

# Ravindra Tripathi's Play: Pehla Satyagrahi

Playwright: Ravindra Tripathy

Director: Suresh Sharma

Group: NSD Repertory Company, New Delhi

Language: Hindi

Duration: 1 hr 50 mins

## The Play

Pehla Satyagrahi is about the life and struggle of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, known as Mahatma Gandhi around the world. This is the story of Mohandas's journey of truth and non-violence as well as the story of the independence of India. He fought a political war for almost twenty years in South Africa and when he returned to India, he, through his non-violent crusades like Quit India movement, Champaran Satyagraha and Dandi March, made it difficult for the British government to rule India.

Gandhi had said, "My life itself is my message." What kind of life did the Mahatma lead, what were the challenges he faced, and what were the difficulties he encountered, is what we have attempted to express and showcase through this play. Gandhi's life is larger than life and his personality quite dramatic. He was a walking and fasting saint-politician. He was spiritual and religious. And his death too was dramatic.

## Director's Notes

While working on a production for the 150th birth anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, I thought of a play which brought to light incidents from his life about which we have often heard but haven't seen being presented earlier, and the younger generation of our country doesn't know about.

Ravindra Tripathy and I discussed this project. What finally emerged was a narration of the story through Sonia Schlesin, Mahadev Desai, Pyare Lal, Colin Bach and Joseph K. Dock. The

first three were associated with Gandhiji as his assistants, Joseph wrote Gandhiji's first biography, and Hermann Kallenbach was a very close friend.

I have to confess that one of the scenes in this play is fictitious (the creative liberty we are allowed to have). It is in the end where Gandhiji is interviewed by Gandhi and answers some unanswered questions to himself; the questions which till date are buried deep somewhere under the rubble of history.

The play is the story of the making of Mahatma from Gandhi. It isn't just history but also today's voice and necessity of being 'Swadeshi' and 'human'.

#### The Director

Suresh Sharma did PG diploma with specialization in Acting from National School of Drama in 1985.

In 1987-88 he established the only non-government repertory in the district of Mandi (Himachal Pradesh). From 1996-98 he worked as the Artistic Director of Sri Ram Centre for Performing Arts, Delhi. In 1998 he established the first non-government fully residential Theatre Academy in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. Mr. Sharma has been felicitated by Sahitya Kala Parishad. Sangeet Natak Academy awarded Mohana, a play written and directed by him, under the Young Director's Scheme.

#### Playwright

Ravindra Tripathy is a senior print and TV journalist, cultural critic, playwright, satirist, documentary film-maker, columnist and editor. Tripathy has directed two documentary films and scripted a popular news-satire show Pol-Khol for Star News and ABP News. He is currently associated with Swaraj TV as consultant. He was awarded Sahityakar Samman by Hindi Akademi, Delhi in 2001.

#### The Group

Established in 1964 with just four members, the Repertory Company of NSD is the regular performing wing of the school.

It was set up with the dual purposes of establishing professional theatre on one hand and continuing with regular experimental work on the other. Over the years it has produced a variety of plays ranging from stylized musicals to realistic contemporary Indian drama to translations and adaptations of foreign plays. In addition, several eminent persons of national and international repute have worked with the Company, and it has performed over one hundred and eighty one plays by ninety-eight playwrights and has worked with ninety directors. Quite a few of its actors have emerged as celebrities in theatre, cinema and television. The Company has toured extensively in India and abroad.

#### Cast & Credits

Gandhi-1 Shanawaz Khan

Gandhi-2 Raju Roy

Mahadev Deep Kumar

Pyare Lal Parag Baruah

Sonia Schlesin Aparna Menon

Meer Alam Rahul Kumar

Attendant/Duda Bhai/ Muslim Sikandra Kumar

Train Officer, Kallenbach Shubham Pareek

Mr. Duke Jitu Rabha

Rajkumar Shukla Ashutosh Banerjee

Aabha Ben/ Dani Ben Suman Purty

Manu Ben Anamika Sagar

Sushila Ben Sakshi Sharma

Kasutrba Gandhi Shruti Mishra

Brij Kishore Vishveshvar M. Gondhali

Multi-Character (Female) Sampa Mandal

Multi-Character (Male) Naveen Singh Thakur

Chorus Sampa Mandal, Sikandra Kumar, Aparna Menon, Rahul Kumar,

Sakshi Sharma, Shubham Pareek, Ashutosh Banerjee, Anamika Sagar,

Virendra Singh, Snehalata S. Tagde, Suman Purty, Manish Dubey, Vishveshvar M. Gondhali, Jitu Rabha, Palak Jasrotia

Set Design Rajesh Bahl  
Set Execution Ram Pratap, Manoj Kumar, Brijesh Sharma  
Light Design & Operation Govind Singh Yadav  
Assistance Md. Suleman, Pradeep Aggarwal  
Costume Design C.S. Bhatia  
Costume Coordinator Sampa Mandal, Anamika Sagar  
Sound Operation Mukesh Kumar  
Sound Design Rajesh Singh  
Properties In-charge Moti Lal Khare  
Video Design Sourav Poddar  
Music Kajal Ghosh  
Tabla Om Prakash  
Harmonium Naveen Singh Thakur  
Key Board Kishore Kumar Malhotra  
Flute Anurag Sharma  
Sitar Matluf Husain  
Tabla, Percussion Pankaj Banai  
Dholak Sanjeev Kumar  
Make-up Sikandra Kumar, Shruti Mishra  
Assistance All Repertory Artists  
Stage Manager Govind Singh Yadav  
Production Coordinator Sukumar Tudu  
Special Thanks for  
Dance Choreography Bharat Sharma  
Associate Director Pravin Kumar Gunjan

Playwright Ravindra Tripathy  
Design & Direction Suresh Sharma

#### Contacts

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# Plaban Basus' Play: Jamila

Playwright & Director: Plaban Basu

Group: Moulali Rangashilpi, Kolkata

Language: Hindi

Duration: 2 hrs 10 mins

## The Play

It becomes an obsession with young Syed, a painter, to paint the portraits of his lady love, Jamila.

By a strange quirk of fate, Jamila arrives at Syed's hillside village as a bride of Sadiq, Syed's elder brother. Everyone takes it for a case of love marriage, which it is not. Defeated by Jamila in a horse-cart race, Sadiq abducts and forcibly marries and brings her to the house. Jamila tries her level best to reconcile with the situation by being dutiful to all the members of her newly acquired family. But her self-respect gets wounded at every step. The responsibility of selling crops falls upon Jamila's shoulder in a nearby market. There she meets a meek and outwardly weak person, Daniar, and discovers a strong sense of self-dignity in his character. A new chapter of life unfolds itself heralding the dawn of a new journey for Jamila.

## Director's Note

To me Jamila is not just a play, it is a journey of self-search, not just Jamila's but of all the oppressed women out there. As a director I faced several challenges from this novel. The story is written in such a way that it has a lot of cinematic elements. So to build a play was a big challenge. Jamila, for me, is a story of redemption, liberation of love from social bondage. It is a play about a woman's struggle to earn the freedom to express her love. Therefore to be able to work as the director of this play was truly a rewarding

experience and an accomplishment.

### The Director & Playwright

Plaban Basu is an actor and theatre director who is active in media as well. He is a science graduate and practices martial art. In 2004, he formed a theatre group Rangashilpi. Plaban has worked with eminent directors like Usha Ganguly, Tim Supple, Habib Tanvir, Abanti Chakraborty, Kanhaiya Lal, Biplob Bandyopadhyay, Maloy Roy and many others. Plaban has also been working with children at railway stations and streets and with people with disabilities. He has written and directed plays focused on the rights of disabled children and on various other human rights. He has also acted in several Bengali and Hindi serials and films.

### The Group

Rangashilpi was established in August 2004. In the past 15 years the group has experienced a journey of Bengali & Hindi productions of theatre, either on the streets or on stage, and concerning various subject matters ranging from social issues, factual facts of history, to the fragrance of folk culture.

The group has restlessly engaged in theatre workshops with disabled women, railway workers, schools, street children and village youth. Rangashilpi has been working with various non-government organisations, to improve their mental and social condition through theatre. Rangashilpi organizes regular events like Mukho Mukhi, Musafirana and Salam Safder to sustain the cultural practice. Rangashilpi productions have been staged successfully at various prestigious festivals.

### Cast & Credits

#### On Stage

Sushil Kanti, Ashok Chakroborty, Bimal Chandra Dey, Partha Sarathi Basu, Shakti Chakroborty, Tarun Kumar Nath, Subanti Banerjee, Dalia Pramanick, Shraboni Bonik, Ruposree Majumdar, Kathanjali Pramanick, Suchandra Bhattacharyay, Sabaree Sen, Bishwabandhu Choudhury, Saibal Sarkhel, Writtick Basak, Madhusudan Dhar, Saikat Roy, Shanta Swarup Mukherjee, Ritabrato Naskar

Light Operator	Sashankha Mondal
Music Operator	Biswajit Biswas
Light Assistant	Brindaban Das
Make-up	Pijush Ghosh Choudhury

Story	Chingiz Aitmatov
Playwright & Director	Plaban Basu

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# Vasant Deo's Play: Sudama ke Chawal

Playwright: Vasant Deo  
Director: Jagdish Sharma  
Group: Anveshan Theatre Group, Sagar (M. P.)  
Language: Hindi & Bundeli  
Duration: 1 hr 10 mins

## The Play

Lord Krishna's friend Sudama Sharma and his wife Savitri are living a difficult life of poverty. Sudama's wife urges him to go to Dwarka and seek Krishna's help. Sudama goes to Dwarka. On hearing of Sudama's arrival, Krishna leaves his throne and runs towards his friend and embraces him. Sudama receives great hospitality in Dwarka and after a while Krishna bids him farewell but without offering any help. Angry Sudama gets back

home to find that his hut is transformed into a palace now and his house is filled with riches. On asking his wife as to how this happened, she tells him that Lord Krishna appeared himself and gave them this prosperity. Sudama has many doubts and expresses his distrust. What next...?

The purpose of this play is to convey a contemporary version of the legendary tale, and not to undermine the pleasure that it is supposed to bring you.

### Director's Note

Sudama Ke Chawal is a narrative of the contemporary human situation and is a satire on today's man, his double standards and polluted mind. The age old tale and its characters have been used only as reference. The protagonist of the play is Krishna who cries at the sight of poor Sudama, his childhood friend. Krishna is an epitome of friendship and his love for Sudama is exemplary. Krishna does not appear on stage but he pervades the play throughout. Sudama of this play is used as a medium to convey the hypocritical human of today. The language of the play is Hindi, blended with Bundeli, and the performance is made richer with the blend of Bundeli folk songs and Dhimariya, a traditional folk dance.

### The Director

Born on 20 Jun 1965, Jagdish Sharma has been active in theatre for more than 25 years. He formed Anveshan Theatre Group in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh in 1992. He has been an actor and director of this group. Some of his popular productions are Andha Yug, Sudama Ke Chawal, Bhagam-Bhag, Aadhe-Adhure etc. Jagdish has worked with the famous film director Shyam Benegal. He has acted in many TV serials and written scripts for a few street plays and the film Acharya.

### The Playwright

Prof. Vasant Deo was a teacher by profession and had taught for many years at Bundelkhand University, Jhansi. During this period he wrote scripts in Hindi blended with Bundeli. Sudama Ke Chawal was written sometime in the 90s. Strangely enough,



even after a lot of search, his whereabouts today are not known.

### The Group

Anveshan Theatre Group was established in Sagar (M.P.) in 1992. In the past 26 years Anveshan has not only produced plays but has also organised many theatre festivals, workshops, seminars and conferences. It has organised production based workshops with renowned thespians like B.V. Karanth, Habib Tanvir, Govind Namdeo, Sunil Sinha, Mukesh Tiwari and Ishtiaq Arif Khan. The group has performed in numerous theatre festivals at Bhopal, Jabalpur, Balaghat, Indore, Ujjain, Khajuraho, Delhi, Chandigarh etc. The artists of Anveshan are now serving in prestigious institutions in different parts of the country. Many of them have established themselves in films, journalism, theatre and other fields.

### Cast & Credits

Sudama	Jagdish Sharma
Savitri	Deepganga Sahu
Dwarpal 1	Atul Shrivastava
Dwarpal 2	Manoj Soni
Dwarpal 3	Kapil Nahar
Shadow Play	Nitin Dubey, Rishabh Saini
Folk Songs & Dance	Liladhar Raikvaar
Instrumentalists	Amar Raikvaar, Khemchand
Sen, Ranjeet Raikvaar	
Scenography	Rajeev Jat, Satish Sahu
Lights	Santosh Dangi, Akash
Vishwakarma	
Sound	Praveen Kaimya
Make-up	Karishma Gupta
Playwright	Vasant Deo
Direction	Jagdish Sharma

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# **Saras Kumar Namdeo's Play: Infinite Walk**

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

Director: Saras Kumar

Text: Deeksha, Salim, Sneha, Suman, Saras, Yashaswini

Group: NSD Students' Diploma Production, New Delhi

Language: Hindi

Duration: 45 mins

## **The Play**

The play begins with the evolution of human beings, their emotions and their relationship with the five elements, and later the mechanization overpowering the human beings. It focuses on the life of mine-workers, their miserable living conditions, and their fight for basic rights. It is the story of Dana, his wife Aamti, and their friends. The mine-workers are working in the mine without any safety equipment, masks, or any support of an ambulance; in short at the cost of their lives. The play also highlights the power game of the elite over the working class, the continuous pressure from those with power over the stagnant social and economic life of the working-class, and finally a small volcanic step generated from this pressure.

## Director's Note

As a student of Direction, my intent to do this play was to find out the relationship between the logic and the emotions in humans. I inferred that the two are parallel banks of the same river. Working with the actors was the interesting part of this production for me as a student of Direction, and as a human being. It was very hard to take the directorial decisions.

The production is in three parts. Coal mining began with the purpose and need of energy generation, but the same coal verily became a cause of death. Illegal mining took the life of many people and created medical conditions in the workers. An ambulance can save a life, and a casualty can turn one into a rebel.

The dead body of an exploited worker shows the brutal nature of this society. Data on the internet can arouse either sympathy or anger. But a meaningful data transfer done on time can save a life. Technology works on logic and human emotion today is dependent on the logic being applied at the right place and at the right time.

## The Director

Saras Kumar graduated from the National school of Drama with specialisation in Direction (2016-2019). He has directed a few plays viz. Accidental Death of Anarchist, Trishanku, Mann Laga Kar, and Infinite Walk, and written some short stories like Ghaas, Kal and Guinea Pig. He has also directed two short films Five Rupees and Gumshuda, and assisted in two feature films Chausar Firangi and Meri Nimmo. Saras has worked under renowned directors like Anuradha Kapur, Neelam Mansingh, M.K. Raina, Ranjit Kapoor, Deepan Sivaraman Etc.

## The Playwrights

The text of the play has been prepared by Deeksha, Salim, Sneha, Suman, Saras, Yashaswini. All are students National School of Drama's batch of 2019.

## The Group

This play is a part of National School of Drama's graduate showcase of class 2019. It aims to provide a platform to encourage emerging theatre practitioners to share their work with a wider audience.

#### Cast & Credits

Aamti	Ashwini Joshi
Aabid	Jitu Rabha
Woman 1	Sejuti Bagchi
Ghisu	Salim Mulla
Manager	Sayan Sarkar
Daughter	Snehlata Tagde
Activist	Suman Purty/ Yashaswini R

Costume	Sejuti Bagchi
Lyrics	Salim Mulla
Song Composition	Sayan Sarkar
Sound	M Sunil Singh
Video Operation	Balasubramanian G
Set Execution /	
Lights Design & Operation	Sarthak Narula
Special Thanks to	Asgar Chacha, Rizwaan, Murjim,
Aas Mohammad, Taqmir	

Guidance	Anuradha Kapur, Abhilash Pillai, Neelam Mansingh, Shantanu Bose, Vishala R Mahale
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Text	Deeksha, Salim, Sneha, Suman, Saras, Yashaswini
Concept & Direction	Saras Kumar Namdeo

#### Contacts

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

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# 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

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# 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

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# **Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry's Play: Gumm Hai**

Director: Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry

Group: The Company Theatre, Chandigarh

Language: Hindi

Duration: 1 hr 15 mins

## **The Play & Director's Note**

The play Gumm Hai has been sourced from many references including The Seven Stages of Grieving, a performance text by Wesley Enoch and Deborah Mailman, and Anuradha Kapur's play Nali Wali Larki.

The story begins with a child going missing in a village, and examines how an inexplicable loss irrevocably changes the dynamics within a family and the community. The varied skeins of narratives were dovetailed to examine and understand grief, loss, death, human affirmation and survival. This play was a way of engaging with the world, dealing with lost memories, and retrieval and archiving of these memories through performance and storytelling. The plays recurring leitmotif follows Pinki, a young girl of eleven who has gone missing from her village for two months. It portrays the broader, more abstract idea of something precious that has been lost, never to return. The narrative follows the experience of 'everywoman', chronicling her worldly grief and joys. This devised performance draws from traditional, popular and contemporary cultural practices, resorting fundamentally to the storytelling techniques that include song, dance and real

life issues. Loss here is not communicated conventionally, but in an ironical, humorous and irreverent manner. However, despite the stories dealing with a subject that can be considered dark and brooding, the dominant atmosphere is one of affirmation, dance and song and sharing of stories. The overall tenor is the resilience and strength of the human condition i.e. the instinct for survival.

During the process of putting the play together, we tried to juggle the role of the storyteller, the actor and the social commenter. We made no attempt to preach, judge or invoke any feeling of rancor on either the human or social condition, but to seek a human connection between the personal and the public.

Whenever one develops something new, whether it is an agglomeration of memories, anecdotes, songs, poems or personal or historical experiences, the aim is to uncover or discover the 'internal logic' of what appears to be a set of random, disjointed ideas. In this instance, the effort has simply been to tell a story within several stories, all coalesced together, to create a story of one's own.

### The Director

NSD alumnus, Dr. Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry has a master's degree in the History of Arts. In 1976 she moved to Mumbai where she worked in schools and colleges, doing theatre workshops and children's theatre. In 1979, she moved to Bhopal and was associated with Rang Mandal, a theatre repertory attached to the multi-arts complex, Bharat Bhavan. In 1984, she came to Chandigarh where she set up her own theatre group, The Company. Along with international teaching assignments, she has also been teaching in the Department of Indian Theatre, Punjab University since 1990. Under her guidance the group has participated in major national and international festivals. Dr. Chowdhry is the recipient of several awards including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Shiromani Bhasa Vibhag, Ford Foundation Award, and the Padma Shri which she received in 2011.

## The Group

When Dr. Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry formed her own group, The Company in 1984 in Chandigarh, she was looking for a vocabulary for training urban actors in traditional forms that were available in Punjab. The Naqqal tradition, through which she explored her work, belonged to rural Punjab and did not have a well-developed theatrical tradition in terms of aesthetics, technique and style. By working with the natives for the last twenty-eight years, along with urban actors, a way of working has emerged which combines, through fusion and differences, a new way of looking at history, performance space, image and text. Most of the plays produced by The Company have been translated by the eminent poet Surjit Patar, with music composed by BV Karanth.

## Cast & Credits

On Stage	Mahesh Saini,
Davinder Pal Singh, Surinder Arora, Chaman Lal,	Ambika Kamal,
Gursewak, Gurnam	

Singer	Pamela Singh
Musicians	Satnam, Meher
Chand, Amarjit, Bhadur Chand, Ram Singh	
Light Designer	Daulat Ram Vaid
Associate Director	Vansh Bhardwaj

Director	Neelam Mansingh
Chowdhry	

## Contacts

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