

# Ek Safar Parvaton Ke Aage by Gabriel Cousin

## The Play

Journey to the Mountain Beyond is based on a Japanese folklore, dramatized by Gabriel Cousin and opened in Paris in 1965. The play talks about the idiosyncrasies of the living conditions, as they still exist, in the so called under-developed countries, and the theme of hunger is introduced as a disparity to the a la mode scenario confronting mankind. This play was reckoned rather as a kind of a dramatic narrative. The self-destruction of O Rin in the play is shown as an exemplary idealism; refusing to accept degradation, but retaining control of her fate, and dying by a deliberate act of will.

## Director's Note

Like always, the whole process started with four-month long classes with the first year students. In the beginning it never seemed feasible to come up to this point. The faith and the mutual co-operation is always the uniting cause for us. I found the shades of sensibility that my students have, and how deeply they are connected with the cause and in a singularity. The play deals with a grave issue and is a universal appeal making the whole understanding process very challenging and way too imaginative. Pallav Singh, 2 nd year acting student, translated the English text as the rehearsals went on. Rather than a director's creation it is a collaborative output of the students. It is very overwhelming for me to think about their emotional attachment and efforts towards the play. I would like to express

my gratitude to Prof. Waman Kendre, Director NSD, for always prioritizing the effort of the students, and including this production in the 8 th Theatre Olympics.

## The Director

Dinesh Khanna graduated from the National School of Drama in 1986 and is currently an Associate Professor of Acting in NSD, Delhi. He is more of an artist than a director. He lives for his art and considers actors as a prominent tool of his creation. His passion for acting and its deeper understanding helps him to get the best out of them. The habit of voracious reading helps him to find untouched and divine topics to deal with. Staying far away from limelight, Dinesh has mastered various methodologies of acting, which eventually help his actors to flourish aesthetically. His production on Jim Morrison was highly acclaimed. Most of his creations have travelled across the continents.

### **The Playwright**

Gabriel Cousin, born on July 7, 1918 at Droué in the Loir-et-Cher, and died on February 19th, 2010 in Grenoble, was a French poet and playwright. He is the author of some 35 books including about fifteen plays and twenty books of poetry.

### **The Group**

National School of Drama is one of the foremost theatre training institutions in the world, and the only one of its kind in 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. As a part of their training, students are required to produce plays which are then performed before the public.

### **Cast & Credits**

Sutradhar Puneet, Anirban, Utsav

0 Rin Devika, Smriti, Ketaki, Rita, Sugandh Madhu

Tappei Saquib, Saurabh, Aamir, Vikash, Navdeep, Bobo

Shino Nikita

Kisakichi Meenu, Masood, Paalin

Fumiko Shilpa, Bhakti

Tamyan Silpi, Ipsita

Children Payal, Silpi

Ikomo Tribhuvan

Ikomos' Son Meenu

Gramin Bhuneshwar, Tribhuvan, Payal, Silpi, Meenu, Bhakti

Set & Costume Design Rajesh Bahl

Light Guidance Govind Yadav

Light Design Anirban & Nikita

Sound Design Masood & Paalin

Make-up Smriti & Sugandh

Brochure/Poster Tribhuvan, Nikita, Menu, Anirban & Bhakti

Costumes Assistance Saurabh, Ketaki & Sugandh

Set Assistance Navdeep, Bhuneshwar, Bobo, Ipsita, Madhu Meenu, Payal, Utsav

Floor Manager Vikash, Nikita

Stage Manager Saquib

Song Puneet, Rita, Devika, Utsav & Silpi

Playwright Gabriel Cousin

English Translation Gretchen R. Besser

Hindi Translation Pallav Singh

**Direction Dinesh Khanna**