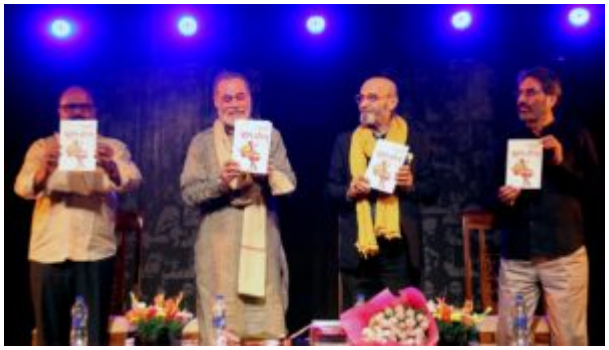
11th Bal Sangam begins in the Capital amidst much fanfare / Manohar Khushalani



National School of Drama today inaugurated its, evergreen, much-awaited **11th Bal Sangam** – a folk & traditional performing Arts & folk Theatre festival, at the lush green lawns of the campus amid much fanfare. Watch the film made on the occasion by my Digital Media students at IIITD: Sahil Yadav, Aseem Saini & Dilnawaz Ashraf

https://youtu.be/BtmyaJwBD2I

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/BtmyaJwBD2I" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>

The opening ceremony of Bal Sangam witnessed the gracious presence of Renowned Theatre Actor & Director, **Prof. Ram Gopal Bajaj, Prof. Suresh Sharma**, Director-in-Charge, NSD, **Abdul Latif Khatana**, Chief, TIE Co., and **Prof. (Dr.) Abhilash Pillai**, Dean-Academic.

The opening ceremony was followed by **Rangoli** – a stage

performance by Folk & Traditional child artistes of India, choreographed by renowned choreographer **Shri Bharat Sharma**, who has an illustrious career spanning over three decades.

Renowned Theatre Actor & Director, **Prof. Ram Gopal Bajaj** said, "*Without relation and communication there is no world. Festival like Bal Sangam help building relationship among the children of different culture. Strong relationship and bonding lead to form a strong nation*."

Prof. Suresh Sharma, **Director-in-Charge**, **National School of Drama** said, "*I'd like to thank everyone who managed to take out their valuable time to come here and give their blessing to the participating kids. I welcome all the participants and audience to this festival. We are proud that the TIE Company has been working hard to make children know about their own culture, traditions, and values. NSD will continue taking such initiatives in the future as well.*"

Mr. Abdul Latif Khatana, Chief, Theatre-in-Education said, "*Theatre-in-Education has been continuously trying to reach and touch the lives of children across the country in last three decades. Apart from folk & traditional performing arts and folk theatre, we conduct interactive workshops among participant children from different parts of the country. The experience and exposure they get at such a young age, will definitely inspire them to do something in the field of folk and traditional performing arts and folk theatre in the future.*"

Prof. (Dr.) Abhilash Pillai, Dean-Academic, extended the vote of thanks to chief guest, children and the audience for taking out their time and being a part of Bal Sangam.

Bal Sangam provides the platform for young talent who have never got chance to show their talent and whose performances have never been witnessed at national level. Long Man, Rajasthani Puppet, Behroopiya, and Magician etc. are the

special attraction of the festival. Various types of art and craft workshops are also being conducted during the festival.

This year around 15 productions from 12 states are participating in the festival. Bhavesh Chau Nritye Kala Kendra Jharkhand will perform Kharsama Chaun Sholi, likewise Manipuri Folk by Thang-Ta Cultural Association Manipur, Rajasthani Lok Kala by Manganiar Group Rajasthan Rajasthan, Gotipua Dance by Aradhana Dance Academy Odisha, Bodo Folk by Sifung Harium Afad Assam, Oggudolu by Kunta Sadaiah Oggudolu Group Telangana, Kalarippayat by Hindustan Kalari Sangam Kerala, Punjabi Folk by Punjabi Folk Art Centre Punjab, Malvi Lok Nritye by Pratikalpa Sanskrit Sansthan Madhya Pradesh, Gujarati Folk Dance by Kalrav Sewa Trust Gujarat, Pasumukha (Animal Mask Dance), Kandhei Nata (Puppet Dance) Kothishala by Bichitra Barnali Natya Sansada Odisha, Tiwa by Tiwa Bhakha – Sanskriti Charcha Somittee Assam and Folk & Traditional Theatre performances will be Ram Vijay by Manjula Kalakendra Assam, “Gosian Pather” by National Bhand Theatre J & K, and Yakshagana Dance Drama by Yakshagana Kendra Karnataka.

The Bal Sangam festival is an ensemble of various performing traditional art forms presented by children, with the objective of encouraging children to continue traditional performances so as to preserve our cultural heritage in this rapidly changing world. The fanfare and hub of **Bal Sangam 2019** start from 9th November and goes on till 12th November 2019 at the New Delhi Campus of NSD at Bhagwandas Road. Timing- 4:00PM to 8:00PM. Entry to the event is free.

National School of Drama's 11th Bal Sangam to begin from 9th November



National School of Drama, the foremost theatre training institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India today announced the commencement of its much awaited **11th edition of Bal Sangam** from **9th-12th November 2019**, in its premises. The 11th edition of the festival will showcase enthralling folk & traditional performing Arts & folk Theatre from **12 states** of India dedicated to children.



Bal Sangam, an outreach programme of **Sanskaar Rang Toli (Theatre-in-Education Company)**, in every alternate year brings forth both the heritage and legacy of traditional art forms and performances that are presented by children belonging to traditional performing families, guru-paramparas, and

institutions across the country.

The four-day cultural mela will begin on November 9th, five days ahead of the Children's Day with an inaugural performance '**Rangoli'** by folk and traditional child artistes of India, choreographed by renowned choreographer Shri Bharat Sharma, who has an illustrious career spanning over three decades. The Festival also includes folk dance, martial arts, acrobatics, street play performances and also acts like juggling, puppetry and magic shows.

To encourage eagerness in children for traditional performances, states like Assam, Odisha, Rajasthan, Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Telangana, Kerela, Gujarat, Punjab, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh will bring to the fore the magic of folk performances and plays so that Indian cultural heritage will be preserved in this rapidly changing world.

Dr. Arjun Deo Charan, Acting Chairman, National School of Drama said, *"The festival is an ensemble of various performing traditional art forms that are presented by children. We are proud that the TIE Company has been working hard to make children know about their own culture, traditions and values,"*

Highlighting the importance of theatre and folk performances, **Shri Suresh Sharma, Director-in-Charge, National School of Drama** said *"Theatre and folk performances are a great learning medium for exploring and sensitizing children towards issues. Such activities and festivals are a wonderful platform to not just perform, but learn, travel, and share. NSD believes that theatre makes a person sensitive towards issues and an active participant of society as it boosts powers of communication. Theatre brings in all these qualities and if children are introduced to this wonderful, they become better human beings".*

Mr. Abdul Latif Khatana, Chief, Theatre-in-Education,

said, *“Bal Sangam is a confluence of folk and traditional art forms performed by children. When the child artistes imbibe these folk and traditional art forms with the mastery of their art and their innocence then the performance becomes magic.”*

NSD authorities will be making special arrangements through various NGOs working with underprivileged children and social organisations, to reach out and invite children from not so privileged class so as to give them the due privilege to experience and be enriched by this long awaited festival of National School of Drama for children.

There will also be various types of art and craft workshops during the festival from 9th–12th November.

About National School of Drama

National School of Drama is one of the foremost theatre training institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India. It’s an autonomous organization, fully financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Training in the School is highly intensive and is based on a thorough, comprehensive, carefully planned syllabus which covers every aspect of theatre and in which theory is related to practice.

About T.I.E. Co.

Sanskaar Rang Toli (T.I.E. Co.) of NSD was established on October 16, 1989, and completed 30 years of its existence. Sanskaar Rang Toli is the only theatre education resource centers in the country and has worked with around 20 thousand children till date in various workshops. It consists of a group of actor-teachers working with and performing for children. The major focus of the TIE Company is to perform creative, curriculum-based and participatory plays in schools, specially designed and prepared for children of different age groups.

The TIE Company has done more than 2000 performances in various parts of the country. More than 10 lakh children, apart from college students, teachers, parents and theatre lovers, have witnessed these plays in approximately all the states in the country as well as internationally such as Poland, China, Philippines and Japan.

The Toli began with an objective of bridging the gap between passive education and an active method of learning by doing through its performances of varied plays, Summer Theatre Workshops on self-development and social integration, Sunday Club for devising original performances with children, workshops with teachers on effective teaching-learning process. All these activities are practiced round the year as per the children's annual school calendar in Delhi and other parts of the country.

Sorry Mamma and Top Secret by Abdul Latif Khatana

The Plays
Sorry Mamma
In this play, the mother thinks that she is aware of her daughter and son's activities, whereas, on the other hand the children are thinking vice-versa.The things they see, listen and observe, affect them, and according to the provided stimulus, they react and act genuinely.

Top Secret
In the play,the landlord threatens Vicky's father toeither clear the rent that is due for last five monthsor vacate the house. Vicky's father has hardly earned anything in those five

months. Vicky gets deprived of going for a picnic from school. His school friends arrange money for Vicky. But the landlord asks Vicky's father to leave the house.
Director's NoteIn context of children as well as the dramatic world, we started with the five psycho-social developmental stages of childhood as explained by Erik H. Erikson. All the developing phases of childhood have a through line of super-speed action for a child to trace his/her journey on the scale of life with parents, family, neighbourhood, school, peers, friends and role models, before entering into adulthood. During this rushed journey into the unknown, the child develops the desired qualities of hope, will, purpose, competence and the virtue of staying true to others. All these ideas were explored on floor with practical exercises, tasks and improvisation in sub-groups, encouraging students to understand childhood on one hand and develop a creative working experience with all the members of the group on the other.

The Director & Playwright
Abdul Latif Khatana graduated from NSD in 1986 with specialisation in Acting. In addition to devising, writing and directing several plays that have been nationally and internationally performed, he has conducted numerous workshops on acting. He is the founder of Adabi Sangat(Kashmir) and the theatre group- Kirdar. He is a founder member and the Chief of NSD's Theatre-in-Education Company. He is credited with conceptualising and organising the company's first national theatre festival for children called 'Jashn-e-Bachpan', followed by another national festival, 'Bal Sangam', of folk and traditional performing arts by children. He has contributed in designing the theatre/drama syllabus of NCERT for classes 1 to 12. He has taught in various theatre institutions, colleges,
universities, and NGOs throughout the country and abroad. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of acting at NSD, Delhi besides looking after its TIE Company. The GroupThe

National School of Drama is a premier theatre institution imparting training in dramatic arts. It is an autonomous organization, fully financed by the Govt. of India. Over the year the school has progressed on various aspects of theatre including a rapid expansion of its activities in all part of the country. Under its outreach program the National School of Drama (T.I.E. Wing) Tripura started one-year certificate course in Theatre-in-Education on 9th August, 2012.

Cast & Credits

Sorry Mamma
Sushant : Samiran Brahma
Dinesh : Didwm Basumatary
Anand : Ankit Lohar
Riki : Rajat Singha
Rupa : Thokchom Roshni Devi
Mom : Haobam Hemlata Devi / Sharmistha Chakraborty
Teacher : Sharmistha Chakraborty

Top Secret
Vicky : Birendra Ganju
Mother : Dipika Dutta Mukherjee
Teacher : Dipika Dutta Mukherjee / Rupasree Debnath
Scrap Collection & Rocky : Kilang TemsuImsong / Raju Debnath
Father : Sonit Jyoti Saikia

Landlord & Champak : Binoytosh Ghosh / Rakesh Bora
Binto : G. Imotomba Sharma
Pinky : Ila Das
Assistant Director : Manik Roy
Designer : Babita Pandey
Music Director : Suneet Bora
Assistant Music : Surajit Debbarma
Choreography : Vikram Mohan
Light Design : G. Imotomba Sharma / ManojitDebroy
Light Operation : Manik Roy & G. Imotoba Sharma
Stage Manager : JayantaDey

Back Stage : Bansing Basumatary / UttamChakraborty / Pabitra Mashahary& Kajal Das

Programme Coordinator : Subir Roy
Assistant : Jagmohan Singh Negi
Camp Director : Vijai Kumar Singh
Playwright & Director : Abdul Latif Khatana