

Programme, IIC-Workshop, ERC-Project “Developing Theatre”, 29-30 September, 2017

Between ‘East’ and ‘West’: Indian Theatre Artists and the Cold War

Venue: Conference Room II, India International Centre (IIC), 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi – 110003

Participants: Mr K. V. Akshara (NINASAM, Heggudu)

Prof. Dr. Christopher Balme (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Director, ERC-Project „Developing Theatre“

Dr Trina N. Banerjee (Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta)

Dr Gautam Chakrabarti (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), ERC-Project „Developing Theatre“

Mr Dwaipayan Chowdhury (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi)

Dr Anirban Ghosh (Ashoka University, Sonapat)

Dr Rakshanda Jalil (Writer, Critic and Literary Historian, Delhi)

Ms Minakshi Kaushik (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi)

Prof. Malashri Lal (Convener, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Delhi)

Mr Raghunandana Sathamarshana (Poet, Playwright and Stage-Director, Bengaluru)

Prof. Tripurari Sharma (National School of Drama, Delhi)

Ms Vani Tripathi-Tikoo (Member, Central Board of Film Certification, Delhi)

Mr Atul Tiwari (Theatre-, Media- and Film-Practitioner, Independent Scholar, Mumbai)

Dr Nic Leonhardt (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Associate Director, ERC-Project „Developing Theatre“

Friday, 29th September, 2017

09:00-09:05: Words of welcome and introductions by the Workshop-Cordinator, Gautam Chakrabarti.

09:05-09:35: Introducing the ERC-Project and its aims and objectives by Christopher Balme.

09:40-11:10: First Panel, chaired by Christopher Balme.

Rakhshanda Jalil, “The Establishment and Early Years of the IPTA and the Urdu Progressives.”

Gautam Chakrabarti, “Between ‘East’ and ‘West’: Soviet Engagement with Indian Theatre Artists in the Cold War.”

11:10-11:30: Short Coffee-Break at the Terrace Pergola (IIC).

11:10-12:40: Second Panel, chaired by Malashri Lal.

Vani Tripathi-Tikoo, “Grips Theatre and the Transformation of Theatre Pedagogy for the Young.”

Tripurari Sharma, Presentation on Grips Theatre.

12:40-14:10: Lunch at the Terrace Pergola (IIC).

14:10-15:40: Third panel, chaired by Gautam Chakrabarti.

K. V. Akshara, Practitioner’s Presentation (recorded, *in absentia*), “Learning through Interculturalism: My interactions with Fritz Bennewitz.”

Raghunandana S., Practitioner’s Presentation, “Not Warriors but Conscience-Keepers: Indian Theatre during the Cold War Years.”

15:40-16:20: Long Coffee-Break at the Terrace Pergola (IIC).

16:20-17:00: “Taking Stock of the Day’s Discussions”, chaired by Nic Leonhardt.

Saturday, 30th September, 2017

09:00-10:30: Fourth Panel, chaired by Christopher Balme.

Nic Leonhardt, Presentation on Philanthropy and Theatre during the Cold War.

Atul Tiwari, Practitioner's Presentation, "Warmth of those Cold-War Days."

10:30-11:00: Coffee-Break at the Terrace Pergola (IIC).

11:00-12:30: Fifth Panel, chaired by Nic Leonhardt.

Trina N. Banerjee, "The Art of Staging: Spectacle, Realism and the Idea of the 'Minimal' in Left Theatre Aesthetics in Calcutta."

Minakshi Kaushik, "Reforming Acting Modes and Introducing Contemporary Politics in the Classical: Vijaya Mehta's collaboration with Fritz Bennewitz and the GDR."

12:30-14:00: Lunch at the Terrace Pergola (IIC).

14:00-15:30: Sixth Panel, chaired by Gautam Chakrabarti.

Anirban Ghosh, "When the joker did ballet: Cultural practice and diplomacy during the cold war era in India."

Dwaipayan Chowdhury, "A-topian Everyday: Ideology, Social Ethics and Theater in the 'East Bloc'."

15:30-16:00: Coffee-Break at the Terrace Pergola (IIC).

16:00-17:00: Concluding Discussion, chaired by Christopher Balme and Gautam Chakrabarti.