

**International Seminar  
Theatre in the World Today:  
Individual and Collective Visions  
New Delhi : October 10 – 12, 2003  
FICCI, Commission Room  
Tansen Marg, New Delhi**

**Aim:** The aim is to forge, a global comradeship of theatrical imagination and creativity in all its rich and evocative plurality; an open venue of multiple voices and visions; for meaningful dialogue, fruitful sharing and careful listening

**Sessions:** There will be 2 sessions daily, one in the morning (10 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.) and afternoon (2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.)

Friday, 10 October 2003

**Sessions I and II : The Question of Identity**

The two sessions would be devoted to discussion on the Question of Identity. The issue of identity has become enormously complex, creatively vital and urgent in our times. Theatre is viewed as a site where identity is articulated and explored, interrogated and revealed. Theatre may provide room for individual identity or grapple with collective identity. Theatre could also be a venue where many identities come in inter-play, define or demolish each other. The utterly local may assert its universality through theatre. The participants would be expected to present their ideas about any or all aspects of identity, also indicating as how the dialectic theatre and identity operate in their respective countries/ regions.

Saturday, 11 October 2003

**Session III: Concerns in Theatre**

The world over there is concern about sustenance and survival of theatre in the new age of globalization, electronic media, and entertainment. The support system whether from the state or from the communities is becoming increasingly uncertain and problematic. Theatre is sometimes forced to withdraw from public space. Public tastes are getting transformed globally in many surprising ways. The session would be devoted to exploring some of these concerns.

**Session IV: New Aesthetics, New Idioms**

Theatre, through ages, has responded to new challenges by evolving, radicalizing, innovating in its aesthetic, searching for new idioms. It entertains, celebrates, questions, instincts and forever looks for new meanings and new inroads into human reality, new ideas and devices to enact human predicament and possibility. Interculturality, outside influences and pressures have made directors, scenographers, technicians and others to resort to use of new technologies, concepts and designs. The session would table up all these aspects for exploration and discussion.

Sunday, 12 October 2003

**Session V: Playwright in the 'Wasteland'**

How do the playwrights view the state and issues of concern in theatre in the world today! Is there a dearth of relevant new play scripts! Is the playwright falling behind in innovation and bold experimentation? Faced with massive technologies, ruthless politics, option less global order, the playwright has to struggle to ensure that theatre retains its human face and relevance, but it remains a cultural enterprise. The session would take these and other related issues about contemporary playwriting.

**Session VI: Actor Today**

The actor was thought to be the kingpin of the show until recently. It is actor who weaves through his/her performance a wide and living fabric of humanity which sustains interest in theatre. The rest are all props and supports. Are they! Is actor no longer centre-stage! Have norms of acting, methods of training to be an actor radically transformed! Are we witnessing the exit of actor from theatre yielding place to other modes of expression? The session may look critically at the state of acting and the place of actor in theatre today.

