



WORKSHOP

Performing Shakespeare: Theory & Praxis

Date: 10th to 14th April, 2017

Venue: Dept. of English,

Last Date of Registration: 30th March, 2017

Principal Resource Persons:
Shree Abanti Chakraborty

Chairperson: Professor Dipendu Das,
Head, Department of English

As a sequel to the much appreciated workshop on *Theater Appreciation: Theory and Praxis*, the Department of English, Assam University, Silchar is organizing a five-day workshop on *Performing Shakespeare: Theory and Praxis* from 10th to 14th April, 2017. The objective of the Workshop is to acquaint participants with the enduring enigma that is William Shakespeare and expose them to the technicalities of adapting and performing Shakespeare for the twenty-first century stage.

William Shakespeare's plays have often been described as the richest, the purest, the fairest, that imagination has ever inspired in any language and the dramatic genius of Shakespeare has remained unparalleled in the canons of world literature. But is Shakespeare our contemporary? Ben Jonson believed that Shakespeare's dramaturgy "was not of an age but for all time". Prophetic words certainly, and the innumerable adaptations of the Bard's plays in the last four hundred years, both for stage and screen, across languages and cultures, bear rich witness to his relevance. Shakespearean criticism reached a new level towards the end of the Nineteenth century and has continued to proliferate in diverse fields ever since. During the

Twentieth and Twenty-first centuries the focus of Shakespearean Studies shifted from the literary-text to the theatrical and performative.

The Workshop will provide a stimulating forum for interaction on the theoretical and performative aspects of adapting Shakespeare for the modern stage. The technical sessions of the workshop would include demonstrations and lectures on various aspects of Shakespearean theatre, such as, acting methodologies, stage craft, style, history and historiography of Shakespearean adaptation so that the participants can derive a first-hand experience of learning the intricacies of the art.

The Workshop will have practical classes on how to translate a Shakespearean text into a performance thereby enhancing the participant's skills of stage composition. A play by Shakespeare, for instance, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, shall be selected for the purpose and the participants will learn to translate a certain portion into performance keeping in mind the theoretical and performative aspects of the text. The workshop will end with performance/s of a Shakespearean play complete with music, set, props and costumes designed and innovated with available resources.

Registration Fee: Rs. 2000/- * All payments should be made either through NEFT/ RTGS or Cheque deposited to the Bank Account mentioned below on or before the last date of registration

Account Name: "Theatre Appreciation: Theory and Praxis"
Account No. 35579509917 State Bank of India, Dorgakona Branch
Assam University **IFSC Code:** SBIN0014260

* Lunch/ Tea and Transportation to and from Silchar town shall be provided by the Department for the duration of the Workshop. Interested participants requiring accommodation may contact the organizers for assistance.

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Assam University, Silchar
A Central University established by an Act of parliament

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Design Concept

Workshop:
Performing Shakespeare: Theory & Praxis

Dept. of English
Assam University, Silchar

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Head, Department of English

Coordinator:

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Joint Coordinator:

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ABANTI CHAKRABORTY



Abanti Chakraborty is an internationally acclaimed thespian, with many a successful productions to her name. She also conducts lecture cum demonstration workshops on Method Acting in various national and international institutes like Film and Television Institute, Pune, Upper College, Canada Toronto, New Zealand Drama School etc. She has designed and conducted workshops on the performative aspects of Shakespearean drama for IIT Madras, Mangalore University, Kuvempu University, Mysore University, Sourashtra University, Pondichery University etc. She is a Visiting Faculty associated with National School of Drama, New Delhi and Bhartendu Natya Academy, Lucknow. She was also an Artist in Residency in the Academia Dell' Arte, Tuscany, Italy. She had been a Special Research Fellow (Director) in Yale School of Drama, USA.

Abanti designed solo performance/s of Lady Macbeth based on William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *Troy* based on Homer's *Iliad*. She designed and directed *Choitali Rater Swapna*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, for Anya Theatre, Kolkata, Girish Karnad's *Nagamandala* for Bullygunge *Swapna Suchana*, Kolkata, *Tin Kanya* a translation of Anton Chekov's *Three Sisters* for Mukhomukhi Theatre Company, Kolkata and has been associated with many other theatrical ventures over a decade.

Abanti is also a translator and has published popular plays like Vijay Tendulkar's *Ghasiram Kotwal*, Homer's *Iliad* as *Troy*, Girish Karnad's *Nagamandala*, Anton Chekov's *Three Sisters*, Tennessee Williams' *A Street Car Named Desire*, Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, Eugene O'Neill's *Mourning Becomes Electra* etc. in Bengali. In the year 2014 Abanti Chakraborty was awarded the prestigious Zee Gourab Best Director Award by Zee Entertainment for directing *Nagamandala*.