



**Prakriti
Foundation**

Hamara Shakespeare (2013)

About Hamara Shakespeare 2013

The Hamara Shakespeare festival is an annual 3-day festival celebrating Indian theatre in Chennai. This festival features stand-out performances by artists from across the country who have created a mark in their respective fields.

We at the Prakriti Foundation have had long standing commitment to theatre, which brought us to the epitome of this arts form, Shakespeare. However, our intention with this festival was to explore and experiment with the Indian perspective - how have Indian individuals and groups, actors and directors chosen to interpret Shakespeare? The result of this thought process was Hamara Shakespeare – a unique festival that portrays the works of Shakespeare in Indian languages in the Indian realm.

The festival opens its doors to people all over the country and the world, inviting them to experience and enjoy the world of theatre in Chennai. The best part being that it is non-ticketed and is open to all!

The 2013 edition showcased legendary Indian theatre artists from all over India - from New Delhi (Neel Chaudhuri of Tadpole Repertory and Anirudh Nair of Wide Aisle Productions), from Kashmir (M.K. Raina), and from Mumbai (Atul Kumar of The Company Theatre).

Schedule

Performance by Neel Chaudhuri and Anirudh Nair

Synopsis: “A Winter’s Tale” a Hindustani-English play based on Shakespeare’s play of the same title, by theatre artistes from New Delhi, Neel Chaudhuri of Tadpole Repertory and Anirudh Nair of Wide Aisle Productions. This is one of Shakespeare’s popular work which is a story of loss and redemption.

Date: 7th November 2013

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Kalakshetra, Rukmini Arangam

Performance by M.K.Raina

Synopsis: “Badshah Pather” is a Kashmiri play based on Shakespeare’s ‘King Lear’. This adapted version is performed by a traditional group of artistes from Kashmir and directed by theatre veteran M. K. Raina.

Date: 8th November 2013



Time: 7 pm

Venue: Kalakshetra, Rukmini Arangam

Performance by Atul Kumar

Synopsis: The Company Theatre from Mumbai brings the Hindi edition of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, Piya Behrupiya, a translation (by Amitosh Nagpal) of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. According to its director, Atul Kumar, the play has a "strong Indian folk leaning" even though it is a translation and not an adaptation.

Date: 9th November 2013

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Kalakshetra, Rukmini Arangam

Artiste Profile

▪ ***Neel Chaudhuri***

Delhi-based Neel Chaudhuri is Founder and Artistic Director of The Tadpole Repertory. His first recognition was with his play, "Still and Still Moving" which was part of the Writer's Bloc Festival in 2012. In 2010, he won the Hindu Metroplus Playwright award for his play "Taramandal". Among the younger generation of playwrights writing in English today in the country, his work is known to be mature and promising. His group recently staged Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" at an outdoor location in Delhi.

▪ ***Anirudh Nair***

A well-known actor and director of the younger generation of theatre artistes in India, Anirudh Nair started Wide Aisle Productions in Delhi in 2005. The company focuses on bringing together classical texts with a contemporary physical theatre process. Their productions include "The Winter's Tale" as well as "Meet Will" (a project designed to make Shakespeare accessible to school children through workshops and performances). Anirudh Nair has also worked regularly with international theatre companies in London and the US.

• ***M.K.Raina***

Maharaj Krishna Raina, popularly known as M.K. Raina, is one of India's best-known theatre actors and directors. Shri M.K. Raina received the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1995 and the Swarna Padak from Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir in 1996 for his contribution to Indian Theater.



He was also awarded one of India's highest theatre awards, the B.V. Karanth award for lifetime achievement in 2007. Besides being a practicing theatre artist; he is known also as a cultural activist.

- ***The Company Theatre, Mumbai***

The Company Theatre (TCT) was formed in 1993 in Mumbai with an aim to bring together an ensemble of professionals who are committed to theatre and the performance arts. Their expertise range from physical mime and absurdist drama to clown narratives and musical comedies. Their productions have been showcased to audiences from historical venues like the Globe in London UK to theatres in small towns of India.

TCT also head an international residency for performing arts, situated in the countryside of Maharashtra which was developed for research for creating new performance languages.

- ***Atul Kumar, Director***

Atul Kumar, the founder and director of The Company Theatre, Mumbai, is an acclaimed actor and director with more than 25 years of stage experience. His initial training was in the traditional Indian Dance and Martial Art forms of Kathakali and Kalarippayattu in Kerala. He has also learnt from his various travels abroad where he got to work with Compagnie Philippe Genty in Paris- France & Sacramento Theatre Company in California- USA. He has with different languages and forms of theatre and has showcased his work all over India and abroad.

Atul Kumar is also known to have initiated and managed national as well international theatre festivals. He has served as a steering committee member of the International Network for Cultural Diversity, Canada and often participates in conferences, seminars and forums that are concerned with larger issues of art and culture. He has also worked in film and television occasionally.

Press

The Hindu, Chennai, 14th November, 2013

<http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/theatre/the-bard-with-a-desi-twist/article5350962.ece>



Sruti Magazine, 25th November, 2013

<http://srutimag.blogspot.in/2013/11/ranvir-shahs-hamara-shakespeare-festival.html>