

## **BiralTopaswee**

Playwright & Director: Asim Kumar Nath

Group: Sarsa, Sipajhar

Language: Assamese

Duration: 1hr

### **About the Group**

Sarsa is a group dedicated to the promotion of drama. It was established in Sipajhar in 2003 and since its inception has been engaged in looking into the various aspects related to the performance of drama. It has been actively associated with the performance of plays all over India including 19<sup>th</sup> Bharat Rang Mahotsav, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Poorvottar NatyaSamaroh, National Poorvottar Rang Utsav, and National Theatre FestivalMokokchung, Nagaland, 2017 organized by National School of Drama, New Delhi. Besides that Sarsa has conducted various theatre workshops, theatre festivals along with folk culture festivals.

Sarsa has also, till date, constructed two permanent stages in Sipajhar (Assam) – one proscenium and another very novel and unique open air theatre. The open air theatre, which has incorporated specific traditional requirements of folk theatre, is set amidst the beauty of nature. Presently it has 20 artists from all over Assam who are involved in its numerous activities under the guidance of Asim Kumar Nath.

### **About the Play**

It is a well-known fact that cats and mice aren't friends. The play *BiralTopaswee* is about this traditional conflict between the two. It presents the intricacies of the rivalry between a cat and a family of mice. Although the cat, very cunningly, uses the stratagem of divide and rule to gain the upper hand in this conflict, the mice too are able to teach the cat a lesson or two in the process. In their attempt to get rid of the cat, the mice even destroy the cat's seat by gnawing it to pieces. The conflict reaches its climax with a bell, brought by the mice, getting stuck to the cat's neck by fluke. Surprisingly, the mice emerge the winners in the fight. The play seeks to convey the message that "No matter how strong one's enemy is, if we fight with courage and conviction we shall be victorious."