



National School of Drama
presents

भारत

NSD's Third
National Theatre
Festival

रंगमहोत्सव 2001

16th March - 8th April

Rasaranjani, Hyderabad

प्रजा नायकुडु प्रकाशम
PRAJA NAYAKUDU PRAKASHAM (Telugu)

Playwright & Direction - NAGABHUSHANA SARMA

3 APRIL, 2001 KAMANI

ABOUT THE GROUP

Rasaranjani, established in 1983 at Hyderabad, is a theatre organisation dedicated to the promotion of Telugu theatre by producing trend-setting plays, and helping other organisations to produce such plays by providing them a platform and find ways and means to create a serious and self-

sustaining theatre activity in Andhra Pradesh. It has produced more than 500 plays till date, either by its own Repertory or by other important groups. It has also started a Theatre School which trains young actors, ultimately to work with the Repertory.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Nagabhushana Sarma, a Director, Playwright, Actor, Researcher and Theatre Teacher is one of the prominent theatre directors of Andhra. A doyen of theatre education in Andhra, he is a playwright with more than 20 original plays and another 15 adaptations from Sanskrit, English and modern Indian plays. He has directed 20 plays in English for DCH of which he is a Director and more than 40 plays in Telugu including classics such as *Mrichakatika*,

Mudraraksitaham, *Raja Oedipus*, *Doll's House*, *An Enemy of the People* and *Emperor Jones*. A retired professor in English and theatre arts, Prof. Sarma is on the visiting faculty of several Universities in the departments of theatre and drama.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The play, *Praja Nayakudu Prakasham* is about contemporary politics, vitiated by selfish aggrandizement of power-mongers and power-brokers. Tanguturi Prakasham Pantulu, the first Chief Minister of Andhra, a victim of such power politics, is the hero of the play. A relentless fighter against corruption in politics, he has to lose power many a time. His name is a house-hold name in Andhra, even today, for he sacrificed everything for his country and sacrificed high positions to keep up principles and public morale. A dauntless fighter, his name is synonymous with selfless sacrifice, uncompromising under severe pressure.

The play is based on Naa Jeevitha Yatra an Autobiography of Prakasham. Episodes were built around ideas and passing incidents and comments consolidate into full-pledged scenes of dramatic conflict.

My main thrust in the play is to examine the status of politician who holds certain democratic principles and ethical stance in

life today. I am also interested in graphing the life of a poor-boy coming from utter poverty to climb into the corridors of power by sheer hardwork and honesty. His contrast defines the making of a politician yesterday and today.

Designed as an epic play about politics, the play has two narrators commenting on the story and relating it with the present. They

generalize, intrude, comment and philosophise. It is episodic and uses poetic commentary, songs, slides and several other features to tell the story of today's politics-be it in Andhra or anywhere in India. the play is designed for an open stage (proscenium of thrust) with simultaneous staging with locales specified by area lighting.



ABOUT THE PLAY

Praja Nayakudu Prakashan is a play on the life of the first Chief Minister of Andhra, Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu, a dauntless fighter all through his life. Lovingly called the Andhra Kesari, 'the Lion of Andhra', Prakasam rose to heights in his profession as lawyer, who has come from a poor family. He left his profession on the behest of Gandhiji and soon led the Satyagraha movement and became the unquestioned leader of the Telugu people. He gave away his entire property and his earnings for the national movement. His sacrifice is still remembered with gratitude by the people.

Prakasam had to fight relentless battles against his political adversaries both at home and in the high

command of the Congress party. He fought for what he thought was in national interests, and what he thought to be beneficial to Andhra at large. He fought with the greatest leaders of those days, including Gandhiji and Rajaji for upholding his belief in what was right. His life was perhaps a noble example of the nationalist spirit and also of the real Andhra psyche.

The play tries to show some of the excruciating events in prakasam's life - both personal and political. While his personal life illustrates how a man, confronted with poverty and meagre means of sustenance, can

still fulfil his desires to be a successful barrister and a leader, his political life reflects the challenges that he faced - challenges that threatened not an individual, but the whole nation, the entire system of national thinking and democracy.

Many of the incidents that showed Prakasam's encounters with the political leaders of the day are directly based on the his autobiography, *Naa Jeevitha Yaatra*.

ON STAGE

Narrators

Prakasam III

Narayana Rao

Govindacharyulu

Mother (Subbamma)

Sreeramulu I

Prakasam I

Immaneni Hanumantha

Rao Naidu

Lalshamma

Ramaiah

Ainala Tataiah Naidu

Chilakamathi

Prakasam II

Sriramulu II

Swaminathan

Kanchumathi Ramachandra Rao

Messenger

Venkataramana Rao

Janakiramaiah

Doctor

Satyagraha Volunteers

Costables

Commissioner Cunningham

Magistrate Patale

Judge Davis

Dr. M.N.Sarma, B.P. Prasad

Chaita Sritamulu

B. Narayana

M. Francis

Burra Subrahmanya Sastry

Hema Manasa

Duggirala Someswara Rao

Bh. Kalyani

C. Narayana Swamy

K.V. Sastry

Kramadhathi Venkateswara Sarma

Nadiminti Jagga Rao

Nataraj

M. Francis

Tulasi Balakrishna

Malladi Kutumba Sarma

Y. Mallikarjun

Chandrakanth

S. Mohan

Mohan, Krishnam Raju, Mallikarjun,

Kutumba Sarma, Venugopal,

Ramesh Rahamatullah, Ramaiah,

Dayakar, Rajesh, Chandu Vemana

Kcerthan, Mahesh Kumar,

Ramesh Kumar, Chendrasekhar,

Ravishankar, Ramanarao

Y. Anil Kumar

K.B.R. Krishnam Raju

Tulasi Balakrishna

Tenneti Viswanatham

Kadapa Koti Reddi

Vijayarama Raju

Konda Venkatappaiah

Kamaraj Nadar

V.V. Giri

N.G.Ranga

T.V. Giri

T.V. Raghava Rao

Rajaji

Surya Kumari

Pattabhi

B. Ananda Mohan

Kramadhathi Venkateswara Sarma

Pundarikaksha Sarma

M. Anjaneyulu

B. Rabbunandan

Garimella Ramamurthy

C. Narayana Swamy

Garimella Ramamurthy

B. Narayana

Mutnuri Kameswara Rao

Surabhi R. Syamala

G.B. Rama Krishna Sastry

OFF STAGE

Lights

Sets

Costumes & Make up

Audio

Poems Rendered by

Songs

Stage Manager

Assistant Director

Set, Costumes

Design & Production

Playwright & Direction

Duration : 2.10hrs.

Jolly Puthusseri, Nagendra Prasad

V. Poornachandra Selkhar,

Kishore, Venu, Prabhu

Harischandra, Gopalswamy

Madhu

Kramadhathi

Under the guidance of Burra Subrahmanya Sastry

Mohan

Pundarikaksha Sarma

B.P. Prasad

Garimella Rama Murthy

Dr. M. Nagabhushana Sarma

आदिभक्तं भूतं यस्य वाचिकं सर्ववाङ्मयम् ।
आहार्यवन्द्यतासदि ते नमः सात्त्विकं शिवम् ॥

*"Salute the one accomplished in all emotion, whose actions
belong to the cosmic body Whose speech is all language,
and whose vestaments are the moon and the stars."*

From the Abhinaya Darpan



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राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय

बहावलपुर हाउस, भगवान दास मार्ग, नई दिल्ली ११०००१, (भारत)
दूरभाष नं०: ०११-३३८७१३७, ३३८९४०२ फैक्स: ३३८४२८८