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About Thespian

Thespian is a half-yearly theatrical publication. It has begun following the Bengali calendar and being circulated in the Bengali language but still for a wide existence it needs to be translated in the universally accepted English language along with Bengali translations of the essays written in English which will hopefully enrich us. This is because the view with which we began our journey was to introduce the theatre loving people of the world to the great treasure trove of Bengali theatrical art. It's not suitable to talk about the end in the beginning itself, but as long Thespian will proceed with its journey it will follow this principle. The publication begins with the *NaboBarsho Sankhya* (Bengali New Year edition) and the readers will be introduced to the *Sharat Sankhya* (Autumn edition) after six months.

The publication will not only contain three sections "Essays", "Interview" and "Photo Gallery", but also two other sections which has been included with the creative thoughts of two well-wishers of the Thespian publication family - the first section is called "Exposure" which means bringing to light of an veiled substance and the second section is "Short Stories".

The "Essays" section will contain the research obtained writings of many theatre-workers of different languages. The next section "Interview" will consist of the interviews of great theatre personalities who have attained a universal status beyond time, place and person, and the photo stills from the theatre productions of different theatre groups of India as well as the entire world will enrich the next section "Photo Gallery". It can be said that the third part was the first inspiration in our attempt to publish the magazine. Once a



discussion was being carried on different topics of the mutual influences of the two Bengals in the field of theatrical art. It became obvious that almost in all the theatre festivals organized by the different theatre organizations of the two Bengals, the same five to ten groups participate.

This scenario is equally true for West Bengal as well as for the other theatre festivals in India. In this condition the audience is being deprived of the exceptional theatrical performances of the numerous ‘small’ or ‘less-renowned’ theatre groups of the two Bengals as well as the other parts of India. Apart from the two ends of Bengal, discussions at different times with people engaged in theatre and directors in different parts of India has revealed that small theatre groups across the country are ready to produce characteristically quality plays at a very less or negligible expense. This is because an artist is always willing to display his art before the audience and it is not a utopian concept but a natural truth. But due to lack of communication and some self-created inferiorities, the eagerness and patience of these groups has reached the bottom. Thespian welcomes all those theatre organizations who want to utilize the platform of Thespian to make a mutual symbiotic relationship with other groups and thereby enrich theatre itself. From the beginning of every edition to the next, Thespian will periodically publish the details of a particular theatrical production of a particular group. As the platform for mutual relationship between the theatre groups of Bengal, India and the world increases, the attempt of Thespian will succeed.

The term “Exposure” refers to the unveiling of a previously hidden substance. In this part the fundamental attempt will be in gathering valuable information on ancient folk tales, endangered theatre communities, ancient architecture and so on which will not only revive



the different endangered and forgotten factors of Indian ancient art and culture before the world but also introduce the new generation to it. Its aim is to build a relation between the past and the present. We earnestly desire the help and support of all the art and literature loving people in our attempt to revive endangered ancient heritages and it is not possible for Thespian do it alone. So any rare subject that compels you to think in a new way or any object lying unattended at your neighbourhood, kindly enrich us with the details about them.

Now there is something to tell about the part called “Short Stories”. This part is considered with special importance. It is said that the Bengali language has one specific characteristic i.e. the literature written in this language is much enriched. Of course this view does not look down upon other languages and literatures but in self-defense, it can be said that the aim is just to draw attention towards the depth of Bengali language. However, the amount of literature in Bengali is so huge that even if hundreds of pages of translations are published in magazines each month then in ten years not even half of it can be completed, in that case Thespian is only a minute attempt. So in the part named “Short Stories”, readers of different languages will be introduced to the English translations of some of the works of great Bengali authors, playwrights and many stories, plays and poetry.

From the nascent stage of the publication of Thespian, the help and support of enthusiastic theatre loving people has taken our publication to this level. And in our journey, we crave for the support and co-operations from all readers of the world.

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