National School of Drama, New Delhi
(An autonomous institution of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

The National School of Drama, one of the foremost theatre training institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India, was set up in April 1959 as an autonomous organization under the aegis of the erstwhile Ministry of Education and Culture. Over the years, the School has made advances on various fronts including a rapid expansion of its activities in all parts of the country. It has produced talented actors, directors, script-writers, designers, technicians and educationists who work in theatre, films, and television and have been recipients of several awards at the national and international levels.

Training in the School is based on a thorough, comprehensive, carefully planned syllabus which covers every aspect of theatre, in which theory is related to practice, and in which all work is ultimately put to test before a wide public audience. The syllabus takes into account the methods of great theatre personalities who have shaped contemporary theatre in all its variety of expressional forms. The systematic study and practical performing experience of Sanskrit drama, Modern Indian drama, traditional Indian theatre forms, Asian drama, and Western drama give the students a solid grounding and wide perspective in the art of theatre.

The School has two performing wings, namely the Repertory Company and the Theatre-in-Education Company renamed Sanskaar Rang Toli. NSD’s outreach programme, which is named the Extension Programme, seeks to extend and spread its activities across all regions of the country. A programme for research, documentation and publication is a recent addition to strengthen the academic activities of the School. The School’s publications include anthologies of plays in different Indian languages translated into English, reference works, and theatre studies in Hindi.

The School is housed in Bahawalpur House which is located in the cultural hub of the capital known as the Mandi House area. The administrative block, training-cum-teaching centre, Repertory Company, Abhimanch, Sammukh, and Bahumukh Auditoriums, and girls’ hostel are housed at Bahawalpur House, 1, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110 001. The boys’ hostel is situated at Hailey Road which is in close proximity to Rabindra Bhawan.

As part of NSD’s programme to set up Regional Drama Schools, the Regional Resource Centre, Bengaluru has been upgraded to a full-fledged Regional Drama School pending the construction of an independent building in the university campus. Presently, it organizes theatre workshops for the benefit of theatre workers in the southern states (Karnataka, Seemandhra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the union territories of Pondicherry and the Lakshadweep islands).
The Bengaluru Centre of the National School of Drama is the first initiative of its kind, viz, to create a National School of Drama outside Delhi. Responding to the growing need for training in the dramatic arts, this cherished dream has entered its second phase with the allotment of three acres of prime land to the National School of Drama in Kalagrama (situated in the Bangalore University campus) by the Government of Karnataka. Envisaged as a Centre/State collaboration, the new Bengaluru Centre will be housed in specially designed, state-of-the-art premises with fully equipped classroom studios, as well as multiple performance venues to accommodate a wide range of technically challenging performances.

The Bengaluru Centre will largely follow the module of training evolved and detailed over the last 50 years to culminate in the student opting for specialization in Acting. We are pleased to announce a unique one-year Intensive Course in Acting specifically designed for the Bengaluru Centre.

A Repertory Company, Theatre-in-Education (TIE) Company, Extension Programme for the southern regions, Publications Division for translations into southern languages and new works, launch of a theatre magazine, and establishment of an Archives and Documentation wing are among the several schemes and initiatives that will be undertaken over the next few years to establish the Bengaluru Centre of the National School of Drama on a firm footing.

Ratan Thiyam
Chairman, National School of Drama
Preparing the Ground
NSD BENGALURU

The one-year Intensive Course in Acting beginning in July 2015 at Kalagrama, Bengaluru, is a precursor to NSD’s full-fledged training programme.
The Bengaluru Centre of National School of Drama dedicated to Southern region started a well structured one year course in Acting from last year. The syllabus has been evolved with deep research about the cultural material present in southern part of India primarily, also taking inspiration from various other training methods.

The course has been conceptualized to train new leaders of Indian theater. This acting course will make the students capable to react to the theater practice internationally with a core strength of various methodologies to work beyond the boundaries of any form or style.

National School of Drama has dedicated to create inter-cultural dialogue between practices, practitioners, connoisseurs and spectators. The aim of the course is to train Modern Indian actor using traditional skills from classical, folk & tribal performance, music, dance, martial arts, playing various instruments among other skills.

This is a pioneering programme to create a versatile actor for Indian scenario. Along with Modern and Contemporary Western training we have planned an immersion in traditional pedagogic system. I hope that this course will help in shaping the future of Indian theater and the theater of the world at large.

Waman Kendre
Director,
National School of Drama
The National School of Drama or NSD is known as one of the finest drama schools worldwide. The school was established under the auspices of the Central Ministry of Education and Culture in 1959. NSD has furthered theatre in several directions through its experiments and activities throughout India. Talented directors, actors, designers, and educationists who have emerged from this prestigious institution have brought national and international laurels.

To address the growing need to have drama schools outside of Delhi, NSD has previously established the NSD Regional Resource Centre (RRC) in Bengaluru as the first step. The second step in the dream of taking theatre education across the nation comes in the form of the establishment of the NSD Bengaluru Chapter, with the Ministry of Kannada and Culture granting three acres of land in Kalagrama in the Bangalore University campus. With the aid of both the Centre and State, NSD with its state-of-the-art facilities has now opened its doors to students from Karnataka, Saurashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, and the Lakshadweep islands towards newer theatre experiments and activities.

While the programme at the NSD Bengaluru Centre is based on the lines of the programmes of the mother institution in New Delhi, the Bengaluru programme also particularly focuses on traditional South Indian folk art, theatre, and theatre training. The one-year Intensive Course in Acting currently offered by the NSD Bengaluru Centre offers a great platform to students looking to hone their acting skills.

The NSD Bengaluru Centre is taking firm steps towards the grand dream of integrating the Dravidian languages, cultures, theatre, art, and lifestyle with modern theatrical developments and experiments.

C. Basavalingaiah
Camp Director, NSD Bengaluru Centre
Admission Related Matters

Application Process

The total number of students shall be 20 (twenty only). The students shall be included from all the states and union territories of the southern regions, i.e., Karnataka, Telangana, Seemandhra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, and the Lakshadweep islands.

Minimum Qualification for Admission

The minimum qualification for inclusion in the proposed one-year course shall be graduation in any discipline or an equivalent qualification. Further to clarify, this qualification shall be condoned in the case of extraordinarily talented candidates from the tribal, folk, and traditional performing art families.

Age

The course is open to all men and women between the ages of twenty to thirty years as on 1st July 2015. The upper age limit is relaxable as per government norms.

Medium of Instruction

The language of the instruction shall be English. The language of writing the examination shall be any one language of the southern region (Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, or English). The language of the performance shall also be from the southern region (Kannada/Tamil, Telugu, or Malayalam).

Selection Process

Preliminary scrutiny of all the applications shall be done and selected applicants shall be called for an audition/performance.

This course shall be residential in nature, and a scholarship of Rs. 4500/- per month shall be paid to all selected students. The nominal tuition, hostel fee, etc., shall be deductible from the scholarship. It is mandatory for all the selected students to stay in the hostel provided by the Bengaluru Centre.
SYLLABUS FOR ONE YEAR INTENSIVE COURSE IN ACTING AT BENGALURU CENTRE

The course shall be a one-year course divided in two semesters of 5 months each. Each semester shall have two sub-semesters. There shall be four sub-semesters of 10 weeks duration each.

**Sub-Semester 1**

1. This sub-semester shall be of 10 weeks duration.

2. Introduction to tribal art forms, performing rituals, ritual invocation, and narratives from tribal culture shall be included.

3. Physical skills and daily exercise shall be derived from the tribal art forms of the southern regions suitable for an actor's physical training and for building stamina.

4. Music derived from tribal art forms shall be practised along with the vocal skills derived out of these tribal forms. Tribal literature and texts shall be made available, documented to be read, analysed, and discussed in detail.

5. Crafts and design elements such as masks, headdress, ornaments, and costumes shall be practised. Scene work based on tribal art forms, written, or devised text shall be presented at the end of sub-semester one.

**Sub-Semester 2**

1. This sub-semester shall be of 10 weeks duration.

2. It will include an introduction to the folk theatre of India with focus on the southern states and union territories and folklore of the southern regions.

3. Physical skill exercises shall be derived from the folk artforms of the regions.

4. Focus will also be on performer-oriented interpretative improvisations of local myths in the repertoire and characters larger than life, with their energy expressed in movements.

5. Music and vocal skill exercises shall be derived from the folk art of the southern regions and incorporated into the actor's training. Rhythm, stance, and movement patterns will also be studied.

6. Folklore and folk drama text shall be read, discussed, and analysed in detail.

7. Theatre crafts and design elements from the folk art forms shall be prepared and practised. This will also include make-up expressions, use of masks, symbolic representation, etc.

8. Scene work based on tribal art forms, written, or devised text shall be presented at the end of sub-semester two.

9. The viva examination shall be followed by two weeks of holidays.
SEMESTER 2

This semester shall consist of two sub-semesters of 10 weeks duration.

Modern Indian Literature, western literature, physical and vocal skills, games, improvisation, and other teaching inputs from modern theatre training may be included as a regular input throughout the course.

Sub-semester 3

1. This sub-semesters shall be dedicated to understanding and practising the elements of Natya Shastra and Classical Indian Theatre.

2. The sub-semester will focus on Dashrupakas and detailed study of any two types of Rupakas with interpretation, classical elements, and analysis.

3. Abhinaya according to Natya Shastra, Aangikam, Vachikam, Aaharyam, and Sattvikam, and Hastmudras and codified gestures and Bhavas shall be learnt and practised.

4. Physical skills derived out of classical dance movements shall be practised.

5. Music and vocal skills will form part of the coursework.

6. Design elements, various types of performing spaces, theatre craft, make-up practice including those of a Vidushaka, Nayaka, Nayika etc., shall form part of the coursework.

7. Scene work based on a Sanskrit text shall be presented.

Sub-semester 4

1. This semester shall be dedicated to assimilate an understanding of tribal, folk, traditional, and Classical Indian theatre learning to formulate ideas and concept for the modern actor.

2. Physical contemporary exercises will include focus on different joints, tension, relaxation, meditation, and Yoga.

3. Contemporary exercises for voice, vocal chords, pitch, volume, projection etc. shall be studied.

4. There shall be an introduction to acting methodology according to Stanislavsky, Mayerhold, etc.

5. Study of drama texts from the southern regions shall be included.

6. Production will be based on a contemporary text.

7. The sub-semesters will end with the General Annual Viva.
The Forms used in the training are:

Dollu Kunitha
Beesu Kamsale
Bhoota Kola
Mallakamba
Hagulu Vesha
Gamaka Singing
Bayalata
Burrakatha
Somana Kunitha
Kalaripayattu
Yakshagana
Vilasinatyam
Veeranatyam
Kolatam
Chakkai Attam
Karagattam
Kazhai Koothu
Kol Kal Attam
Kummi
Ottan Koothu
Paampu Attam
Puliattam or Pulikali
Terukuttu
Silambatam
Kathakali
Chakyar Koothu
Nangiar Koothu
Mohiniyattam
Theyyam
Padayani
Koodiyattam
Kerala Natanam
Panchavadyam
Thullal
Tholpavakoothu
Ottamthullal
Garudan Thookam
Kolam Thullal
Poorakkali
Mudiyett
Kummattikali
Kuthiyottam
Thiriyuzhichil

In addition to these folk and art tribal forms, the classical Indian theatre Abhinaya training shall be incorporated in the second semester.

This is an indicative list of forms. This list can be more inclusive.