

Our Stage

PLEASURES
AND
PERILS
OF
THEATRE
PRACTICE
IN
INDIA

Edited by
Sudhanva Deshpande
Akshara K.V.
Sameera Iyengar



Theatre practice in India is like the country itself – vast, diverse, pulsating. Theatre in India happens anywhere and everywhere – in badly designed auditoria, in schools and colleges, in parks and gardens, in restaurants, on rooftops, in the open fields, on the streetcorner, and even, sometimes, on moving trains. At times, it gives pure delight and touches aesthetic peaks, at others, it is brazen, rude, outspoken and blunt – or both simultaneously.

And yet, surprisingly, the actual practice of theatre in India – beyond the work of this or that practitioner – remains vastly undertheorized.

In **OUR STAGE: PLEASURES AND PERILS OF THEATRE PRACTICE IN INDIA**, leading theatre practitioners, administrators and scholars, social scientists and activists interrogate theatre practice in India around the themes **Locales, Experiments, Assertions, Pathologies, New Realities, and Training and Institutions**. They also interrogate the implicit and explicit premises and projections of the 1956 Drama Seminar. Together, they give a fascinating insight on how theatre happens in India, as well on the most important issues animating this practice.

Contributors: Aijaz Ahmad, Aksharā K.V., Amitesh Grover, Anmol Vellani, Aparna Dharwadker, Chandradasan, Channakeshava, Dakxin Bajrange, Devi, Ekbal Ahmed, G.P. Deshpande, Gopal Guru, Koushik Sen, Makarand Sathe, Moloyashree Hashmi, Prabir Purkayastha, Pralayan, Ram Bapat, S. Raghunandana, S. Ramanujam, Sadanand Menon, Sameera Iyengar, Samik Bandyopadhyay, Sanjay Upadhyay, Sanjna Kapoor, Sanjoy Ganguly, Shanta Gokhale, Shiv Visvanathan, Shyamala Vanarase, Siddharth Narrain, Sudhanva Deshpande, Sundar Sarukkai, Sushama Deshpande, Vikram Iyengar, Vivek Shanbhag.

SUDHANVA DESHPANDE is an actor and director with Jana Natya Manch, Delhi. He has taught at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, and the A.J.K. Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He works as editor with LeftWord Books.

AKSHARA K.V. got theatre training at the National School of Drama, New Delhi, and MA in theatre arts from the Workshop Theatre, University of Leeds, UK. He is associated with the Ninasam group of organizations as a teacher, theatre director and administrator. He also heads Akshara Prakashana, a prominent Kannada publishing house.

SAMEERA IYENGAR graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge (MA) in Mathematics, and got a Ph.D focusing on theatre in India from the University of Chicago, USA. She worked for a short while with the Seagull Theatre Quarterly. She is Director Projects, Prithvi Theatre, Mumbai.

