



AANK_A Creative Line

In collaboration with **Inter Act Art, Sri Lanka**

Presents



An International Collaborative Theatre Project

Theatre Performance
Theatre Forum

Guwahati
Assam
INDIA

About The Project

Experience the pinnacle of artistic collaboration with Aank_A Creative Line's groundbreaking international theatre project, outcomes from the Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival (BBITF) 2023. This visionary endeavours unites virtuoso artists from five nations - France, Australia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and India - to weave a rich tapestry of theatrical brilliance. This multifaceted project comprises two major events: Theatre Performance and Theatre Forum.

Theatre Performance

Aank_A Creative Line, Assam, India &
Inter Act Art, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Presents

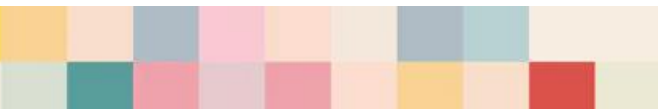
প্রেমৰ দোলনা (Swings of Love)

(an avant-garde physical mono-drama)

Original Playwright: **Manjula Wediwardena, France**
Designed and direction: **M. Safer, Colombo, Sri Lanka**
Date: **April 28-29, 2024**
Venue: **Sri Sri Madhavdeva International Auditorium,
SSKS, Guwahati, Assam**
Duration: **75 minutes**

About the Play

Let us tell you about the last woman in the world with her swings...
She is doing her last act in front of you...
Just Listen to her...
She will tell you many things...
Try to understand what she wants to convey...
May be, you will not meet her again...
Red, Blue, Black, Purple and White swings will be left afterall.
She is in front of you, moments before her parting...
Thereafter "The swings of love" shall be swinging...



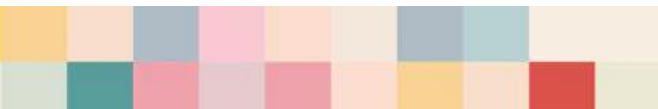
Director's Note

Swings of Love is a play germinated in 2015 and developed on to a play produced in 2017. In 2015 at the Colombo International Theatre Festival, I met with the Italian actress and got the inspiration to direct a play with her. I spoke with my contemporary writer, further the renowned poet Manjula Wediwardhana and poured out my heart to him. The miniscule concept we discussed finally resulted in writing a fully pledged play. In 2017 we invited the Italian actress, Julia Philippo, and staged the English version in Colombo and staged in several countries in English. Meanwhile the premiers were held in UAE, India and Korea; the response received was highly encouraging and it was re-staged in Sri Lanka again. Since the response of the audience was highly encouraging, using the Actress-Rebecca Dilrukshi, a Sinhala version too was produced and staged, in 2018. The Sinhala version as well as the English versions were well received by the audiences and we got the opportunity to show the play in various countries. We were planning to visit many more countries with the play in 2020, but the covid pandemic stalled all the plans as well as the French production. Finally, after the covid pandemic as well as the recovery of the economic downturn we re-commenced our artistic activities with great difficulties in 2023.

We were gradually forming in to normalcy and staged the Colombo International Theatre Festival after a break of three years. In October 2023, we were invited by India to participate at the Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival in Assam; at this festival we staged “Untouched”, which won international accolades as the best stage play at the Egyptian Theatre festival, directed by Sujeewa Pathinisekara and my 50th direction “Love and Locked Down”. Over this fruitful visit to Assam we got an opportunity to carry out a physical theatre workshop for the young dramatists and other veterans. At the end of the workshop, my friend Dr. Mrinal Joyti Goswami proposed me to direct “Swings of Love” in Assamese. This write up is the result of his suggestion.

The “Swings of Love” in Assamese has its journey for production spans from April 28 and 29.

As a dramatist I always wish to carry out new experiments as well as to do things differently. My life with drama spans for nearly thirty to thirty-five years. “Inter Act Art” dramatists always strive to deal with the world, to build a bridge between Sri Lanka and the world. We hold an international theatre festival over the last decade. Multitude of international dramatists visit Sri Lanka through this festival. Similarly, many Sri Lankan dramatists too have got the opportunities to walk over this bridge to reach the world.



“Swings of love” is a physical mono-drama and could be called as an experimental drama too. You are awaiting today to watch this drama; nevertheless, I always endeavour to develop a large connection between Sri Lanka or the Island with other countries as well as dramatists. I feel it has succeeded to a certain extent; hence as a Sri Lankan I have a modest happiness. Swings of love is based on a concept and an effort to use the concept in a differently creative method.

Both Manjula and I have a dream to produce this drama in 10 languages and to feel the experience. We have heard many international dramatists produce their creations in many countries. But it is extremely rare that a script of a single dramatist is directed by the same director. Manjula and I have received this opportunity. We believe this production, – a director from one country, a writer from another country and an actress from yet another country shall be successful as well as shall give you a different experience!

Contents

The swings are used as symbols of life, love and femininity, and the colours of the swings, white, black, red and blue are also symbolic. Performance vary from one act to another according to the symbolic colours and the background pictures and videos appearing time to time to intensify the whole meaning. The narration of the production is minimized, taking the performer's physical expressions as the main medium of communication to glorify the theme as a whole.





About the Groups

AANK_A Creative Line

With a profound dedication to Assam's cultural heritage, AANK_A Creative Line has been a pioneering force in reshaping theatre since its establishment in 2008. Beginning with the impactful production "Xunor Xing Thoka Ghariyalar Choku," the group has curated a repertoire of nine significant plays, including "Imaan Imaan Paani", "Erikoti-Mirikoti_the Butterfly Effect", "Bhukar Xadhu_The Myth of Hunger", "EtherorIrika_Ethereal Epoch", "Eréndira's Metamorphosis", "Alice in Assam," etc. These performances have garnered international acclaim, captivating audiences worldwide.

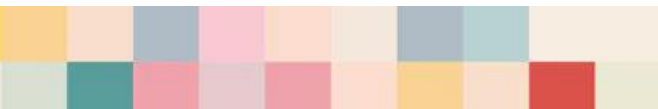
AANK_A Creative Line thrives on international collaboration, breathing new life into Assam's cultural tapestry while blending tradition with contemporary expression. The group's artistic pursuits explore uncharted territories, sparking meaningful conversations and engaging audiences in profound human experiences. As a trailblazer in the theatre scene, AANK_A Creative Line continues to influence both local and global stages. The initiation of the Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival (BBITF) underscores the group's commitment to international collaboration, with "Swing of Love" serving as a testament to the success of these collaborative endeavours.

Inter Act Art (IAA)

Having established in 1992, the IAA is a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious group, involved in development of theatre and performing art. Its decisions are taken by representatives of afore mentioned group. During its existence of nearly two and half decades, IAA has completed many useful activities for the theatre and theatre fraternity.

IAA team members were the pioneers in introducing Forum Theatre (Sinhala and Tamil) and Black Box Theatre to Sri Lanka, as a different dimension in theatre art. Aligning with the main objective, IAA has trained island-wide, young creators, undergraduates and corporate sector personnel, in modern trends and techniques. It is located at Sri Jayawardenepura, the Administrative Capital, of Sri Lanka and is the second in South East Asia.

IAA takes pride being the owner of one and only International Theatre Festival- The Colombo Theatre Festival – an annual event commenced in 2012, which



became a turning point in National Theatre arena. IAA has a mini-theatre house, a Theatre Academy, a Training Centre for Private Sector Employees, a Dancing Section, a Drama Production Unit, Film and Television Production Unit and a Publication Section.

IAA organizes two alternative National Theatre Festivals and two International Theatre Festivals annually:

- a) Sri Lankan theatre festival
- b) Black Box short play festival
- c) Colombo International Theatre Festival (CITF)
- d) Colombo Mono Drama Festival

Albeit being a small organization it has built a considerable relationship with the international artists/institutions through its activities. Majority of books published by the organization have been prescribed by the National Institute of Education as reading material for GCE Ordinary Level and Advanced Level students who follow performing arts as a subject. We at IAA collectively offer opportunities for youth of all ethnicities with creative ideologies to work to fulfil their objectives by providing basic facilities. Most of their creations have won awards at the National and International level. Furthermore, it has a News Casting Section, a local and International Website. As part of their contribution IAA has already presented two films to the global

Cast and Credit

On Stage:

Jahnabi Bora, India

Off Stage

Designed and Direction:

M. Safeer, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Original Playwright:

Manjula Wediwardena, France

Translation into English:

Dilini Eriyawala, Australia

Translation to Assamese:

Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami, Assam, India

Music Design:

Vindake Weerasinghe, Sri Lanka

Video visuals and Editing:

Amrit Basumatary, Assam

Photographs:

Utpal Datta & Amrit Basumatary, Assam

Videography:

UB Photos, Guwahati

Costume & Set Design:

M. Safeer, Sri Lanka

Light design and operate:

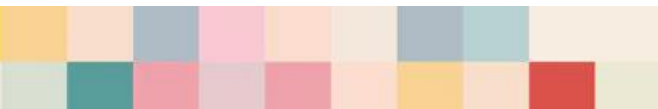
Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami, Assam

Production &

Stage Managers:

Dhrubajyoti Deka, Assam

Upeksha Sandeepani & Nirmal Perera, Sri Lanka



Theatre Forum

Topics:

- Theatre Criticism and Review: Evaluating Performances and Promoting Dialogue
- Collaborative Theatre-Making: Exploring Ensemble Work and Collective Creativity.

Venue: Conference Hall, Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Samaj, Guwahati, Assam, India

Date: April 29, 2024 | **Time:** 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Moderator: **Mr. Nayan Prasad, Assam, India**

Key Speakers: **Prof. Shafi Ahmed (Rtd.)**
Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh,

Dr. Ajay Joshi

Indian Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Scholar (2018-19), Theatre Researcher, Pune, India

Other Speakers

Mr. Anupam Saikia

Performance/Visual Artist, Assistant Professor, Govt. College of Arts & Crafts, Guwahati, Kamrup (Metro), Assam, India

Mr. Samudra Kajal Saikia

Visual Artist/Performance Artist, Guwahati, Kamrup (Metro), Assam, India

Contact Details

www.aank.org

www.citf.lk

info@aank.org

mrinal.goswami@aank.org

interactartsl@gmail.com

We are thankful to:

Jirsong Theatre, Gauhati Artist Guild, Srimanta Sanakardeva Kalakshetra Samaj, Deep Ahmed, Ripam Bharadwaj, All employs of Sri Sri Madhadeva International Auditorium, Media (Print and Electronic) and our beloved audiences.

