

**Vanhans & Six Seasons
Launched Together at NSD
Under 'Shruti' During Bharat
Rang Mahotsav 2026**



In a remarkable literary moment at the National School of Drama, two significant works – *Vanahans* and *Six Seasons* – were jointly launched under the prestigious ‘Shruti’ segment of Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2026.

The books were formally released by the Director of the National School of Drama, **Chittaranjan Tripathy**, in the presence of eminent theatre personalities and literature enthusiasts.

***Vanhans* – Dakshina Sharma's Assamese Adaptation of Ibsen**

Vanhans is an Assamese adaptation of **Henrik Ibsen's** celebrated play **The Wild Duck**, translated and reimagined by **Dakshina Sharma**.

Dakshina Sharma is a dynamic contemporary theatre practitioner – an accomplished actor, director, playwright, and translator. Over the years, she has consistently worked toward building a meaningful dialogue between Indian languages and world literature.

What distinguishes her work is her deep sensitivity to text. She does not merely translate words; she recreates emotional landscapes. In *Vanhans*, she carefully retains the psychological depth, symbolic layers, and cultural tensions of Ibsen's complex dramaturgy, while making it organically accessible to Assamese readers and audiences.

Adapting Ibsen – a playwright known for his intricate psychological realism – into Assamese was undoubtedly a formidable task. Speakers at the event acknowledged that Sharma's scholarly engagement, linguistic precision, and refined theatrical sensibility have made this ambitious endeavour a resounding success.

Guest speaker Parag Samarah particularly praised *Vanhans*, noting that the adaptation preserves the soul of the original while speaking authentically to Assamese sensibilities. He

also read selected excerpts in Assamese, allowing the audience to experience the lyrical strength and dramatic resonance of the text firsthand.

***Six Seasons* – Bhaskar Chandra Mahapatra**

The second book launched on the occasion was *Six Seasons*, written in English by noted Odia playwright **Bhaskar Chandra Mahapatra**.

Speakers described *Six Seasons* as a reflection of the expanding multilingual canvas of Indian theatre writing. By choosing English as his medium, Mahapatra situates regional sensibilities within a wider literary framework, reinforcing the evolving and interconnected nature of contemporary Indian dramaturgy.

A Celebration of Multilingual Indian Theatre

This joint launch stood as a powerful testament to the spirit of Indian theatre – where languages are not barriers but bridges.

Under the vibrant platform of Bharat Rang Mahotsav, the confluence of a Norwegian classic reimaged in Assamese and an English play by an Odia dramatist symbolised the creative dialogue between global literature and Indian linguistic traditions.

The evening reaffirmed that theatre, at its core, transcends

geography and language – continually creating new meanings through cultural exchange and artistic courage.

Godava and Shruti's Play: A Case of Clairvoyance or Executing Miss K

Dramaturge: Godavar & Shruti

Director: Shruti

Group: NSD Student Diploma Production, New Delhi

Lang: Hindi

Duration: 1 hr

The Play

K, a gender queer writer living a reclusive life with his brother, is visited one evening by two police officers. In the Kafkaesque interrogation that follows, K finds that the police has resorted to Orwellian measures – it has hacked K's Wog to discover their whereabouts. The subsequent interrogation is an attempt to determine the connection between K's stories and two murders, although other motivations flit around like shadows telling their own tales – and foretelling K's destiny. A Case of Clairvoyance or Executing Miss K is a sketch of the questions that need to be asked, rather than those asked – and perhaps answered during K's interrogation. Questions also surface from the palimpsest of memories unravelled through the interrogation and K's stories. The play is presented as a dystopian drama inspired by Martin McDonagh's *The Pillowman*, Franz Kafka's *The Trial*, the works of Jorge Luis Borges, and colloquial folk narratives, besides drawing from the vast pools of real life incidents. Its production also digs deep

into various traditions of storytelling thus paying homage to a long, rich literary history.

Director's Note

The title of this play is a reverent salaam to the various tropes and traditions that have enriched and informed our worldview and gone a long way in lending flesh and blood to the characters whose lives we trace through our play. It highlights the theme of foreknowledge, which is woven multiply into our narrative. The play's title also underscores the perception of our protagonist, K, by the State, as a delinquent needing to be silenced. In Brechtian sense, the title foreshadows the play's conclusion, but leaves us wondering as to the whys and the wherefores of the impending execution.

The Director

Founding Director of The P[ART]licle Collective, a multidisciplinary artists collective, Shruti is an English (Hons.) graduate (gold medallist) from Delhi University, a Postgraduate-Diploma holder in Acting (gold medallist) from Jamia Milia Islamia University, and a graduate in Dramatic Arts with specialization in Direction from the National School of Drama, New Delhi. She also holds a Senior Diploma in Hindustani Classical Music (vocal) from Prayag Sangeet Samiti (Allahabad). With an amateur and professional theatre background spanning eight years and over twenty productions, she has donned the hats of an actor, director, designer, as well as significant managerial posts for which she has been awarded at various events and competitions. She has appeared in cameo roles in full-length feature and short films.

Dramaturg

Godavar, formally known as Raghuram S Godavarthi, is a writer focusing primarily on poetry and stage plays, with one published collection of poems to his credit (A Turn of Poetry, Brown Critique-Sampark, 2013). As a student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville in the USA, he participated

extensively in amateur theatre, writing, adapting, and translating – as well as directing (and acting in) as many as 12 productions (4 full-length) between 2006-2010 in Hindi and English. He lives with his family on the outskirts of Mumbai.

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

K Aditi Arora

K's Alter Ego Yashaswini R.

Tilottama Tukaram Aditi Arya

Abhigyan Atmaram Salim Husen Mulla

Taher K. Kamm Sayan Sarkar

Chorus Ayush Awasthi, Indra Bhushan, Vishesh Bajpai, Deepan Singh, Himanshu Pal, Sachin Jha,

Arpit Chauhan

Associate Director & Light Designer Greeny Francis

Art Director Argha Kamal Ganguly

Associate Art Director Shiv Swaroop

Documentation & Media Designer Amresh K. Anand

Movement Director Yashaswini R.

Live Music Ramesh Hembrams

Abhishek Kaushal

App. Developers Immersive Stories Pvt. Ltd

Costume & Make-up Abhilasha B. Pout

Stage Manager Arpit Chauhan

Floor Manager Sachin Jha

Production Assistants Akshay Singh, Animesh Barman

Scenographer Shruti

Dramaturg Godavar

Co-Dramaturg & Director Shruti

Contacts

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