



राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय
NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



SHIVRATRI



14 FEB 2025

12:00 PM, 3:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Wri: Chandrashekhhar Kambar

Dir & Trans: Veena Sharma Bhusnoormath

Group: NSD Bengaluru Centre

Lang: Kannada (12:00 pm)

Hindi (3:00 pm & 6:00 pm)

Dur: 90 mins

Venue Sponsored by:

Sangeet Natak Akademi

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA, NEW DELHI

Email: festivalcell@gmail.com | Web: www.brm.nsd.gov.in



Play

Set in 12th-century Karnataka, Shivaratri unfolds during the transformative era of Basavanna, a revered poet, social reformer, and minister of Kalyan Nagar under the rule of Bijjala Maharaja, the second. Basavanna's thoughts shaped the Bhakti movement by establishing a direct spiritual communion with Lord Shiva without any mediation or practices. He promoted the notions of Ahimsa and equality while strongly rejecting the prevailing superstitions through his poetry, called Vachanas. It was he who first introduced the concept of parliamentary democracy through his Anubhava Mantapa, an egalitarian space where people from all caste, class and gender discussed and debated questions of life and faith.

The story centres on a daring inter-caste marriage that challenges the rigid caste system and the prevailing conservative norms. This throws society into turmoil, exposing deep-rooted biases and fears. At its core, it is a fierce ideological clash between Bijjala Maharaja, the protector of tradition, and Basavanna, a visionary of equality.

Rooted in historical events, the play captures the vibrant folk culture of northern Karnataka. It also creatively incorporates various other southern folk forms. Shivaratri remains strikingly relevant, shedding light on contemporary struggles against caste discrimination, offering a powerful, thought-provoking theatrical experience.

Playwright



Chandrasekhar Kambar, born in 1937 in Ghodgeri, Karnataka, is a celebrated Kannada writer known for blending folk and myth in his works. A recipient of the Jnanpith Award (2010) and Padmashri (2001), Kambar has written 25 plays, including Jokumaraswamy, Siri Sampige, Shivratri and Mahamayi, along with 11 poetry collections and 6 novels like Karimayi and Shikharasoorya. His writing focuses on blending folk theatre and literature. Kambar has also made five films, composed their music, and has served as Vice Chancellor of Kannada University (Hampi) and Chairman of NSD (New Delhi).

Director – Translator

Hailing from Hubballi, Karnataka, Veena Sharma Bhusnoormath is a distinguished theatre artist with over three decades of experience in acting, design and direction. She received her professional training in Design and Direction at the National School of Drama, New Delhi (1998-2001), after a year of foundational theatre training at Ninasam Ranga Shikshana Kendra, Heggodu, Karnataka (1996-97).



She has conducted theatre workshops across India and in countries like China and Japan, and has conducted classes at prestigious institutions like Bharatendu Natya Academy, Himachal Research Forum Mandi, Ninasam & Rangayana in Karnataka, and Shriram Centre, New Delhi. She has worked as a festival coordinator for major theatre festivals, including the 8th Theatre Olympics, Bharat Rang Mahotsav and Classical Indian Theatre Festival.

Veena has directed over 200 plays spanning diverse themes and genres. Her notable works include Budhe Ne Kaha, Lagi Chhute Na, Mother Courage, Rasik Sampadak, Bela Meri Jaan, Kadidida Neeru, and others. She has worked with eminent directors like Anuradha Kapur, Amal Alana, Ram Gopal Bajaj, Satyadev Dubey, Barry John, and Ratan Thiyam, as well as international artists like Maria from Mexico and John Russell Brown. She has acted in over 250 plays in multiple languages, including Kannada, Hindi, Bhojpuri, Marathi and Bagheli. She has also performed in more than 1,600 shows across India, with over 1,000 performances dedicated to children's theatre.

Her expertise extends to stagecraft, including light design, stage properties and costume design. She has contributed to the cultural exchange between Kannada and Hindi theatre through her translations of plays such as E. Kelginavaru, Bimbayana, and Shivratri.

She has received laurels like the Delhi Government Young Director Award, Natsamrat (Best Actress) Award, and the Ministry of Culture Senior Fellowship for academic research in theatre and has also been conferred with Rangasree, Ranga Nakshatra, and Karnataka Rajyotsava awards. Presently, she is serving as the Director of the National School of Drama, Bengaluru Centre.

Director's Note

Discrimination, division and violence are prevalent in our society even today. They continue to affect us deeply. Basavanna, a common man, had the courage to stand up and question the caste and gender barriers set by the 12th century society. His teachings remind us of the power each of us have to challenge the injustices in society.

Shivratri is relevant in this present scenario. It reminds us of our shared history and the lessons we can learn from it. Documenting and understanding our past helps us create a better future. In this play, I have crafted a moral debate between two sides, one that wants progress and the other that strongly holds on to the conservative ways. Through this, I hope we are inspired to think, question, and take action in our own lives.

Group

As one of the Centres of National School of Drama New Delhi, the NSD Bengaluru Centre offers a comprehensive one year Intensive Course in Acting. Exploring the acting techniques from the finest traditional and folk performance forms in South India, the Centre focuses on developing the Indian style of acting for actor training, and enhancing versatility.



Contact

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA BENGALURU CENTRE

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CAST & CREDIT

On Stage

Kotwal, Chikkaiya, Sutradhar, Dwarpaal:

Abhay Thakur

Basavanna, Kallappa: Akhilesh R.

Kamakshi, Sutradhar, Kashawwa, Vanaja:

Arpita Singh Yadav

Jagdev, Kotwal, Harihar, Sutradhar:

Abhimanyu Singh

Rajbhataru, Harlaiyaa, Sutradhar: Athul Venugopal

Harlaiya, Sutradhar, Dwarpaal: Dheeraj Kumar

Sutradhar, Damodar, Nagawwa: Gaytri

Tungawwa, Savantri, Lalita: Indukala S. Nair

Kashawwa, Savantri: Keerthana S.

Sutradhar, Damodar, Rajabhataru: M. Muniselvam

Basavanna, Kallappa: Mahadev Annasaheb Kamble

Pagli, Chor Chikkaiya, Dwarapal, Ningi: Manoja S.

Kamakshi, Mugdh Sangaiyya, Sharada:

Nitusmita Sahu

Mugdh Sangaiyya, Basavanna:

Omkar Virendra Tile

Jagdev, Rajbhataru: Pavan Kumar Raje Urs

Pagli, Ningi: Poonam Rakesh Jain

Bijjal, Malli Bomanna, Mudkappa:

Prashanth M. S.

Sutradhar, Damodar, Girija:

Pranali Narendra More

Savantri, Kashawwa, Vanaja: Vibhuti Bahal

Bijjal, Malli Bomanna, Mudkappa:

Vishnubhala Kailasam

Off Stage

Playwright: Chandrashekar Kambar

Music: Susheel Sharma

Percussionist: Subbramanyam

Lights: Dinesh Kumar

Makeup: Bhaskar Pujari

Properties: Suresh Knhooni

Hand Properties: Vishnubhala Kailasam

Assistant Director: Harish N B

Sets, Costumes, Hindi Translation,

Design and Direction:

Veena Sharma Bhusnoormath





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