

# 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

Bora Monuj Saikia

Sakuntala

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

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