

Jashnebachpan: Puberty



Puberty

Director: Sachithra Rahubadda

Group: Red Apple International Theatre Gathering, Sri Lanka

Language: Non-Verbal

Duration: 45 Minutes

About the Group

Red Apple Theatre Gathering seeks to develop appreciative skills in youth and children to create a new dimension in theatre while finding new methodology. It has received the highest award in Sri Lanka at the State Drama Festival twice. This year Red Apple Theatre Gathering has participated in the National Children's Drama Festival. It will now be participating in the Colombo International Drama Festival, Kathmandu International Children's Drama Festival, and Jashn - e- Bachpan International Children's Theatre Festival, held by National School of Drama, Delhi, India.

About the Play

This is the story of the journey of a sperm and an ova. They get together and make a child. Be it a girl or a boy, the sperm and ova do not discriminate – same power, same energy and same hope. Just a different gender in the world. And then?

Pink for the girl and blue for the boy which they never ask; car for the boy and doll for the girl which also they never ask. We divide them. We make different laws and rules for each. Then comes puberty!

In Sri Lanka we care so much about our 'nationality', but do not care about the nation of our girls. As an Asian country, our society is concerned more about the virginity of girls than the girls themselves, more about their discipline than their life, love or hope. Puberty makes it worst. This play talks about the difference in the life journey of a baby girl and a baby boy.

Director

Sachithra Rahubadda is an active director of children and youth theatre in Sri Lanka. He began his study of theatre at school. He began producing plays while still in school and later did a Diploma course in Drama and Theatre at the Institute of Sinhala culture, and then a Diploma in Script writing and Communication at the University of Sri Jayawardenapura. He obtained his BA degree in Drama and Theatre from the University of Kaleniya. He conducts workshops and stage shows in schools around the country, as a result of which Red Apple Theatre Gathering was founded. He gives the children and youth of Sri Lanka necessary training and makes all the effort to bring their talents forth. Many of his students are contributing in many creative fields throughout the country.

Director's Note

Children's world is totally different from that of the adults. It is difficult to understand them. Our interpretation of children's imagination can be erroneous. Puberty reveals the modern children – instant and innovative. But with roots that are cultural and social. Within the Asian cultural background, life circle of two new born children is the theme of the play. The structure of the production is modern, choreographic, non-verbal and musical.

Cast & Credits

On Stage

Jayawardhana Pedige Yeshmi Thakshila Madhumali Jayawardhana, Samarasinghe Dhanushka, Sooriyaarachchige Nadun Tharanga, Dewathanthri Arachchige Tharindu Madusanka, Ambanwala Gedara Chandima Lakmali Sirinayake, Ilandari Pedige Jeewan Madusanka Kumara

Off Stage

Ilandari Pedige Janaka Sumith Kumara, Samarasinghe Vithana Pathirannahelage Chana Thushsari, Koralegama Hewage Ruwan Chandana

Direction **Sachithra Rahubadda**

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Jashnebachpan: Ichhapuran



Ichhapuran

Writer: Rabindranath Tagore

Director: Rajesh Bakshi

Group: Theatre Actor Studio, Delhi

Language: Hindi

Duration: 1 hr

About the Group

Theatre Actor Studio has been participating in children's workshops for a long time now. Rajesh Bakshi, the founder of this group, has been directing these workshops for the last 10 years. Some of the group's important productions are Ichhapuran (Rabindranath Tagore), Kalakar (Phanishwar Nath Renu), Paazeb (Jainendra Kumar), Wizard of Oz (adapted by Bharti Dang) etc. Some of the short plays directed by Rajesh Bakshi are Savdhani Hi Suraksha, Rishi Ki Seekh, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Nasha Mukti, Say No to Crackers, Sadak Yatayat Ke Niyam, Shiksha, Changu-Mangu, Ghogha Sant etc. Rajesh Bakshi has long been associated with Hindi Akademi, Sahitya Kala Parishad, Shri Ram Centre, Udyan Orphan Trust, Yuva Sanstha, Ayam Sansthan and Dramabaaz Company.

About the Play

The play is about a father and son who wish to live each other's life. Devi Ichhapuran grants them their wish but living each other's age, joys and sorrows becomes unbearable

for both.

Director

Rajesh Bakshi has acted in more than 45 plays and participated in many cultural theatre festivals including Bharat Rang Mahotsav, Nandikar Rang Mahotsav, Bharatendu Natya Utsav, Bharat Muni Rang Mahotsav, Sarang Rang Mahotsav, Uttar Pradesh Sanskritik Mahotsav, IPTA Rashtriya Utsav etc. He has 12 years of experience in teaching theatre. He has conducted many theatre workshops for children with organisations like Hindi Akademi, Dramabaaz, Multivalent, Ayam, CCRT etc. Some of the plays directed by him are Jasma Oden (folk play), Aankh Micholi, Doosra Admi – Doosri Aurat, and Ila.

Director's Note

Childhood, with its restless playfulness, can be understood only with love and intelligence, whereas adulthood brings not only independence but also responsibility along with it. To make this story written by Rabindranath Tagore, more interesting and meaningful, a few of Tagore's poems and another story by him 'Vidhyarthi Ki Pariksha' have been incorporated.

Cast & Credits

On Stage

Mrinalini Jindal, Aman Sharma, Vikrant Sharma, Jitesh Sharma, Olive Jain, Eshna Jain, Nandika Chadda, Gurjas Bhatia, Samaira Grover, Shivaye Madan, Diva Gandhi, Yuvraj Mavi, Maya Parashar, Saksham Gupta, Saksham Parashar, Ragav Mehta, Siya Singh, Ananaya Mukerjee, Rahul Mukherjee, Samarth Girotra, Yatharth Gaurav Gupta, Ayam Sharma, Sneha Chaubey, Dattatreya Buddhiraja Haldar, Ira Jasuja. Naisha Prem, Dipti Purohit, Mahua Aggarwal

Off Stage

Music

Bharti Dang

Music Operator

Garima Arya

Property in-charge

Aman, Vikrant, Jitesh, Narendra

Light Design

Make-up

Choreography

Costume

Creative Input

Special Thanks

Rahul Chauhan

Narendra Kumar

Vikram Mohan

Yashasvini Bose

Bharti Dang

Dramabaaz Company & Garima Arya

Playwright

Rabindranath Tagore

Design & Direction

Rajesh Bakshi

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Jashnebachpan: How Cow Now Cow



How Cow Now Cow

Director: Vinod Ravindran

Group: Sandbox Collective, Bangalore

Language: English

Duration: 1hr

About the Group

Sandbox Collective is a creative services organisation that curates, produces and tours performances. It acts as a catalyst facilitating meaningful collaborations nationally and internationally between artists, cultural agencies and arts spaces creating an explosion of innovative artistic expression.

About the Play

Rosamma the Cow is fast turning into an unbearable pain. She scolds, rants and raves, and makes life miserable for all the other animals on the beautiful farm. Find out what happens to Rosamma when she's sent off to a mysterious country far, far away. A group of actors combine storytelling, object theatre, and shadow puppetry to tell a compelling tale of patience, love, adventure, and imagination.

Director

Vinod Ravindran has worked in the theatre in various capacities. He started his career in theatre with B. Jayashree's Spandana Theatre in Bangalore. As an actor he has worked with directors like B. Jayashree, Atul Kumar, Ajay Krishnan, Manav Kaul, Abhishek Majumdar, Kirtana Kumar and Sachin Gurjale. He wrote and directed Somewhat like a Balloon which opened at the Jagriti Curtain Raisers 2013, he wrote and directed Raja Tantra Choo Mantra, a play for children which opened at the AHA, Ranga Shankara International Theatre Festival for children. He also directed Ajay Krishnan's Touching and Moving.

Director's Note

Stories are everywhere and everyone has a story... and we can tell stories together. What worked most importantly for us

about How Cow Now Cow is the simplicity of the story. We wanted to work on this play in a way that it leaves enough space for our audience to have questions and thoughts. That is what keeps us excited about this play. We are often asked questions about the play that we ourselves have never thought about. We used common every-day household objects to bring the story to life. The play uses a now archaic technology of the overhead projector (OHP). The rudimentary nature of the OHP technology and the physical interaction that is required to bring images to life is the kind of rawness that we wanted in the play.

Cast & Credits

On Stage

Anirudh Mahesh

Shweta Desai

Vinod Ravindran

Off Stage

Light Design and Execution Parthasarathi S

Producers

Sandbox

Collective

Direction

Vinod Ravindran

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Jashnebachpan: She Stood Up



She Stood Up

Writer & Director: Zubin Mehta

Group: Wings Theatre Academy & Vivek High School, Chandigarh

Language: English, Hindi & Punjabi

Duration: 1 hr 25 mins

About the Group

Wings Theatre Academy was established in 2012. The aim of the academy was to give a platform to the students in and around Chandigarh, whereby they could hone their skills, grow as individuals, and work constantly to grow the faculties of their mind, while simultaneously opening up the world of theatre to a city still in the process of finding its pulse. The academy is currently 150 students strong, all of whom are in the age group of 7 to 30 yrs. The academy has staged over 20 annual plays in the last six years.

About the Play

She Stood Up, directed by Zubin Mehta, focuses on different aspects of school life. The story is about two girls who despite having different personalities and backgrounds come together, become good friends, and take little steps of courage to change people's perspectives. They empower girls

through a soccer match. It is a very simple, realistic and relatable story which comes with a strong message of motivation and courage to stand up for what is right, and of breaking gender stereotypes from an early age. While highlighting the above, it has light, innocent and humorous moments for the audience to enjoy. This play was devised with a lot of inputs and ideas from the young actors who come from various schools in and around Chandigarh. The cast of the play comprises entirely of children between the ages of 8 and 11 years, who have been training with Wings Theatre Academy at Vivek High School, over the last few years.

Director

Zubin Mehta, started his theatre journey at the age of 8 as a child artist. He travelled extensively to the interiors of Punjab to perform plays based on socially relevant topics, using theatre as a medium of social reform. In 2004 at the age of nineteen, Zubin was appointed as a theatre teacher by Yadavindra Public School, Mohali to establish a dramatics society which later became a part of the curriculum. During his tenure, he directed school productions, worked with children of various age groups and developed content for theatre workshops. In 2012, he founded Wings Theatre Academy. He has worked with more than 3000 actors – children, adolescents and young adults.

Director's Note

The movement of Woman Empowerment has been gaining momentum in our country in the last decade, but we are still dealing with the horrors of Nirbhaya and Kathua. The real empowerment should happen at a young age. It is the young girls that we need to empower to make a significant difference. She Stood Up was devised with 45 students from 6 years to 12 years of age, studying in different schools of Chandigarh. We started the rehearsals with the wish to do something for young girls, but what and how, we had no idea. I sat with my young cast for the first few days and just explored the idea with them. I tried

to gauge what was it that they wanted to share on the subject, what empowerment meant to these young children. Brainstorming happened for the next few days and we had the outline of our story with us. It was a simple story of a young girl fighting with the school authorities for something that she thought was her right.

Cast & Credits

On Stage

Chamanlal	Eklavya Mogla
Satish	Aditya Goyal
Saurabh	Anhad Mogla
Sandhu Sir	Kanwardeep Singh
Pranay's father	Kevinpratap Singh Sidhu
Ravi Bhaiya	Aarav Joshi
Lata	Kashish Aggarwal
Pooja	Ridhi Ahluwalia
Promila	Navika Singh
Ria	Saira Mamik
Birso	Paakhii
Principal	Hiral Thakur
Mrs Subramaniam	Aahana Gupta
Mrs Chaddha	Simer Suri
Miss Negi	Kashish Dhingra
Mrs Misra	Dia Lekhi
Mrs Shergill	Rabbani Lehal
School Nurse	Ishrat
Sunny Singh	Abhaydeep Singh
Aakash	Angad Singh Tur
Gurfateh	Inderpal Singh
Pinky Singh	Pranit Singh
Umang Shankar	Adhiraj Sehgal
Pranay	Dev Pannu
Raghav Jain	Samay
Param	Sumeir Ahluwalia
Seerat	Saanvi Kanwar
Pallavi	Mishika Singh

Kaveri	Aanvi Bahri
Mili Mittal	Sohaya Aulakh
Pavni Chaddha	Aaina Chaddha
Jhanvi Goyal	Mannat Verma
Priya Chauhan	Inayat Dhingra
Mrs Verma	Kashvi Wadhwa
School children	Sidak Singh Talwar, Navya Singhal,
Vaanya Pathak,	
Rehmat Sandhu, Brinda Thamman, Meher Kumar, Sarah Setia,	
Nikasha Luthra	

Off Stage

Assistant Director	Namita Chandhoke
Overall Coordination	Amrita Patti & Dashveen Kaur
Light Design & Execution	Zubin Mehta
Set Design	Zubin Mehta
Background Music	Manav Bhinder
Costumes	Amrita Patti, Dashveen
Kaur	
Make-up	Balaji
Backstage Assistance	Puneet
Produced by	Wings Theatre Academy,
Vivek High School, Chandigarh	

Playwright,

Design & Direction

Zubin Mehta

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Jashnebachpan : Dry Leaf



Dry Leaf

Director: Agung Gunawan

Group: Sampang Agung Centre for Performing Arts (SACPA), Indonesia

Language: Javanese

Duration: 1 hr

About the Group

Sampang Agung Centre for Performing Arts (SACPA) is located at Pelem village in East Java (Indonesia). The centre strives for the preservation of Javanese cultural heritage and traditions, and its members are committed to further exploration on new artistic ways of expression submerged within such heritage and also the contemporary arts. SACPA's performers (known as Breathing Forest Dance Theatre) have been recognised by the unique movements in the choreography of their performances inspired by the day to day movements of the village and the interactions of humans, animals, spirits and nature. 'Whiffling of the Forest Gamelan Ensemble' is a music group formed in 2015 at SACPA. Under the direction and mentorship of the established musician and composer, Johan Adiyatma Baktiar, the ensemble offers distinctive and theatrical Javanese gamelan based music.

About the Play

A fallen leaf never hates the wind. It falls itself as it does. Never against anything, there is only sincere acceptance and surrender. Wisdom offered by the harmony of the four elements of nature – Fire, Wind, Water, and Earth – shapes the expressions and characters in the body. Nature as a human being sometimes becomes the axis of problems, while nature quietly and permanently creates peace. Lessons from the fallen leaf to understand peace – whenever it should fall it falls, whatever makes it fall, it lets it do so, and wherever it takes off, the leaf will not complain and accept what God gives.

Director

Born in 1971, Agung Gunawan is a renowned and established dancer, artistic director, choreographer and vocalist. Since the beginning of his career in 2006 as an independent solo dancer and choreographer, he has worked with many multi-disciplinary artists, in companies and projects both inside and outside Indonesia.

He was a founder and artistic director of the Arts Island Festival from 2010 to 2014, and of Pelem Festival since 2016. His motivation to create the festivals was a manifestation of his conviction that “If they are not accessible to the poor, the arts are neither innovative nor revolutionary”. This belief has been the pillar of his daily practice. Currently, he is based in the rural village in East Java, as a co-director of SACPA, and a choreographer of ‘Breathing Forest Dance Theatre’ while continuously touring numerous countries for performances and projects.

Director’s Note

After having undergone years of intensive training and performances as a Yogyakarta classical court dancer in Indonesia, I moved to the country side in East Java, named Pelem village in 2008. At first, I felt that traditional dance and theatre performance in the village had not been refined and was edgy. However, it struck me that their dance was full

of energy, intensity and power of human creativity of arts. I sat in the forest for hours, searching for the meaning of the relationship between art and life, myself and nature, and nature and local people – now our people. A leaf is such a symbolic and artistic metaphor for me – it grows, and turns brown, and falls as it is. It is such a simple, peaceful life which casts a question to me. What is it behind the last moment of the leaf, not complaining and in total surrender? How does this relate to us, human beings?

Cast & Credits

On Stage

Performers (Breathing Forest Dance Theatre)

Anes Ayu Pratiwik

Ariesta Maharani

May Widhiyastuti

Yasinta Wenda Mulasari

Fitria Dania Julianti

Umi Royani

Very Muharyanti

Windiasari

Musicians (Whiffling of the Forest Gamelan Ensemble)

Anang Setiawan

Aryasa Yusuf Pratama

Deasylina da Ary

Diana Nur Hayati

Johan Adiyatma Baktiar

Anik Puji Rahayu

Agung Gunawan

Off Stage

Operation Manager Takashi Takiguchi

Production Assistant Kien Fei Lee

Design & Direction Agung Gunawan

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