

## **TottoChaan**

Original Story: TetsukoKuroyanagi  
Adaptation, Design & Direction: SourabhAnant  
Group: Vihaan Drama Works, Bhopal  
Language: Hindi  
Duration: 1 hr 25mins

### **About the Group**

SourabhAnant formed Vihaan in 2011, along with SudeepSohni, ShwetaKetkar and HemantDeolekar. Vihaan has three verticals Vihaan Drama Works, Vihaan Picture Works and Vihaan Design Works, under the name of which the team is working in the fields of theatre, films, literature, photography, fine and performing arts. The Drama wing of Vihaan has produced 9 plays and Picture wing has produced 4 short and ad films. Vihaan also has four major initiatives titled Theatrics, Theorics, Poetics and Theatre Talk under which the group organizes events, workshops, seminars and sessions relating to all forms of arts. Vihaan has a children's theatre wing 'SwapnYaan' that organizes children's theatre workshop every year and has produced 5 plays by so far. The latest wing of Vihaan is 'Maargi', a segment of alternative performances. Vihaan has two festival entities named Vihaan International Festival of Arts (VIFA) and Aaroh.

### **About the Play**

The play *TottoChaanis* based on the Japanese novel *Medogiwa No Totto Chan* written by TetsukoKuroyanagi and published in 1981. The story is about a little girl Totto who is rusticated from her school because of her childish excitements. Totto's mother realises that Totto needs a school where children are free to think and express themselves. She takes Totto to her new school Tomoe where old unused train coaches are turned into classrooms. Here Totto meets her headmaster Sosaku Kobayashi for the first time. Kobayashi teaches his students through nature and practice. For Totto, this is her dream-school. In the meanwhile, Japan gets affected by World War II and the bombing destroys Tomoe. TetsukoKuroyanagi writes about Kobayashi, 'Even as Tomoe burned, he was already envisaging a better school'.