

Peter Brook & Jean-Claude Carrière's CHARAHARUKO SAMMELAN (Conference of the birds) Director: Deeya Maskey



Playwright: Peter Brook & Jean-Claude Carrière

Director: Deeya Maskey

Group: Actors' Studio, Nepal

Language: Nepali

Duration: 1 hr 30 mins

The Play

Birds from all over the world gather together for a great conference. The nation of birds is in crisis, and urged by one of their flock, the Hoopoe, they have to chart a path to find their king Simurgh. For this they need to travel a long way towards the mountain called Kaf. During this journey, some die, some drop out, while others continue their quest of

discovery, love, understanding, disappointment, destruction, unity and death. At last the survivors come into the presence of the great one, and discover that they themselves are the embodiment of the divine.

Director's Note

Seven years ago, I came across Conference of the Birds while attending a physical theatre workshop jointly organized by Actors' Studio and Embassy of US in Nepal. Description of the seven valleys seemed mythical and ancient on one hand and new and ultra-modern on the other. It was the perspective and relevancy that enabled me to stage the ancient masterpiece in today's context. Through physical gestures and dialogues, each actor has tried to convey different unexplored meanings of the text. I have left a few things as mystery.

The Director

Deeya Maskey is a renowned actor, dancer and TV personality in Nepal. She initially trained as a professional Indian classical dancer from Allahabad, India and later completed her training in acting at Actors' Studio, Nepal. Since then she has been practicing contemporary dances to explore a unique style by using the body, spatial relationship, kinesthetic responses and voice. Some of the famous films that she has acted in are Kagbeni, Soongava, and Fitkiri. She has worked as a choreographer for several theatre and film productions. She is also a judge in the Nepali edition of MTV Roadies show, Himalayan Roadies.

The Playwrights

Peter Brook contributed significantly to the development of 20th century's avant-garde stage. He established the International Centre of Theatre Research in 1970 in Paris. He has won multiple Tony and Emmy Awards, a Laurence Olivier Award, the Praemium Imperiale, and the Prix Italia. He has been called 'The greatest living theatre director'.

Jean-Claude Carrière is a renowned French novelist, story-

writer and actor. He is known for his works as writer and actor in Luis Buñuel's films *Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*, and *Birth*. He has received Best Live Action Short Film Award (1963) as well as Academy Honorary Award (2014) for lifetime achievement. He has also been honoured with the Padma Shree, award in India.

The Group

The Actors' Studio has been performing in Nepal and abroad for more than one and a half decade. It has carved a niche in Nepali theatre by staging artistic yet committed and socially relevant plays, and establishing the presence of Nepali theatre in the international arena by producing radical and experimental works.

Cast & Credits

The Hoopoe: Suraj Malla

Heron Aayushman: Pyakurel

Partridge/Slave 2: Arjun Neupane

Sparrow: Roshani Tamang

Falcon: Gaurav Bista

King 1/Dervish/Slave 1: Sudam CK

First Exotic Bird: Anup Neupane

Second Exotic Bird: Manoj Thapa Magar

King 2/Walking Bird/ Bat: Anoj Pandey

Old Man/Mahatma: Anup Baral

Duck/ Thief 1: Prakriti Rayamajhi

Nightingale/Cal bird/ Slave: Binita Thapa Magar

Princesses: Sadhana Bhandari

Parrot: Anu Dahal

Peacock: Deeya Maskey

Owl: Keshav Thagunna

Thief 2: Aashish Shrestha

Chamberlain/Executioner: Suryaman Limbu

Double Bird: Shiksha KC

Hermit: Bikas Neupane

Guilty Bird: Ranjana Bhattarai

Dove bird: Hena Nagarkoti

Production Manager: Dev Neupane

Set Construction: Hum BC / Sagar BC

Stage Props: Suryaman Limbu / Anil Subba

Marketing Manager: Aayushman Pyakurel

Costume Design: Sunu Rai / Binita Thapa Magar /Sadhana Bhandari

Finance Manager: Keshav Thagunna

Light Design: Anup Baral

Light Operator: Dev Raj Sunuwar

Sound Craft / Operator: Devendra Neupane

Stage Manager: Anoj Pandey / Roshani Syangbo

Documentation: Sushil Paudel

Translation: Pushpa Raj Acharya

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