



**Prakriti
Foundation**

**Hamara Shakespeare
(2008)**

About Hamara Shakespeare 2008

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 2008 edition showcased an interesting repertoire of theatre artists and groups such as Parnab Mukherjee, School of Performings arts from Pondicherry and so on.

Schedule

Hamletmachine-images of Shakespeare-in-us

Synopsis: In political geography, an imaginary line between two nations, separating the imaginary rights of one from the imaginary rights of the other.

Date: 14th February 2008.

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: the Museum Theatre, Egmore

Shakespeare Thanimiyal

Synopsis: This play performed at the 2008 edition of Hamara Shakespeare is a tamil adaptation of Shakespeare's play, performed by students of School of Performing Arts.

Date: 15th February 2008

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: the Museum Theatre, Egmore

Shakespeare And She

Synopsis: Shakespeare and She, another adaptation of Shakespeare's plays was enacted at the 2008 Hamara Shakespeare Festival.

Date: 16th February 2008

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: the Museum Theatre, Egmore

Artiste Profile

▪ *Parnab Mukherjee*

Parnab Mukherjee is one of the leading alternative theatre directors in the country. An independent media analyst by profession, amongst his five published works there are two volumes of poetry-as-a-theatre-performance, namely, *Confessions of Ruttie Jinnah* and other works and *Un-communist Manifesto and other Despatches* (both published by Sampark) and *These Trafficked Texts* (a long poetry-in-theatre performance on the issue of human trafficking as advocacy training material for workshops by Unifem and Unodc). One of the leading exponents of third theatre, Parnab has created a personal idiom of using spaces for theatre exploration. He has extensively worked on a range of Human Rights issues which include specific theatre projects on anti-uranium struggles in *Jadugoda* and *Turamdihi*, *Save Tenzin* campaign, rehabilitation after Bhopal Gas tragedy, shelter issue of the de-notified tribes, a widely acclaimed cycle of seven plays against Gujarat Genocide, and a range of issues on North-East with special reference to Armed Forces Special Powers Act.

Four of his most major workshop modules – Freedom Speak, The Otherness of the Body, City as a Text and The Conflicting Body has been conducted with theatre groups' and campuses all over the country

He has written four books on theatre.

▪ *School of Performing Arts*

The School of Performing Arts consists of the following Departments, namely Department of Performing Arts Sri Sankaradass Swamigal. Department of Performing Arts started functioning from the academic year 1988-1989.

1. Dr. V. Arumugham

Dr. V. Arumugham has written, directed and acted in many plays, that have participated in National and International theatre festivals. He has participated as a performer as well as troupe leader of the Therkkoothu group in the Festival of India in France (1985), Sweden (1987) and Festival de l'imagenerie at Paris (1997). He has done more than 100 One Man Therukkoothu performances in U.K, USA, France, Germany and Switzerland. His plays '*Karunchuzhi*' The Black Whirl (1990) and '*Oosi*' The Needle (1992) are based on the concept of 'Prop's Theatre. Author of the book '*Karunchuzhi*', a collection of his plays have received the Best Book Award from the Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Government. The book also received a cash award from Thirupur Tamil Sangam for the year 2000.

• Ramu Ramnathan

Ramakrishnan Ramanathan popularly known as Ramu Ramanathan is an Indian playwright-director with many acclaimed plays to his credit. In addition to being counted as one of the best playwrights of today's India, Ramu is also the editor of *Print Week India* and *Campaign India* magazines. He has been associated with the printing industry for 30 years. Ramu helped launch *Print Week India* in May 2008 and has been a driving force in reshaping coverage of the Indian print market through industry specials, awards and survey reports. Under his leadership, *Print Week* has grown into one of the largest teams covering print in India.

Press

The Hindu, Chennai, February 15th 2008

[Shakespeare catches up with time - http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/ldquoShakespeare-catches-up-with-timesrdquo/article15165287.ece](http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/ldquoShakespeare-catches-up-with-timesrdquo/article15165287.ece)