

Bratya Basu's Play: Rani Creusa

Playwright: Bratya Basu

Director: Sujan Mukhopadhyay

Group: Chetana, Kolkata

Language: Bengali

Duration: 2 hrs 10 mins

The Play

The childless couple of ancient Athens, Greece, King Xuthus and his gorgeous wife Queen Creusa, seeks the blessing of God Boreas and then visits God Apollo's temple in Delphi. Priestess Daphnis informs Creusa, daughter of King Erectheus, about the oracle of God Apollo that the royal couple will soon bear a male child, Doris. But till the prophecy comes true, they will have to adopt the attractive and handsome young man, Ion, who has grown up in the temple and crown him the prince of Athens. While King Xuthus happily agrees to obey the divine command, the Queen does not. As the King goes ahead with the plan of the adoption ceremony Creusa loses her cool and conspires with her servant Danius to kill Ion by poisoning his drink. Danius fails to carry out her order and gets caught red handed. Aghast, Ion returns to the temple of Delphi. Creusa admits her role in this conspiracy publicly. King Xuthus has no option but to initiate the trial for justice in a democracy. The arguments and counter arguments in the trial come to an abrupt end after the sudden appearance of Delphi's chambermaid, Pythia. The truth about Ion's birth leaves the royal couple stunned and overwhelmed..

Director's Note

There lies an innate resemblance in almost all the stories of tragedy of human conflicts and political conspiracies; and of the great wars waged by men. The most significant resemblance lies in their staying relevant throughout the years.

Therefore, to rediscover the age-old mythical tale of 'Ion and Creusa', Bratya Basu penned Queen Creusa, a tragic-satire. In the play, where the people demand retribution for a sacrilegious crime committed by the Queen herself, the hypocrisies of the elite are elucidated and illuminated as the fallacies hidden in the constitutional structure.

The Director

Sujan Mukhopadhyay has acted in about 30 plays and written several scripts for theatre, television and cinema. He was awarded the Stagecraft Award for Ghasiram Kotwal and Popular Viewer's Choice Award for Don..Take Bhalo Lage. He has performed in Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Chennai and all the major cities of India, as well as USA. He has also directed a Bengali feature film Chocolate (available on Netflix).

The Playwright

Bratya Basu is an accomplished theatre artist, a playwright and director who started his career as a sound operator. He is a theatre thinker and activist, and has served Bengali theatre for nearly 20 years. His plays have been staged by eminent directors and a compilation of his plays has been published in three volumes.

The Group

Chetana was founded in 1972. It has produced 33 full-length Plays and 13 short Plays in its journey of 46 years. Chetana received numerous awards and citation from various cultural institutions. It has organised a number of Theatre Festivals, Seminars and Workshops etc., and performed in all the districts of West Bengal and in almost all the major cities of India. Chetana has staged different plays in the Theatre Festivals organised by the National School of Drama and Sangeet Natak Akademi. It has toured USA and Canada with its productions in 1980 and 1990. Chetana performed Mareech Sangbad in Bourdeaux (France) in 1999. Sponsored by the ICCR it took part in the Ibsen International Theatre Festival held

in Oslo (Norway) in 2004 and performed in London (UK) the same year.

Cast & Credits

Rani Creusa

Glaucas

Raja Xuthus

Ion

Eziptus

Senior Priest

Danaus

Orion

Petroclus

Bhattacharya

Clotho

Lachesis

Atropos

Pythia

Daphnis

Singer

Chorus

Debashis Naskar, Biswajit Nayak,

Sayan Maji

Nivedita Mukhopadhyay

Supriya Dutta

Shaheb Chattopadhyay

Subhra Sourav Das

Tarun Bhattacharyya

Amitabha Ghosh

Sushovan Guha

Rahul Sen Roy

Rajat Narayan

Somrashmi Ghosh

Monalisa Das

Ashmita Ghosh

Ruma Bakhuli

Santwana Banerjee

Daayaad Mukherjee

Parikshit Ghosh,

Prateek Banerjee, Parag Roy,

Music

Light

Sound

Costume

Make-up

Set

Vocalists

Dibyendu Mukherjee, Sujan Mukhopadhyay,

Prabuddha Banerjee, Bodhisattwa Banerjee

Assistant Director

Playwright

Director

Prabuddha Banerjee

Soumen Chakraborty

Anindyo Nandy

Prabal Mondal

Ayon Ghosh

Partha Majumdar

Dipanwita Chowdhury,

Snehansu Biswas

Bratya Basu

Sujan Mukhopadhyay

Contacts

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

<https://youtu.be/9x4IIdxNTPU?t=3724>