoples Television, NOIDA

Language: English

Duration: 2 hrs

The Play and Director's Note

This is a dialogue between two great minds of the 20th century

– Mahatama Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. A dialogue, which has direct bearing on the future of India and the rest of mankind. The quality of the dialogue is intense, philosophical, spiritual, aesthetic and highly political. Yet this dialogue of agreements and disagreements through letters and articles between the Mahatama and Gurudev, never lowers itself to the realm of anger, negativity or animosity. There is tremendous love, admiration, camaraderie and respect for the other's point of view, which unfortunately is not a quality we find in the political class of today's world. Hence, this dialogue between the Mahatama and The Poet is of great significance, an eye-opener and absolutely relevant to the present debate on the global world with neo-liberal modules of development and open market economy.

The Director & Playwright

Graduate of National School of Drama with Best Actor's Award is an actor, director, writer and media person. He has been working in theatre, cinema, television and media for the last five decades. He has directed more than 200 plays in various Indian languages. These productions include the works of Bhasa, Shakespeare, Gorky, Chekov, Bertolt Brecht, Tagore, Premchand, Badal Sircar, Bhishm Sahani, Dhramvir Bharati, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Manto, Moti Lal Kemmu and many more. Terror and violence ridden Kashmir has been his working space for more than 15 years, where he has revived and revitalized the traditional Kashmiri theatre called "Bhand Pather" which was disappearing under the pressure of violence and fundamentalism. Raina has travelled widely across globe for his theatre work, as a guest director and as a guest teacher. He has been working with National School of Drama, Hyderabad Central University, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad and Bhilai. He has been Fellow at University of Hawaii (U.S.A.) and at Stanford University (U.S.A.). He has been scholar in residence at Jamia Millia Islamia Central University. Raina is a trustee of Safdar Hashmi Trust and South Asia Foundation, India. He has been recipient of many

national & regional awards like Sanskriti Award, JK Gold Medal, Sahitya Kala Parishad Samman, Shikhar Samman (Hindi Academy, Delhi), B.V. Karanth Lifetime Achievement Award and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

The Group

Peoples Television's journey started with the making of socially relevant documentaries, plays and cultural events. It has been a platform for the exchange of ideas on the burning issue of culture cutting across disciplines of arts. Our video films on the cultural heritage of Kashmir have been screened in many parts of India and in many countries of west and central Asia. People Television has also performed its theatre plays at major festivals in India like Kerala National Theatre Festival, Kashmir National Festival. Our work with children through workshops at various centres in India has earned Peoples Television a prestige position in the field of theatre in education.

Cast & Credits

On Stage: Avijit Dutt, Oorun Das, Preeti Agarwal Metha

Light: Govind Yadav

Videography: Anant Raina

Costume: Kriti V. Sharma

Stage Manager: Vipin Sharma

Performance Text & Direction: M.K. Raina

D. Sunil Kumar's MAZE



Playwright & Director: D. Sunil Kumar

Group: Department of Theatre, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kerala

Language: Malayalam

Duration: 1 hr 16 mins

The Play

Maze tries to establish the relationship between a servant and an old man who are connected inside the web of memories and realities. The servant takes care of the old man and even tries to pretend as the old man's wife in order to make him eat food. The attire of the servant wearing his wife's cloths makes the old man sexually attracted to him and he starts expressing his longing. The memory of his wife leads him to a dream but he recognizes the servant's smell and comes back to reality. In that unreal space there are moments in which both of them find happiness and comfort. Finally it is revealed that the old man was only a memory of the servant.

Director's Note

Maze portrays the repetitive aspect of human life that there is no beginning or end to what we call life. But we still consider death as the full stop to it. The dead continue to

live within the minds of the living. Memory and reality can't be separated and they always give rise to the question, what is real? This moment ends with the next. Every relationship creates a circle from which the process of 'coming out' or 'leaving' is impossible. Here the old man and the servant create a space within their relationship that questions the material existence of each other. This interlocked space makes it difficult to have an individual existence. The old man continues to live in the memory of the servant and it is the memory of the old man that makes the servant live in his solitude.

The Director & Playwright

Sunil Kumar S., born and brought up in Angamaly, is a graduate in Commerce and is now pursuing his Masters in Theatre and Performing arts at SSUS, Kalady, Kerala. In the past five years he has been an active figure in the realm of theatre with his contributions in direction, acting and other important aspects of theatre. It is his passion for theatre that made him choose theatre as his career. He has worked with many prominent theatre practitioners in Kerala including Kumara Varma, Ramesh Varma, Vinod Kumar, Gopan Chithambaran, Adrian Schvarzstein, etc. He has also acted in various student productions including Dhojoji, Riders to the Sea, Procession, Christmas Night, Chakka, Interview, Machine, Kudukka, Group Photo etc. Maze is his first production and has gained the attention of many theatre practitioners and critics. Currently he is conducting theatre camps and workshops for students and theatre-lovers all over Kerala.

The Group

Department of Theatre, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kerala has witnessed a number of inevitable changes. The department has introduced several changes in the graduate courses, admitted a number of research students, received substantial research and infrastructure grants, and brought new areas of research activity together, making it a vibrant

and cohesive entity. Within a span of 17 years, we have become a prime department of theatre in India. Alumni of this department are showing their excellence in their respective fields and are now known all across India. Students are participating in all major international theatre festivals across the country. Moreover, many popular actors and directors of Malayalam film industry are former students of this department.

Cast & Credits

On Stage: Midhun M P, Rakesh P

Light design and Execution: Anoop K V

Light Assistant: Jamshid Jamal

Music Direction and Execution: Akshai K A, Abin Davis, Manu M K

Make-up: Vipin Kumar

Costume: Anooja Ravi, Neethu Velayudhan

Art-Design and Execution: Sarathkumar M R, Amal Deep P

Stage Managers: Prasob Prakash, Abhinav Prasad P

Technical support: Devendra Khattana, Febin Ummachan, Sharon Shaju, AkhilVijayan, Dinanad S R, Sherin Varghese, Sagar K B

Story, Design & Direction: Sunil Kumar S.

**Rabindranath Tagore's
JAKSHAPURI Director: Pradip
Bhattacharya**



Playwright: Rabindranath Tagore

Director: Pradip Bhattacharya

Group: Berhampore Repertory Theatre, Murshidabad

Language: Bengali

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins

The Play

Nandini, the protagonist of the play, is an individual, not an abstraction, but is pursued by abstraction, like one tormented by a ghost. Nandini knows that wealth and power are nothing but 'maya' (illusion), and that the highest expression of life is Love, which she manifests in this play in her love for Ranjan. But love-ties are ruthlessly molested by the megalomaniac ambition, while an acquisitive intellect piles its psychological curiosity, probing into the elusive mystery of love through vivisection.

Director's Note

It is a vision that has come to me in the darkest hour of dismay. I have a stronger faith in the simple personality of man than in the prolific brood of machinery that wants to crowd everything. This personality – the divine essence of the infinite in the vessel of the finite – has its last treasure –

the woman's heart. The joy of this faith has inspired me to pour my heart into painting the portrait of Nandini as the bearer of the message of reality, the saviour through death.

The Director

Pradip Bhattacharya did M.A. (Drama) from Rabindra Bharati University. He received the National Scholarship and Senior Fellowship by CCRT, Department of Culture, Govt. of India. He is the founder, director, and Guru of Berhampore Repertory Theatre. He has written 10 full-length plays, 6 short plays, and 10 plays for children (Published in Bengali Theatre Journal of West Bengal). He has directed 40 Plays in the last 48 Years. 4 of his plays have won the Best Production of the Year 1988, 1990, 1998 & 2006 awarded by Paschimbanga Natya Akademy, Govt. of West Bengal. He has been conducting Theatre Therapy in Prison for the last 12 years at Berhampore Central Correctional Home (Jail) Govt. of West Bengal. He has directed three plays Tasher Desh, Tota Kahini, and Jakshapuri (Rakta Karabi) by Tagore. Pradip has acted in around 45 to 50 Plays. Some of the memorable characters that he has played are Socrates, Arturo Ui, etc. He has been acting in Television serials from 1994 till date, and has acted in 12 telefilms and 58 Feature Films including a foreign film Shadows of Time. He has organised several theatre workshops with Nandikar, National School of Drama (Delhi) and Max Muller Bhavan; children's theatre workshops with local schools and orphan boys; and has been organising a National Theatre Festival from 1983 onwards. He has also made two documentary films (Diaha and Prisoner's Dayout).

The Playwright

Rabindranath Tagore (7 May 1861 – 7 August 1941) was a Bengali polymath from the Indian subcontinent. He was a poet, musician and artist. He reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art with Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Author of Gitanjali, he was the first non-European to win the Nobel

Prize in Literature in 1913.

The Group

Berhampore Repertory Theatre was set up on 1st January 1986. It has held many theatre festivals and almost every theatre group of India has visited Berhampore. N.S.D. Repertory Company of Delhi, Naya Theatre of Habib Tanbir, Nandikar, Bahurupée and many other groups have visited Berhampore. It has also arranged many workshops, seminars on theatre, and has introduced school students to theatre by conducting workshops for them. In 1991 a month-long N.S.D. workshop was held at Berhampore.

Cast & Credits

Raja: Shyamal Das

Sardar: Nitai Chandra Saha

Bishu Pagol: Buddhadev Meta

Adhyapak: Uttam Das

Fagulal: Nakul Nandi

Gokul: Bidhan Das

Kishor: Nimai Halder / Sariful Sk.

Morol: Subodh Mandal

Paloan: Kashinath Mal / Azad Sk.

Praharī: Subodh Das, Abhai Mandal

Ranjan /Jharudar: Tapas Das

Gosai: Swaminath Roy

Workers: Azad Hossain, Shariful SK, Dilip SK, Firdosh Alam, Rajesh Das, Sabu SK, Tala Hembram, Jatin Mondal

Nandini – 1: Helama Bibi

Nandini – 2: Runa Bibi

Nandini – 3 / Workers Wife: Uma Dey

Chandra: Chandana Mandal

Worker's Wife: Tultuli Bibi

Light: Srabon Saha

Music Execution: Premankur Bhattacharya

Production Controller: Keka Bhattacharyya

Asst.: Tunin Kanti Dey

Playwright: Rabindra Nath Tagore

Design & Direction: Pradip Bhattacharya

Sukracharjya Rabha's TO' POIDAM



Playwright & Director: Sukracharjya Rabha

Group: Badungduupa, Assam

Language: Rabha

Duration: 1 hr

The Play

To' Poidam is based on a Rabha folk-tale, and the literal meaning of the term is 'the bird named Poidam'. The story revolves around a mother and her five sons. One day while collecting vegetables from her kitchen-garden the mother notices the droppings of an unknown bird. When the vegetable is cooked it turns out to be extremely delicious. After hearing about the indications of the presence of a strange

bird, the four elder sons decide to hunt it, assuming its meat will be exceptionally tasty and might even make them immortal. Despite the warnings of the wise younger brother and mother, they go to hunt it. The bird, which is an evil presence, takes over their minds completely, consuming their souls and making them dance to her tune. Meanwhile, the mother has a dream and persuades her youngest son to go to the rescue of his brothers. He does so and manages to save their lives. However, one of the brothers strikes him unconscious and they lie to their mother on reaching home, that they never met their brother. When the youngest son regains consciousness he returns home and kills his eldest brother.

Director's Note

We the Rabhas, has been listening to this story for generations, though, none seems to look into it from a different perspective. Lately the changing political environment, erosion of human values and globalization has threatened the socio-cultural identities of different ethnic groups. One group of people has totally forgotten the relationship between the nation, the society and an individual. They are concerned only with fulfilling their personal need. Whereas some others are struggling to preserve their socio-culture identity. But the question is –what are the causes of this turmoil? Some are satisfied with accepting 'external forces' as the root cause, some blame our inherent weakness. The story summarizes these and many other social conflicts. The play is a theatrical expression of this symbolic story as per my understanding and feelings.

The Director & Playwright

Sukracharjya Rabha (10 April 1977- 8 June 2018) was born in Rampur village of Goalpara District, Assam. In 2001, he founded a theatre group, Badungduppa, a rural based theatre centre in his village. Using Badungduppa as the platform, he directed 26 plays in Rabha, Bodo and Nepali languages during his lifetime. Through his work in theatre, he promoted the

cultural heritage of Rabha community as well as other ethnic groups of North East India. He was the brain behind the prestigious “Under the Sal Tree”, a unique research oriented theatre festival. He was the recipient of many a prestigious award and recognition including Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, 2009 for Direction from Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi; Aditya Bikram Birla Kala Kiran Puruskar, 2010 from Sangeet Kala Kendra, Mumbai for his outstanding performance in the field of theatre; and many more. He posthumously received Doctorate in Philosophy in the year 2018 from Guwahati University, a place where he also worked as a Guest Lecturer at Human Resource Development Centre under UGC.

The Group

Badungduppa was established in 1998 in the Goalpara district of Assam by the initiative of theatre lovers within Rabha community. It is the only rural based tribal theatre group actively engaged in making plays with contemporary meaning. Under the artistic leadership of Sukracharjya Rabha, the group has produced 20 plays in last 20 years. The group is regularly organizing workshops for rural artists and a research oriented theatre festival named “Under the Sal Tree”, and Children Theatre Festival annually.

Cast & Credits

Youngest son: Dhananjay Rabha

Second son: Himeswar Rabha

Third son: Uddhab Rabha

Fourth son: Bijay Kr Rabha

Eldest son: Basanta Rabha

To’ Poidam (birds): Bijay Rabha

Narrator: Kamil Rabha

Mother: Nirmali Rabha

Co-actors: Minakhsi Rabha, Bhanima Rabha, Sameli Rabha, Janki Rabha

Chorus: Sameli Rabha, Nirmali Rabha and All Artistes

Settings: Dhananjay Rabha, Dibakar Rabha

Costumes: Madan Rabha, Cheena Rabha

Music: Lakhikanta Rabha, Madan Rabha, Binanda Rabha, Dibakar Rabha

Light: Nilim Chetia

Script, Concept & Direction: Sukracharjya Rabha

Ingrid Bonta's THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS (BARBARIAN NIGHTS)



Director: Ingrid Bonta

Group: Theatre Coquette, Romania

Language: Romanian

Duration: 1 hr 20 mins

The Play & Director's Note

We have decided to approach the classical Thousand and One

Nights with a contemporary eye and abstract theatrical techniques (dance, physical expressions etc.). It is a delicate, yet intense performance. Scheherazade is the only woman to have become the wife of cruel and feared Shahriar, of her own free will and choice. The main question was 'why is she sacrificing herself?', 'does she run willingly in the arms of Death?' But there is more to her than the first sight. She is no martyr nor does she want to become one. Just like the mythical Sheherazade takes the cruel tyrant on a journey of fantasy and imagination through unknown worlds – in which the extremes of the human soul entwine like the lights and shadows of the Yin and Yang- we wish to take the audience through 1001 states of mind, 1001 fantasies, 1001 mysteries – only to come to the thought that wisdom and love can conquer it all, even cruelty. Theatrical dance, gracefully mastered by the two actors' body expressions, gets more intense as the story starts to unravel and makes the invisible seen to the audience: their bond grows stronger. With only two actors, the play focuses on the male and female harmony, emphasizing the empowerment of women through wit. It also aims to bring to light the importance of art and the subtle power of theatre.

The Director

Ingrid Bonta was born in 1984 in Arad, Romania, in a small Saxon community. She decided to take up theatre courses at the age of 16 and pursued a short acting class at The School of Arts, in Arad and later joined the Arad Puppet Theatre as a puppeteer for a year. Ingrid studied Foreign Languages and Literature (German) at the National University of Bucharest and took a Master's Degree in Theatre Direction. After graduating she staged various plays in theatres across Romania and took part in several theatre festivals in Romania and Europe. In 2015 she joined the initiative of Romanian actress Ruxandra Balasu and together they found Theatre Coquette, in the heart of Bucharest. This was the beginning of a constant directing career. Ingrid staged various successful performances at Theatre Coquette, and other state theatres in

Bucharest.

The Group

Theatre Coquette is a young independent company in Bucharest, established in 2015 by a young group of theatre makers, at the initiative of actress & director Ruxandra Balasu. Since then, the group has been selected in various theatre festivals in Romania and abroad, and its productions have quickly entered the Independent Theatre movement in Romania and its performances have been showcased in various festivals and staged around the country. The group was awarded Best Foreign Group at the Nova Drama Festival, Bulgaria in 2016 with the performance *The Colonel and The Birds*. In 2017 it has been the only Romanian theatre to be selected at the largest theatre festival in Asia, receiving excellent reviews, being endorsed by the Romanian Cultural Institute. Our group is led by Ingrid Bonta, theatre director and puppeteer, and Ruxandra Balasu, actress, director and cultural manager, along with Daniel Divrician, visual artist and stage designer. The production *Barbarian Nights* had been invited to open the International Independent Theatre Festival in Bucharest in November 2017. Since 2017, Theatre Coquette has been a founding partner for the Association of Independent Theatres in Romania, thus becoming a strong supporter and active member in the indie Romanian arts.

Cast & Credits

Sheherazade: Ruxandra Balasu

King: Shahriar Ovidiu Usvat

Stage design: Daniel Divrician

Choreography: Andreea Novac

Direction: Ingrid Bonta

KATHIVANNUR VEERAN (THEYYAM)

Group Leader: Sasikumar V



Group Leader: Sasikumar V

Group: Story Teller's Grove, Kerala

Language: Malayalam

Duration: 4 hrs 30 mins (with rituals)

The Form

Theyyam is a socio-religious ritual in the north Malabar region of the Kerala state in India. The mythological, divine, ancestral, animal, serpent or heroic characters are represented in it, each with its distinct physical shape, and a story of its origin. It is a subaltern performing art as the performers of Theyyam belong to the lower caste community, and have an important position in Theyyam. People of north Malabar consider Theyyam itself as a God and seek his blessings.

The Play

Kathivannur Veeran has earned an indomitable place in the memory of the local folk, both as an accomplished warrior and an excellent lover. Mandappan was the son of Chakki of

Parakkayillam and Kumarachan of Meathali Illam, in Kannur district, born with the blessings of Chuzhali Bhagavathi. While enjoying life as a carefree youth, he happened to quarrel with his father once. In rage, Kumarachan stamped on Mandappan's bow, and broke it into two. Upset with his father, and convinced that a warrior who was bereft of his weapon was as good as dead, the boy left his house with his friends, to join his uncle. On the way, he was cheated by his friends. Finally, he reached his uncle's house in Kudagu where he settled down to a life of farming and trading. He happened to see the beautiful Chemmaruthi of Velaarkotta Veettil and married her. The young couple was so much in love that their ardour and possessiveness often led to quarrels. One day, she picked up an argument with him because he had returned late. He was not able to convince her that he got delayed trying to sell sesame oil. As soon as he sat down to eat, he heard the sound of the war bugles announcing the beginning of the war between Muthaarmudi Kudagar and Malayaalees. Mandappan got up and rushed to the battle field, not heeding Chemmmaruthi's words and curses. During the battle he lost his little finger and the ceremonial ring. He got worried that his wife would pick up an argument about his lost ring. So, he returned to the battlefield, and the Kudagars ambushed and shot him to death. Mandappan's grieving friends, gathered the strewn pieces of Mandappan's body and took them to Velaarkotta Veedu, and got the pyre ready to cremate the remains. The grief stricken Chemmaruthi, who divined her husband's death beforehand, ended her life, jumping into her husband's burning pyre. The efforts of her brothers proved of no use as she distracted them before immolating herself. It is this hero and his love who are celebrated through Kathivannur Theyyam performance. It is said that the Chemmaruthi Thara, built in the name of Chemmaruthi, famed for her excessive love, is symbolic of Kathivannur Veeran's enduring affection for his beloved wife. The panthams (lighted torches or flames) on her Thara, are said to commemorate Kathivannur Veeran's loyal friends, and evoke the atmosphere of the battlefield.

Mandappan and Chemmaruthi continue to live in the hearts of the people as the unforgettable lovers of Thayyattam stories. Lengthy thottams, sword fights, acrobatics, martial moves and Urumi fights keep the spectators spell bound during Kathivannur Veeran Theyyam performance. Its ritual practices last for three days. Hence, as far as the viewer is concerned, Kathivannur Veeeran is not an easy Theyyam to enjoy.

Cast & Credits

Karmi: Sanil Peruvannan

Theyyam: Shanu Peruvannan

Thottakkaran & Singer: Biju Vengara

Thottakkaran: Sudev Pallikkara

Chenda & Singer: Adarsh

Chenda: Abhiram

Veeku Chenda: Aswanth

Artistic Coordinator: A Sreekanth

Theyyam Attendent: Vignesh

Team Leader: Sasikumar V

**Peter Brook & Jean-Claude
Carrière's CHARAHARUKO
SAMMELAN (Conference of the
birds) Director: Deeya Maskey**



Playwright: Peter Brook & Jean-Claude Carrière

Director: Deeya Maskey

Group: Actors' Studio, Nepal

Language: Nepali

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins

The Play

Birds from all over the world gather together for a great conference. The nation of birds is in crisis, and urged by one of their flock, the Hoopoe, they have to chart a path to find their king Simurgh. For this they need to travel a long way towards the mountain called Kaf. During this journey, some die, some drop out, while others continue their quest of discovery, love, understanding, disappointment, destruction, unity and death. At last the survivors come into the presence of the great one, and discover that they themselves are the embodiment of the divine.

Director's Note

Seven years ago, I came across Conference of the Birds while attending a physical theatre workshop jointly organized by Actors' Studio and Embassy of US in Nepal. Description of the

seven valleys seemed mythical and ancient on one hand and new and ultra-modern on the other. It was the perspective and relevancy that enabled me to stage the ancient masterpiece in today's context. Through physical gestures and dialogues, each actor has tried to convey different unexplored meanings of the text. I have left a few things as mystery.

The Director

Deeya Maskey is a renowned actor, dancer and TV personality in Nepal. She initially trained as a professional Indian classical dancer from Allahabad, India and later completed her training in acting at Actors' Studio, Nepal. Since then she has been practicing contemporary dances to explore a unique style by using the body, spatial relationship, kinesthetic responses and voice. Some of the famous films that she has acted in are Kagbeni, Soongava, and Fitkiri. She has worked as a choreographer for several theatre and film productions. She is also a judge in the Nepali edition of MTV Roadies show, Himalayan Roadies.

The Playwrights

Peter Brook contributed significantly to the development of 20th century's avant-garde stage. He established the International Centre of Theatre Research in 1970 in Paris. He has won multiple Tony and Emmy Awards, a Laurence Olivier Award, the Praemium Imperiale, and the Prix Italia. He has been called 'The greatest living theatre director'.

Jean-Claude Carrière is a renowned French novelist, story-writer and actor. He is known for his works as writer and actor in Luis Buñuel's films Unbearable Lightness of Being, The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie, and Birth. He has received Best Live Action Short Film Award (1963) as well as Academy Honorary Award (2014) for lifetime achievement. He has also been honoured with the Padma Shree, award in India.

The Group

The Actors' Studio has been performing in Nepal and abroad for

more than one and a half decade. It has carved a niche in Nepali theatre by staging artistic yet committed and socially relevant plays, and establishing the presence of Nepali theatre in the international arena by producing radical and experimental works.

Cast & Credits

The Hoopoe: Suraj Malla

Heron Aayushman: Pyakurel

Partridge/Slave 2: Arjun Neupane

Sparrow: Roshani Tamang

Falcon: Gaurav Bista

King 1/Dervish/Slave 1: Sudam CK

First Exotic Bird: Anup Neupane

Second Exotic Bird: Manoj Thapa Magar

King 2/Walking Bird/ Bat: Anoj Pandey

Old Man/Mahatma: Anup Baral

Duck/ Thief 1: Prakriti Rayamajhi

Nightingale/Cal bird/ Slave: Binita Thapa Magar

Princesses: Sadhana Bhandari

Parrot: Anu Dahal

Peacock: Deeya Maskey

Owl: Keshav Thagunna

Thief 2: Aashish Shrestha

Chamberlain/Executioner: Suryaman Limbu

Double Bird: Shiksha KC

Hermit: Bikas Neupane

Guilty Bird: Ranjana Bhattarai

Dove bird: Hena Nagarkoti

Production Manager: Dev Neupane

Set Construction: Hum BC / Sagar BC

Stage Props: Suryaman Limbu / Anil Subba

Marketing Manager: Aayushman Pyakurel

Costume Design: Sunu Rai / Binita Thapa Magar /Sadhana Bhandari

Finance Manager: Keshav Thagunna

Light Design: Anup Baral

Light Operator: Dev Raj Sunuwar

Sound Craft / Operator: Devendra Neupane

Stage Manager: Anoj Pandey / Roshani Syangbo

Documentation: Sushil Paudel

Translation: Pushpa Raj Acharya

Playwrights: Peter Brook and Jean-Claude Carrière

Direction: Deeya Maskey

Anil Saha's ARSHINAGAR

Director: Debasish Chakraborty



Playwright: Anil Saha

Director: Debasish Chakraborty

Group: Tala Dhruwad Natya Sanstha, Hooghly

Language: Bengali

Duration: 2 hr 10 mins

The Play

Arshinagar speaks about love and true emotions. In this era, where love has been commoditized, this story talks about the real definition of love and the magic it can create. Chaya Kumar, son of a rich merchant has to leave his wife on the next day of his marriage for business expansion. The newly wedded bride, Lilabati, lives with her in-laws, but feels a vacuum. But the power of love brings joy in Lilabati's life and helps her overcome the void.

Director's Note

Presented in a folk form, the flight of imagination in the play soars without any bondage of religion, cast or culture. To express the language of love and fathom its power, music is a vital character in this play. Various folk songs in the traditions of Jhumur, Bhadu, Tusu, Sari, Jari and Sufi are wonderfully tuned in the atmosphere through which the story runs smoothly. Various workshops and endless brainstorming sessions on choreography, costumes, light, set and editing resulted in this brilliant play.

The Director

Debasish Chakraborty, a theatre student of Sri Bivas Chakraborty since 1998, is a promising director of this generation. He joined Annya, a theatre group, under the direction of Sri Bivas Chakraborty and acted in numerous plays. He started his own theatre group Dhrupad in 2002 at Serampore. He has acted in many tele-series. He has also acted in the feature film One, directed by Birsa Dasgupta, and performs in other theatre groups of Kolkata as well.

The Playwright

Anil Saha was born in Bagbazar, Kolkata. He is a retired employee of State Bank of India. He joined a theatre workshop and is now a full-time theatre worker. He has acted in many plays and has been writing plays for 30 years.

The Group

Tala Dhrupad Natya Sanstha started its theatre journey in 2002. The group has produced Simantika written by the eminent dramatist Chandan Sen, Hastabud dramatized by Pradip Moulik and based on the story of Sahajad Firdous, The Numbers based on Nikolai Gogol's story, Ranger Haat by Manoj Mitra, Bodli by Anil Saha, Bhan by Amiya Chattaraj, Uro Megh by Mohit Chattopadhyay, Punajjanma by Dwijendralal Roy and many more.

Cast & Credits

Chaya Kumar: Dhrubo Adhikari

Lilabati: Shreya Biswas

DebokiNandan: Arup Manna

Surobhi Devi: Mita Roy

Sarkar Mosai: Jayanta Chattopadhyay

Bhnaru: Biswanath Saha

Kanai: Parikshit Chattopadhyay

Maya Kumar: Jayanta Chakraborty

Raja & Sutrodhar: Debasish Chakraborty

Paharadar Gautam: Bikash Chandra

Panchir Maa: Mausumi Goswami/Sanchita Singha Roy

Sokhi Dol Poulobi: Sarkar Gupta, Moumita Chakraborty Basu, Priyanka Dey, Sukla Pal, Sanchari Singha Roy

Grambasi: Abhijit Chatterjee, Tanay Banerjee, Wasim Ali, Suman Chakraborty, Utsab Chattopadhyay, Iman Das, Jayanta Dhar

Baul: Sourabh Dutta

Backstage: Suman Mukhopadhyay, Subhankar Mukherjee, Tapan Mallick

Lyrics & Music: Bhaskar Choudhury

Choreography: Abhijit Mahato

Light: Debabrata Sarkar

Set: Moni Shankar

Make-up: Pratap Roy

Title: Utpal Ghosh

Harmonium: Subir Sanyal

Rhythm: Tanmoy Sashmal

Sound: Control Bivas Gupta

Photograph: Sumanta Bora

Playwright: Anil Saha

Director: Debasish Chakraborty