



राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय
NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)



Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Final Year Students
present

LEMON SODA

Based on the stories of Saadat Hasan Manto
A Devised play by Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry

Scenography Deepan Sivaraman **Associate Director & Choreographer** Vajinder Kumar
Assistant Director & Light Design Sarthak Narula **Costume Design & Property Design** Melodi Dorcas
Musicians Harpal Singh | Bahadur Chand | Amarjeet Singh | Satnam Singh | Chainis Gill | Gurmeet Singh | Ram Singh
Publicity Design Kabir Singh Chowdhry



Date – 27,28, 29 September 2024
Time – 3.30 pm & 7:00 pm
Duration – 90 min

*Limited seats.
Entry cards will be available on first come first served
basis at NSD Reception two hours before the show
on the day of the performance.
Children below 12 years are not allowed.*

Venue: Bahumukh,
NSD, Bahawalpur House,
Bhagwandas Road,
New Delhi -110001.

Enquires- 011-230311220/21/25
Website-www.nsd.gov.in





Saadat Hasan Manto (1912 -1955)

Manto was an urdu short story writer.his best known short stories are Bu (Odour),Khol Do, Toba Tek Singh.Manto chronicled the chaos that prevailed,during and after the partition of India in 1947.

He began his literary career translating works of literary gaints such as Victor Hugo,Oscar Wilde and Russian writers Chekov and Gorky.Their collective influence resulted in his frist story,Tamasha,based on the Jallinwala Bagh massacre,1919 in Amritsar.Though his earlier works ,influenced by the progressive writers of his time,showed leftist and socialist leanings,his later works became stark in portraying the darkness of the human psyche as humanist values progressively decliened .

His later works mirrored the social climate and his own financial struggles and were imbued with an innate sense of human impotency,containing a satirical streak that verged on dark comedy, as seen in his final grate work,Toba Tek Singh.Numerous court cases and societal rebuke deepened his cynical view of life,from which he felt increasingly isolated.

No part of human existence remained taboo for Manto leading him to explore the condution of prostitutes and pimps,where he highlighted the subversive sexual slavery of women,as well as the macabre animalistic nature of an enraged people. Manto also wrote for film and radio and was a journalist.He published twenty-two collections of short stories,one novel,five collections of Rdio Plays ,three collections of essays,and two collections of personal skeches.





About the Director

Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry has a Master's degree in the History of Arts as well as a diploma from the National School of Drama.

In 1979, she moved to Bhopal and was attached to The Rang Mandal, a theatre repertory attached to the Multi-arts Complex, Bharat Bhavan.



In 1984, she moved to Chandigarh where she set up her own theatre company called 'The Company.' Alongside the Company, she has also been teaching in the Department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University and was also the Chairperson. Her well-known plays include Kitchen Katha, The Suit, Yerma, Nagamandala The Mad Woman of Chaillot, Little Eyolf, Bitter Fruit and Naked Voices, Gumm Hai, Black Box, Trunk Tales and Hayavadana to name a few. The group has participated in major national and international festival.

Dr. Chowdhry is the recipient of several awards including the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2003, and the Padma Shri (2011). She is presently Professor Emeritus at the Panjab.



Synopsis and Director's Note

As a theatre director I have been intrigued and fascinated by Saadat Hasan Manto, whose stories I have frequently dramatized for the stage. The characters he created were real, palpable and raw. Despite their penury ridden existence, they had the agency to challenge and change their circumstances no matter how savage the situation may have been.

Most of the work that emerged was created through a series of improvisations and as a director I tried to give it shape and form by stitching it together through an image or a musical interlude. I was helped in the process by my scenographer Deepan Sivaraman and associate director, Vajinder Kumar.

Manto's characters are brave and subversive and not burdened by notions of nationalism, religion and morality. The characters Manto created defined for the actors a roadmap to enter into dark spaces and shine a torch on the hidden crevices within.

"I feel like I am always the one tearing everything up and forever sewing it back together" said Manto. His stories, were his love letters to life. His narratives gave a voice to the voiceless, and to the disenfranchised through empathy and compassion.

Claimed by both India and Pakistan, loved and rejected by both the countries with equal passion and fervor, Manto remains an enigmatic figure stuck in a 'No Man's Land, like his adored character Bishan Singh in Toba Tek Singh.





What worked for me as a theatre director, was the fact, that Manto was not into grand narratives but interested in the small foibles and heartbreaks of the little people. Their struggle to connect the filaments of a dysfunctional social order was their endeavor. He was like a giant x-ray machine, that could pierce through the entrails and sinews of a society, conflicted by issues of love, deceit, pain, friendship, sexuality and materialism. This contrasted sharply with the specificity of the freedom movement, partition and the class and caste matrix that was formulating human behavior.

His epitaph which he wrote, with his typical black humor showed a touch of arrogance and self-deprecating wryness: "Here lies Saadat Hasan Manto and with him lie buried all the secrets and mysteries of the art of short-story writing. Under tons of earth he lies, still wondering who among the two is greater short-story writer: God or He."







Scenography

Deepan Sivaraman, is a theatre director, scenographer, dramaturge, curator and professor. He is the founding Artistic Director of Oxygen Theatre Company based in Kerala and Performance Studies Collective based in Delhi.



During the last 25 years of his theatre career he has designed and directed more than 70 theatre productions for various companies and academic institutions in India and Europe.

Some of his notable works have been performed in several theatre festivals around the world including Avignon, Alameda, Edinburgh, Krakow, Wuzhen, Prithvi, ITFOK, META and Bharat Rang Mahotsav. He was awarded Charles Wallace India Trust Scholarship in 2003, The Kerala Sangeet Nataka Academy Award for theatre direction in 2012 and Mahindra Excellence National Theatre Awards in 2010 and 2018 for Spinal Cord and The Cabinet of Dr Caligari respectively.

Deepan's works represented Indian scenography at Prague Quadrennial in 2011 and he served as the Artistic director of International Theatre Festival of Kerala in 2013 and 2023 editions. His notable works are Khasakkinte Ithihasam, Spinal Cord, Peer Gynt, Dark Things, The Cabinet of Dr Caligari, Nationalism Project and Ubu Roi.

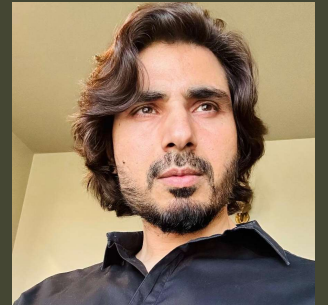
Previously he served as the Dean of School of Culture and Creative Expressions, Ambedkar University Delhi and presently he is a professor of theatre and performing arts at Ahmedabad University Ahmedabad.





Associate Director & Choreographer

Vajinder Kumar was born in Chandigarh. He started theater in 1991 at an early age. He graduated from G.C.M-11, Chandigarh. Further, pursued masters in theater from Punjab University and was conferred with MOHAN RAKESH gold medal.



Vajinder created his own theater group- 'HOLY THEATER', He is still associated with the eminent theater personality- Padamshri Dr. Neelam Mansingh Chaudhary. He has performed in many national and international theater festivals around the globe at places like- UCLA, LONDON, JAPAN, SINGAPORE PAKISTAN. Vajinder has been awarded the prestigious "Sangeet Natak Academy's USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN YUVA PURUSKAR" in the year 2008 for his contribution in acting in theatre.

Vajinder performed Shahkuntalam directed by Pahlad Aggarwal, Azar Ka Khwaab directed by Dr. Anjala Maharishi, Agni Aur Barkha directed by Dr. Rani Balbir Kaur, Siboo in Supermarket, Nagamandala, The Suit, Little Eyolf, To Soothe Seven Spirits, The Last Tale, Black Box, Trunk Tales directed by Neelam Man Singh, Court Martial directed by Sudesh Sharma, Chehrey directed by Sudesh Sharma. Vajinder has directed The Dice Of Desires, Taj Mahal Ka Tender, Chidiyaan, Sirjana, Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, Ik Kudi Zindgi Udeekdi. He has worked in films Deepa Mehta's Videsh- Heaven On Earth, Sahi Dhandhe Galat Bande By ParvIn Dabas, Cooking With Stella- Written by Deepa Mehta and directed by Dilip Mehta, Meruthiya Gangsters directed by Zeishan Quadri, Uda Punjab directed by Abhishek Chaubey, PUNJAB 1984 directed by Anurag Singh, Commando 2 directed by Deven Bhojani, KESARI directed by Anurag Singh, Untitled film By Honey Trehan (Yet to be released).





ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & LIGHT DESIGN

Sarthak Narula is a graduate of National School of Drama, with specialisation in Design & Direction. Before joining NSD, he had completed his Masters in Theatre from Academy of Theatre Arts, University of Mumbai in the year 2016.



His recently designed and directed productions are Ruins in Reverse (a devised performance based on the poems of a Punjabi poet Avtar Singh Sandhu performed at BRM 2020), Hiraeth (Based on poetry of Resistance), Adhantar written by Jayant Pawar, Dhuein di lakeer (An adaptation of Jis lahore nahi dekhyia by Asgar Wazahat) and Kagaz ke Kaafile' (an adaptation of The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare).

He takes keen interest in site specific performances, scenographic interventions and making a performance experiential. He has completed a year-long research fellowship on the technological advancements in the field of lighting & scenography.

He was recently associated with the following projects : A doll's house & The Money Opera by Amitesh Grover, Havayadana by Neelam Mansingh, Weaving voices & The Manganiyar Seduction by Roysten Abel, Dil-e-nadan by Salim Arif, Peer gynt & Ubu Roi by Deepan Sivaraman and The Nether by Mohit Takalkar. He has been working as a visiting faculty at NSD, New Delhi, NID Kurukshetra, RNTU - Bhopal & SRC, New Delhi.





Costume & Property Design

Petrishia Melodi Dorcas is an versatile and acclaimed artist who graduated from the National School of Drama Bengaluru centre specialization in acting in the year 2015, later she joined the National school of drama New Delhi with specialization in direction in the year of 2016-2019.



She was the founder member of Red Stone collective performance group, Red Stone Collective is an ensemble of professionals engaged in interdisciplinary and multicultural collective space.

Her area of interest is devising interdisciplinary mediums in performance Making and deeply interested in performance as a research model. Her persistent passion and zeal towards the theatre arts from her childhood made her to pursue theatre arts as her career after her initial under graduation in literature.

She has worked with international Projects including Daughters Opera in India, Seni Tiga B in Malaysia, and Farm Lab Exhibition in Tokyo, Japan.

She has directed many renowned theatre plays such as BEHIND THE BORDERS, UNTOLD STORIES, NILAM, DEAD CAN BREATHE, IN THE SHADOW OF NAKBA, GANATHA PATHAI, etc. In which THE LONG WAIT gained popularity for its intense Performance and Installation.

She has acted and did technical coordination in more than 40 theatre productions and has conducted several workshops on Performance making and Acting all over India. She has

been active in theatre for more than a decade and collaborated with many artists in all the aspects of performance making.





About the Music

The word Naqqal comes from the Persian word Naqal, which means to imitate. The Naqqals as performers have a long lineage, but are paradoxically without a continuous or firm tradition. They enact ballads, sing dance and lampoon the powers that be with the conventional license of clowns. But in my work, they appear along with urban performers, not as decorative 'acts' or even as a sign of cultural aesthetics but to enable diverse and complex perspectives to emerge.

In the play 'Lemon Soda they use traditional folk instruments and folk songs have been sung..







Cast & Credits

Cast

Amaresh Kumar Aman
Anita Bitalu
Bani Saikia
Garima Singh
Gokul Mipun
Hemant Kumar
Kabir
Kunal Bhange
Mallika Lokhande
Manjunath H
Muskan Kosta
Mrunal
Pragati Shinde
Prarthana Chettri
Preet Gadrana
Salma Dandin
Samyak.A.Wankar
Sangita Sarkar
Sumit Jee
Unnimaya P
Vipinyadav
Yamini Sahoo

Credits

Direction - Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry
Scenography - Deepan sivaraman
Associate Director &
Choreographer - Vajinder Kumar
Assistant Director
& Light design - Sarthak Narula
Light assistant - Athul.M
Costume
& Property design - Petrishia Melodi Dorcas
Scenography
Execution &
Property Assistants - Salma Dandin
Athul.M
Musicians - Harpal singh,
Bahudur chand
Amarjeet singh
Satnam singh
Chainis gill
Gurmeet singh
Ram singh
Poster - Kabir Singh Chowdhry
Boucher - Salma Dandin
Photography - Saras
Stage rotation
Operation - Athul.M



Production Team

Production Manager	- Parag Sarmah
Asst. Production Manager	- Utpal Jha
Production Assistance	- Brijnesh Dubey Surinder
Set & Carpentry	- Ram Avtar Mina, Dharam Singh Bisht Ashok Kumar Asgar Ali, Shambhu Prasad, Nazzar Md., Takmir Ahmed, Farooq Ahmed, Muzibur Rehman, Dharamveer, Jiyaulhasan, Bholanath, Rambali, Pankaj, Rizwan, Jaiprakash, Md. Israr, Brijesh Kumar Meena, Govindram,
Costumes	- Anju dubey, Aashish Dubey, Sanjeev, Rajeev Yadav, Usha ,
Lights	- Ravindra Kumar, Sachin Kumar Rakesh Singh, Wajid
Sound	- Satish k. Saurabh, Sunil, Ahsan
Photography	- Deepak Kumar, piyush, bhoopal, sachin
Property	- Niraj, Shamsheer
Library	- E. Gajalakshmi,
Production Boys	- Hoshiyar Singh, sandepep

Third year Acting Students



Amaresh Kumar Aman



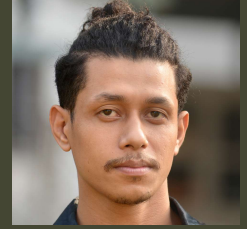
Anita Bitalu



Bani Saikia



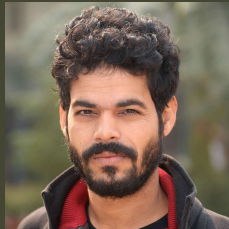
Garima Singh



Gokul Mipun



Hemant Kumar



Kabir



Kunal Bhange



Mallika Lokhande



Manjunath H



Muskan Kosta



Mrunal



Pragati Shinde



Prarthana Chettri



Preet Gadrana



Samyak.A.Wankar



Sangita Sarkar



Sumit Jee



Unnimaya P



Vipin yadav



Yamini Sahoo

Third year Design & Direction Students



Salma Dandin



Athul.M

