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Felicitations | Book Launches | 03 Parallel Festivals | Awards Night



Sri Lanka's First and Only
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Redefining the landscape of
National theatre History



AANK_A CREATIVE LINE | PARTICIPATION REPORT

Bodies, Borders and Dialogues

AANK_A Creative Line at the 12th
Colombo International Theatre Festival

Colombo, Sri Lanka 22-28 August 2026 Elphinstone Theatre, Maradana

22 AUGUST

Book release

25 AUGUST

*Moonlight of the
Island*

26 AUGUST

Yoga Body Flow
workshop

27 AUGUST

*The Body as
Border*

25-27 AUGUST

Directors' Forum



AANK_A CREATIVE LINE

International Theatre Festival Participation Report

(in collaboration with **Bodousa Foundation**, Assam, India)

Title:

Bodies, Borders and Dialogues: AANK_A Creative Line at the 12th Colombo International Theatre Festival

Festival Name:

12th Colombo International Theatre Festival (CITF 2026), International Mono Drama Competition

Organised by:

Inter Act Art, Sri Lanka

Festival Period:

22–28 August 2026

Performance Dates:

Moonlight of the Island, 25 August 2026

The Body as Border, 27 August 2026

Festival Venue:

Elphinstone Theatre, Maradana, Colombo, Sri Lanka

PARTNERS



Inter Act Art, Sri Lanka



Colombo International Theatre Festival



Bodousa Foundation

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About this report

This report documents the participation of AANK_A Creative Line, with its partner Bodousa Foundation, in the 12th Colombo International Theatre Festival (CITF), held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 22 to 28 August 2026. It records the two productions the team presented, the workshop it conducted, its contributions to the Directors' Forum, the release of Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami's book at the opening ceremony, and the institutional relationships that shaped the visit.

Programme details are taken from the official CITF 2026 souvenir, the festival schedule and the Directors' Forum programme. Accounts of the performances, the workshop and the forum sessions are based on the records of the AANK team. Photographs are credited to the Colombo International Theatre Festival (PC: CITF); press clippings are from Sri Lankan newspapers.

Prepared by AANK_A Creative Line, Guwahati, Assam, India. October 2026.

1. Festival Overview

The Colombo International Theatre Festival (CITF) is Sri Lanka's first and only international theatre festival. Founded by the director M. Safeer and organised by Inter Act Art, it began in 2012 and reached its 12th edition in 2026. Over these years the festival has become a regular meeting point in South Asia for theatre makers, scholars and audiences, bringing international productions, training and discussion to Colombo.

The 2026 edition ran from 22 to 28 August at the Elphinstone Theatre, Maradana, as an International Mono Drama Competition. Alongside the performances, the programme included workshops, the Directors' Forum, a felicitation, book launches and an Awards Night at Port City Colombo on 28 August. Three parallel festivals carried the programme beyond Colombo: one in Chilaw, Sri Lanka, and two in Assam, India, at Guwahati and Tinsukia.

12th	14	31	16	3
EDITION	COUNTRIES	PLAYS	WORKSHOPS	PARALLEL FESTIVALS

Festival leadership

Festival Director	M. Safeer
Festival Secretary	Prasad Wikramarathna
Chairman, Inter Act Art	Sujeewa Pathinisekara
Festival Committee	Dr. Ajay Joshi and Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami (India), with Dr. Parakrama Niriella, Dr. Ravibandhu Vidyapathi and other senior Sri Lankan theatre practitioners

Felicitation and jury

The 2026 edition honoured Kalakeerthi Jerome L. de Silva, veteran director, broadcaster and founder of The Workshop Players, whose more than 75 productions have shaped musical and English-language theatre in Sri Lanka. The competition jury was headed by Professor Sasho Dimoski of North Macedonia, with Dr. Ajay Joshi (India) and the Sri Lankan artists Yashoda Wimaladharma, Hemantha Prasad, Nihari Somasiri, Jayanath Bandara, Sujeewa Pathinisekara and Subuddhi Lakmali.

Partners and Indian presence

Inter Act Art organised the festival in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain in India, the Austrian Embassy New Delhi and Austrian Cultural Forum, the Goethe-Institut and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. India was strongly represented. Besides the two AANK presentations, the programme included Indian productions by Aliyar Ali (*The Swan Song*), Nimmy Raphel (*Nidravathwam*), Deep Bhowmik (*Katha Minakshi*) and Ramanjit Kaur (*Home in a Suitcase*), and workshops by Dr. Ajay Joshi and Ramanjit Kaur.

2. AANK at CITF 2026: At a Glance

AANK_A Creative Line took part in all three strands of the festival: performance, training and discussion. Its team presented two solo productions in the competition, led one of the festival workshops, and contributed to the Directors' Forum as moderator, presenter and country reporter. Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami's book was also released at the opening ceremony.

2	1	3	1	6
SOLO PRODUCTIONS	WORKSHOP	FORUM PRESENTATIONS	BOOK RELEASE	TEAM MEMBERS
DATE	STRAND	ACTIVITY	AANK CONTRIBUTION	
22 August	BOOK RELEASE	<i>Drama, Theatre and Performance: Theories and Practices</i> , opening ceremony	Book by Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami; published by Sandakada Publishing, Colombo, Sri Lanka	
25 August	PERFORMANCE	<i>Moonlight of the Island</i> , Elphinstone Theatre	Direction and performance by Brishtirani Hazarika (AANK_A Creative Line)	
26 August	WORKSHOP	Yoga Body Flow: Yoga and Physical Training for Performers	Led by Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami, assisted by Mallika Kalita, Malaya Baruah and Brishtirani Hazarika	
27 August	PERFORMANCE	<i>The Body as Border</i> , Elphinstone Theatre	Bodousa Foundation with AANK_A Creative Line; script, design and direction by Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami; performed by Malaya Baruah	
25–27 August	FORUM	Directors' Forum, Radisson Colombo	Moderation by Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami	
Forum Day 2	FORUM	Special Session: The Contemporary Festival Organizer: NEC Approach	Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami with M. Safeer	
Forum Day 2	FORUM	Country Report, India	presented by Malaya Baruah	
Forum Day 3	FORUM	Country Report, India	Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami	
Festival	GOVERNANCE	CITF 2026 Festival Committee	Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami, member	

The Directors' Forum met from 25 to 27 August 2026, 2.00 to 5.00 pm, at the Radisson Colombo, Marine Drive. Forum sessions are listed by forum day. Evening performances began at 6.30 pm.

3. The Indian Team

Six members travelled from Assam to Colombo. Each held more than one role during the week, which allowed a small team to stage two productions, run a workshop and take part in the forum. The performers worked as technicians for each other's productions, and the director of *The Body as Border* also led the workshop and the team's forum work.

MEMBER	ROLES AT CITF 2026
Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami	Script, design and direction; costume and light design, <i>The Body as Border</i> Workshop leader, Yoga Body Flow Moderator, Directors' Forum; presenter, NEC Approach session; country report, India Member, CITF 2026 Festival Committee
Brishtirani Hazarika	Direction and performance, <i>Moonlight of the Island</i> Light operation, <i>The Body as Border</i> Workshop assistant
Malaya Baruah	Performer, <i>The Body as Border</i> Lighting design and operation, <i>Moonlight of the Island</i> Workshop assistant; presented the India country report on Forum Day 2
Mallika Kalita	Music operation, both productions Workshop assistant
Munindra Chutia	Stage management, <i>The Body as Border</i>
Monuram Chutia	Stage management, <i>The Body as Border</i>

Production credits beyond the touring team

Moonlight of the Island: script and dramaturgy by Oinau Jengrai; music design by Arupjyoti Patgiri (Bapi); music arrangement by Semuel Bora; costume design by Biswajit Chutia; production management by Dr. Junmoni Gogoi; produced by Diganta Hazarika.

The Body as Border: music design by Arupjyoti Patgiri (Bapi); music arrangement by Semuel Bora; production management by Ranjan Kumar Moran; produced by Bodousa Foundation.



With fellow delegates at the 12th edition backdrop. PC: CITF



Festival guests honoured with the Assamese gamosa. PC: CITF



Malaya Baruah in *The Body as Border*. Production still from the CITF 2026 souvenir. PC: CITF

4. The Body as Border

Bodousa Foundation in collaboration with AANK_A Creative Line
27 August 2026, Elphinstone Theatre, Maradana

The performance

The Body as Border asks how political, social, cultural and geographical forces enter and reshape the female body. The performer begins inside a circular boundary and moves through childhood, youth, love, violence and displacement. A straight line of transparent plastic cuts across her circular movement. In the course of the performance the line becomes a barrier, a wall, a map and finally a wound.

Small pieces of the same plastic change their function through the nine rasas, becoming ornament, mirror, flower, mask, flag and shroud. In the later section the performer enters a large transparent enclosure, where her breath, movement and identity are restricted by questions of name, nationality, passport and permission.

She escapes, but the border stays attached to her body as memory. In the closing image she carries the plastic as a burden and invokes Prometheus, turning suffering into resistance and a refusal to surrender.

Form	Solo physical theatre, movement-based performance
Duration	15 minutes
Language	Minimal; English and Assamese
Script, design and direction	Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami
Performer	Malaya Baruah
Costume and light design	Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami
Music design	Arupjyoti Patgiri (Bapi)
Music arrangement	Semuel Bora
Music operation	Mallika Kalita
Light operation	Brishtirani Hazarika
Stage management	Munindra Chutia, Monuram Chutia
Production manager	Ranjan Kumar Moran
Producer	Bodousa Foundation



Malaya Baruah in *The Body as Border*. PC: CITF



The border on the ground. PC: CITF



Plastic as ornament and burden. PC: CITF

Artistic framework

Circle against line. The dramaturgy rests on a simple geometric opposition. The circle stands for organic, cyclical and embodied life; the straight line stands for the administrative logic of the border. The conflict between them is shown through movement rather than spoken text.

One material, many meanings. Transparent plastic is the production's single scenographic material. Because it is visible and invisible at once, it suits a subject in which borders are imposed on people yet often go unseen. Its transformations follow the *navarasa* of Indian aesthetics, giving each object its own emotional register.

From metaphor to document. The enclosure section names the bureaucratic questions that govern movement across borders. The closing invocation of Prometheus then places this present-day experience within a much older tradition of defiance.

Minimal language. With only a few words of English and Assamese, the work depends on physical action, light and sound. This allowed it to speak directly to a multilingual festival audience.

Presentation at CITF 2026

The Body as Border was presented on the evening of 27 August 2026, the last performance evening of the Colombo programme before the Awards Night. It shared the bill with *When It Hurts You Play* (Aleksey Burago, USA/Serbia) and *Giri Devi: Section 364A* (Tharindu Wanigasooriya, Sri Lanka).

The festival audience received the performance warmly. Its concern with borders, migration and the female body under political pressure ran alongside other works in the 2026 programme, among them *Adrenaline* (Canada/Syria), *Salt and Blood* (Sri Lanka) and *Giri Devi: Section 364A*.



The Body as Border: inside the transparent enclosure. PC: CITF



The Body as Border: carrying the plastic as a burden. PC: CITF



Brishtirani Hazarika in *Moonlight of the Island*. Production still from the CITF 2026 souvenir. PC: CITF

5. Moonlight of the Island

AANK_A Creative Line

25 August 2026, Elphinstone Theatre, Maradana

The performance

Moonlight of the Island is a solo physical-theatre work about memory, loss and survival on Majuli, the river island of the Brahmaputra. Carrying a lamp and a small bag, the Island Woman returns to the remains of her village. Her memories surface as prayer, childhood games, paper boats, swimming and Bhaona. A mask recalls her father and turns her body into that of a traditional performer and warrior.

This world of memory is broken by flood, erosion and displacement. As the performance develops, the natural disaster merges with a second flood: the mechanical and dehumanising force of modernity.

In the final image the woman carries her lamp forward, affirming that return and renewal remain possible after loss.

Form	Solo physical theatre
Duration	13 minutes
Language	Minimal; Assamese
Direction and performance	Brishtirani Hazarika
Script and dramaturgy	Oinau Jengrai
Music design	Arupjyoti Patgiri (Bapi)
Music arrangement	Semuel Bora
Music operation	Mallika Kalita
Costume design	Biswajit Chutia
Lighting design and operation	Malaya Baruah
Production manager	Dr. Junmoni Gogoi
Producer	Diganta Hazarika



Brishtirani Hazarika in *Moonlight of the Island*. PC: CITF



Moonlight of the Island: memories of the village. PC: CITF

Artistic framework

Majuli as a lived place. Majuli is a centre of Assam's Sattriya tradition and one of the river islands most affected by erosion. The production treats the island as a site of cultural memory and of environmental loss at the same time.

Bhaona and the mask. The memory of Bhaona and the father's mask bring the Ankiya Bhaona tradition into a contemporary solo form. The mask works as an inheritance that turns the woman's body into a carrier of tradition.

Two floods. The production links ecological displacement with the pressures of modernisation and presents both as forces that wash away community memory.

From island to island. A story of a vanishing river island, told in an island nation, gave the work a particular resonance for its audience in Colombo.

Presentation at CITF 2026

Moonlight of the Island was presented on 25 August 2026, in an evening shared with *Disappearing in a Form* (Nikola Palej, Poland) and *Voice of Dilaksha* (V. Vijayakumar, Sri Lanka). The performance was well received by the audience.

The production gave Brishtirani Hazarika an international platform as director and performer of her own work. In the same week she also operated the lights for *The Body as Border* and assisted in the Yoga Body Flow workshop.



Moonlight of the Island: the mask. PC: CITF



The mask recalls the father and the Bhaona stage. PC: CITF

6. Workshop: Yoga Body Flow

Title	Yoga Body Flow: Yoga and Physical Training for Performers
Date and venue	26 August 2026, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Colombo
Facilitator	Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami
Assistants	Mallika Kalita, Malaya Baruah and Brishtirani Hazarika

The workshop introduced yoga as a training system for performers. It treated yogic practice as preparation for the stage: a way of building breath control, alignment, balance, flexibility and concentration, and of carrying these qualities into movement in space.

Structure of the session

Breath and centring. The session opened with breathing practices (pranayama) to steady the body and gather attention, establishing breath as the base of physical expression.

Asanas for actors. Standing, balancing and stretching postures were adapted to the needs of performers, with attention to the spine, the pelvis and grounding through the feet.

Body flow. Postures were linked into continuous sequences, so that participants moved from shape to shape with control and rhythm. This flow work connected the discipline of yoga to the demands of physical theatre.

Presence and stillness. The session closed with stillness and relaxation, treating the ability to hold and release energy as a core skill of the solo performer.

Training and stage

The workshop drew on the training behind AANK's own productions. Both *The Body as Border* and *Moonlight of the Island* are solo physical-theatre works carried by breath, balance and control, and the three assistants were performers and technicians of those productions. Participants could therefore see the method in the studio and its result on stage in the same festival. Participants responded to the session with enthusiasm.



Yoga Body Flow workshop, 26 August 2026. PC: CITF



At the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Colombo. PC: CITF

7. Directors' Forum

The Directors' Forum is the festival's platform for exchange among directors, theatre makers and practitioners. Its stated aim is to help them share ideas, explore contemporary theatre and build artistic partnerships across cultures. The 2026 forum was organised around five themes: artistic exchange, cultural diplomacy, international collaboration, innovation in theatre and festival networking.

Dates and time	25–27 August 2026, 2.00 to 5.00 pm
Venue	Radisson Colombo, Marine Drive, Colombo
Working languages	Sinhala, Tamil and English
Keynotes	Theatre in Eastern Europe (Professor Sasho Dimoski); English Theatre in Sri Lanka (Jerome L. de Silva); Cultural Diplomacy (Kristofer Quadros, Cluster General Manager, Radisson Hotel)
Moderators	Dr. Ajay Joshi (India), Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami (India), Deepal Warnakulasuriya (Sri Lanka) and Prasad Wikramarathna (Sri Lanka)

7.1 Moderation

As one of the four moderators, Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami helped guide the forum sessions across its three days, alongside Dr. Ajay Joshi, Deepal Warnakulasuriya and Prasad Wikramarathna.

7.2 Special Session: The Contemporary Festival Organizer: NEC Approach

On the second day of the forum, Dr. Goswami and Festival Director M. Safeer presented a special session followed by a panel discussion. The session looked at the changing role of the festival organiser, who today must act as curator, connector and host at once. It set out the NEC approach, in which the organiser works through three linked functions: networking, exchange and collaboration.

Networking. A festival works best as one point in a wider circuit of festivals, institutions and artists. The CITF parallel festival model, which links Colombo with Chilaw and with partner festivals in Assam, was discussed as a working example.

Exchange. Productions, workshops and forums let artists move between festivals, and ideas and methods travel with them. Exchange also includes reciprocal hosting, in which partner festivals receive each other's artists.

Collaboration. Sustained exchange can lead to joint creation. *Swings of Love*, created by AANK_A Creative Line and Inter Act Art and presented at the 2026 Seoul International Monodrama Festival, was offered as an example.

The session also addressed the practical demands on independent festival organisers, including funding, logistics and the need to sustain quality from one edition to the next.

7.3 Country Report: India (Forum Day 2)

The India country report on the second day was listed in the programme under Brishtirani Hazarika. It was presented at the forum by Malaya Baruah. The report offered a young practitioner's view of theatre in Assam and covered:

- the living performance traditions of Ankiya Bhaona and the Sattriya culture of Majuli;
- the wide popular reach of Assam's mobile theatre (Bhramyaman) companies, which tour the state each season;
- the growth of group theatre and of physical, movement-based work among younger artists, including women directors and performers;
- the importance of workshops and festivals in giving young practitioners access to international work.

It also introduced *Moonlight of the Island* as an example of a young woman artist moving from Assamese tradition toward a contemporary solo form.

7.4 Country Report: India (Forum Day 3)

On the third day, Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami presented a country report that placed AANK's work within its wider Indian and North-East Indian setting. It covered:

- the diversity of theatre in India and the particular position of the North-East, with its many languages, communities and performance traditions;
- the work of AANK_A Creative Line in Guwahati across production, training, research and publication;
- the Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival (BBITF), held in Guwahati since 2023, and its link with CITF as a parallel festival;
- the training-to-stage model, in which festival workshops lead to new productions that then travel to international platforms.

7.5 Forum dialogue

The closing dialogue on the third day took up four questions: the role of parallel festivals; challenges and solutions; new trends and alternatives; and ways of extending collaboration and networking. These topics connected directly with AANK's experience as a partner in the CITF festival network and with the NEC session of the previous day.



Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami at the Directors' Forum. PC: CITF



Directors' Forum participants, Radisson Colombo. PC: CITF

8. Book Release: *Drama, Theatre and Performance*

Opening ceremony, 12th Colombo International Theatre Festival
22 August 2026, Elphinstone Theatre, Maradana

The opening ceremony of CITF 2026 included the release of *Drama, Theatre and Performance: Theories and Practices*, a book in English by Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami, published by Sandakada Publishing, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

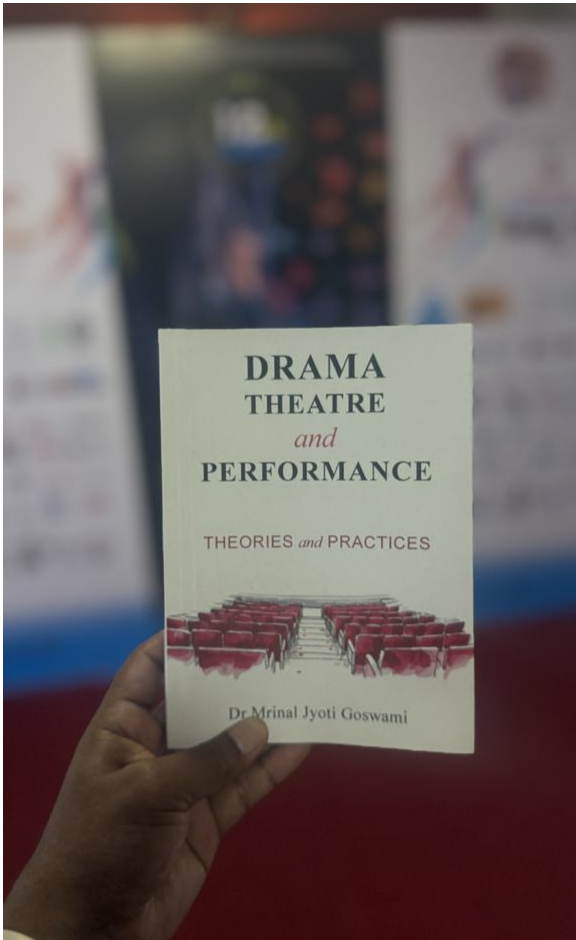
As its title indicates, the book brings together theoretical perspectives and practical approaches to drama, theatre and performance. Book launches were part of the festival's programme, and this release placed AANK's scholarly work beside its productions, its workshop and its contributions to the Directors' Forum.

The book's publication in Colombo and its release at Sri Lanka's international theatre festival also mark a new link between theatre scholarship in Assam and the Sri Lankan theatre community.

Title	<i>Drama, Theatre and Performance: Theories and Practices</i>
Author	Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami
Publisher	Sandakada Publishing, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Language	English
Released	Opening ceremony, CITF 2026



Release of *Drama, Theatre and Performance* at CITF 2026. PC: CITF



Drama, Theatre and Performance: Theories and Practices (Sandakada Publishing). PC: Own

9. Institutional Engagement and the CITF Partnership

AANK's part in CITF 2026 went beyond its performances. The visit also reflected a working partnership with Inter Act Art and the festival that has grown over several years.

Festival governance

Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami served on the CITF 2026 Festival Committee, one of two members from India alongside Dr. Ajay Joshi, and was one of the four moderators of the Directors' Forum. These roles placed AANK inside the planning and discussion of the festival as well as on its stage.

A continuing partnership

The most visible result of the AANK and Inter Act Art partnership so far is *Swings of Love*, directed by M. Safeer and produced jointly by the two organisations. The production grew out of the 2023 Physical Theatre Workshop at BBITF and was presented at the 2026 Seoul International Monodrama Festival in March 2026. The Colombo festival continued this relationship on Sri Lankan ground.



The parallel festival network

The CITF 2026 souvenir lists three parallel festivals: Chilaw in Sri Lanka, and Guwahati and Tinsukia in Assam. The Bhullung-Bhuthur International Theatre Festival, organised by AANK in Guwahati, also appears among the festival's partners. AANK therefore takes part in CITF both as a visiting company and as a partner festival.

Bodousa Foundation

The Body as Border was produced by Bodousa Foundation in collaboration with AANK. The production brought the Foundation into international presentation and widened AANK's network of partners in Assam.



At the moderators' table, Directors' Forum. PC: CITF



Directors' Forum, Radisson Colombo. PC: CITF

10. International Networking and Future Directions

In Colombo, shared performance evenings, workshops and forum sessions placed the AANK team alongside artists from many countries. The wider 2026 programme, including the Chilaw parallel festival, brought together practitioners including the following.

Armenia	Lusine Yernjakyany, Zhora Martirosyan
Austria	David Helbock
Canada and Syria	Majdi Bou-Matar, Ahmad Meree
Colombia and Italy	Mayil Georgi Nieto
Denmark	Denni Dennis
India	Aliyar Ali, Nimmy Raphel, Deep Bhowmik, Ramanjit Kaur, Dr. Ajay Joshi
Kazakhstan	Dina Zhumabayeva
North Macedonia	Professor Sasho Dimoski
Poland	Nikola Palej
Spain	Bea Insa
USA and Serbia	Aleksey Burago, Danijela Popovic
Sri Lanka	The host country's directors, performers and companies, including Inter Act Art

Directions for future collaboration

Building on the week in Colombo, AANK identifies four directions for its international work:

- further co-productions with Inter Act Art, following *Swings of Love*;
- invitations to international artists and productions met through CITF to take part in AANK's festival platform in Assam;
- exchange of workshops and training methods, building on the Yoga Body Flow workshop;
- presentation of AANK productions at other international festivals represented at CITF.



Artists and delegates of CITF 2026. PC: CITF

11. Outcomes and Significance

The visit produced results at four levels: on stage, in the studio, within the festival's institutions and in the wider cultural relationship between India and Sri Lanka.

Artistic outcomes

- Two solo physical-theatre works by Assamese artists were presented in an international mono drama competition.
- Work drawn from Assamese sources (Majuli, Bhaona, the mask) and from Indian aesthetic theory (the navarasa) communicated with an international audience through minimal language.
- A young director and performer, Brishtirani Hazarika, presented her own work on an international stage.

Institutional outcomes

- AANK's place within CITF was strengthened through committee membership, forum moderation and the NEC session.
- The AANK and Inter Act Art partnership continued after *Swings of Love*.
- Bodousa Foundation entered international production through *The Body as Border*.

Pedagogical outcomes

- A yoga-based training method for performers was shared with festival participants.
- The link between training and performance was visible within a single festival, from the workshop to the two productions.
- Younger team members gained experience in performing, operating and assisting at an international level.

Cultural significance

- Assamese and North-East Indian theatre was represented at Sri Lanka's leading international theatre festival.
- The visit added to cultural exchange between India and Sri Lanka at the level of artists and institutions.
- Two country reports placed Assam's traditions and its contemporary theatre before an international forum.
- A book on theatre theory and practice by an Assamese scholar was published in Colombo and released at the festival.



Cultural welcome for the delegates. PC: CITF



Sri Lankan traditional dance with the delegates' national flags. PC: CITF

12. Conclusion

AANK_A Creative Line's participation in the 12th Colombo International Theatre Festival covered the full range of festival work: two productions on stage, a workshop in the studio, several contributions to the Directors' Forum and the release of a book at the opening ceremony.

The three words of this report's title describe that range. The bodies are those of the performers, trained through yoga and physical theatre. The borders are the subject of *The Body as Border* and, in another form, the vanishing village of *Moonlight of the Island*. The dialogues are those of the forum, where AANK spoke as moderator, presenter and country reporter.

Taken together, these activities show a company working as artist, teacher and institution at once. Six members from Assam carried two productions and a training programme to Colombo and returned with a stronger place in the festival network that links Sri Lanka and Assam. CITF 2026 showed that theatre made in Assam, drawn from its rivers, its rituals and its present-day concerns, can hold its place on an international stage.



Festival guests and artists at the 12th edition backdrop. PC: CITF

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

Stage, Studio, Forum

Colombo International Theatre Festival, 22–28 August 2026 | PC: CITF

On Stage

ELPHINSTONE THEATRE, 25 AND 27 AUGUST 2026



The Body as Border. PC: CITF



The Body as Border. PC: CITF



The Body as Border. PC: CITF



The Body as Border. PC: CITF



Moonlight of the Island. PC: CITF



Festival poster for 27 August 2026, featuring The Body as Border.

Workshop and Directors' Forum

25-27 AUGUST 2026



Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami leading the Yoga Body Flow workshop. PC: CITF



Yoga Body Flow workshop. PC: CITF



Directors' Forum, Radisson Colombo. PC: CITF



Directors' Forum participants. PC: CITF



At the Directors' Forum. PC: CITF



Audience at a festival session. PC: CITF

Festival Moments

COLOMBO, AUGUST 2026



Opening Ceremony. PC: CITF



Solo piano concert by David Helbock. PC: CITF



Delegates with their national flags. PC: CITF



Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami at the festival. PC: CITF



With fellow delegates, wearing the Assamese gamosa. PC: CITF



Festival friendships. PC: CITF

Press Coverage and Festival Documents

Press coverage

SRI LANKAN NEWSPAPERS



Sinhala press coverage of CITF 2026.



Sinhala press coverage of CITF 2026.



Sinhala press coverage of CITF 2026.



Sinhala press coverage of CITF 2026.



Sinhala press coverage of CITF 2026.



"Colombo International Theatre Festival to redefine Sri Lanka's Stage".

Press coverage (continued)

SRI LANKAN NEWSPAPERS



Sinhala press coverage of CITF 2026.



Sinhala press coverage of CITF 2026.



Festival programme listing in the Sinhala press.



The Sunday Times, TV Times: "Colombo International Theatre Festival returns with global celebration of stage arts".



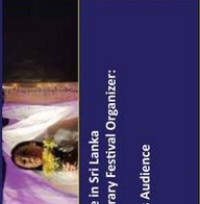
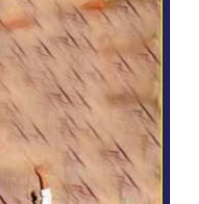
"Colombo International Theatre Festival 2026", English press.



Sinhala press coverage of CITF 2026.

Festival schedule

CITF 2026

August	Performance	Workshop	Theatre Forum
22 nd	JEG HAMLET / Directed by Denni Dennis - Denmark GENIE OVER / Directed by Asanka Dinuth - Sri Lanka REST VS STRES / Directed by Gamini Wijewardana - Sri Lanka	Love, Lies and Loneliness A participatory workshop into the GPS M S BIOMECHANICS SYSTEM by Denni Dennis / Country: Denmark Theatre Appreciation from the Critical Lense! by Dr Ajay Joshi / Country: India	
23 rd	ADRENALINE / Directed by Majidi Bou-Matar - Canada/Syria THE SWAN SONG / Directed by Aliyar Ali - India SALT AND BLOOD / Directed by Theima Medis - Sri Lanka	Peter and the Wolf: Imagination in Motion A Michael Chekhov-Based Creative Workshop Inspired by the Teaching of Alexey Burago by: Danijela Popovic / Country: United States Collective Kos Theatre Workshops by Nikola Palej / Country: Poland	Keynote: Theatre in Eastern Europe Director Meets Audience Country Reports & Networking Icebreaker 
24 th	MEDEA / Directed by Dina Zhunabayeva - Kazakhstan NIDRAVATHWAMI / Directed by Nimmy Raphael - India ECHO OF THE SILENCE / by Isuru Anjana Weerakoon - Sri Lanka	The Joy of Resistance: Dancing Cumbia A participatory workshop on movement, rhythm, memory, and collective celebration by: Mayil Georgi Nieto / Country: Italy Urgency of Storytelling by: Ahmad Meree / Canada/Syria	English Theatre in Sri Lanka The Contemporary Festival Organizer: NEC Approach Director Meets Audience
25 th	DISAPPEARING IN A FORM / Directed by Nikola Palej - Poland VOICE OF DILAKSHA / Directed by V. Vijayakumar - Sri Lanka MOONLIGHT OF THE ISLAND / Directed by Brishtrani Hazarika - India	YOGA BODY FLOW: YOGA AND PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR PERFORMERS by: Dr. Minal Jyoti Goswami / Country: India Where after drama? by: ass. prof. Sasho Dimoski, PhD Country: R. N. Macedonia	Parallel Festivals & Their Role Cultural Diplomacy Challenges & Solutions New Trends & Alternatives Extending collaboration & Networking Director Meets Audience
26 th	FOR A BANANA / Directed by Mayil Georgi Nieto - Colombia - Italy THE SWING / Directed by Yasiru Sandaruwan Weerasinghe - Sri Lanka THE DARK MEMORY / Directed by R.M.T. Nilaaga - Sri Lanka KATHA MINAKSHI / Directed by Deep Bhoomik - India	Contemporary and Physical Theatre by M.Saleer / Country: Sri Lanka @ Goethe Institut, Colombo 07 @4.00 pm	
27 th	WHEN IT HURTS YOU PLAY / by Aleksey Burago - USA / Serbia THE BODY AS BORDER / Directed by Dr. Minal Jyoti Goswami - India GIRI DEVI - SECTION 364A / by Tharindu Wanigasooriya - Sri Lanka		
28 th	Award ceremony HOME IN A SUITCASE / Directed by Banarajit Kaur - India THANIKADAMA / Directed by Palitha Sudasinghe - Sri Lanka POSTMAN & LETTER / Directed by R.D.R.Dananjaya Perera - Sri Lanka		
30 th	BARABBAS LA / Directed by Fr. Peter Hemapriya Botejue - Sri Lanka UNKNOWN WRITER / Directed by Randika Wimalasuriya - Sri Lanka I HAVE NO NAME / Directed by Lusine Yernjakyen - Armenia	Inside Piano Techniques by David Helbeck / Country: Austria SCENIC PRESENCE WORKSHOP WHAT AND WHY By BEA INSA / Country: Spain Peter and the Wolf: Imagination in Motion A Michael Chekhov-Based Creative Workshop Inspired by the Teaching of Alexey Burago by: Danijela Popovic / Country: United States Where after drama? Workshop by: ass. prof. Sasho Dimoski Country: R. N. Macedonia The Actor's Presence: Movement, Concentration, and Partner Work by: Zhora Martirosyan / Country: Armenia	
31 st	WHEN IT HURTS YOU PLAY / by Aleksey Burago - USA / Serbia ACEPHALOUS / Directed by Naynbara De Silva - Sri Lanka THE ART OF DYING / Directed by Bea Insa - Spain		
Sep. 01 st			

14 Countries | 31 Plays | 16 Workshops
Directors' Forums | Felicitations | Book Launches
03 Parallel Festivals | Awards Night

12th
EDITION

Sri Lanka's First and Only
International Theatre Festival
Redefining the landscape of
National theatre History

Felicitations
Jerome Lakshman de Silva

Colombo
International
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2026
International Mono Drama Competition

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COLOMBO INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL (CITF)
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Directors' Forum programme

25-27 AUGUST 2026

Directors' Forum | CITF 2026

Colombo International Theatre Festival

25-27 August 2026

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Radisson Blue, Marine Drive, Colombo

Compulsory for all festival participants

(except evening performers and afternoon workshop attendees)

Purpose

A dynamic international platform for directors, theatre-makers, and practitioners to exchange ideas, explore contemporary theatre, and build meaningful artistic partnerships across cultures.

Mission

To share experiences, insights, and artistic visions that promote collaboration and cross-cultural understanding.

Vision

To strengthen global theatre networks, encourage diverse artistic voices, and inspire innovation in contemporary performing arts.

Programme Highlights

Day 1 | 24 August

Opening Session

- Welcome & Forum Objectives | M. Safer (Sri Lanka)

Keynote

- Theatre in Eastern Europe | Prof. Sasho Dimoski (20 min)
- Directors' Forum 2025 Report

Country Reports (5-7 min each)

- Denni Dennis
- Majdi Bou-Matar (Canada/Syria)
- Aliyar Ali (India)
- Katha Minakshi (India)
- Sri Lankan Directors

Featured Sessions

- Director Meets Audience

Day 2 | 25 August

Keynote

- English Theatre in Sri Lanka Theatre | Jerome De Silva (20 min)

Country Reports (5-7 min each)

- Dina Zhumabayeva (Kazakhstan)
- Nimmy Raphael (India)
- Brishirani Hazarika (India)
- Mayil Georgi Nieto (Colombia/Italy)
- Sri Lankan Directors

Special Sessions

- The Contemporary Festival Organizer: NEC Approach | Dr. Mrinal Jyoti / M. Safer
- Panel Discussion (20 min)
- Director Meets Audience

Day 3 | 26 August

Keynote

- Cultural Diplomacy | Mr. Kristofer Quadros, Cluster General Manager / Radisson Hotel (20 min)

Country Reports (5-7 min each)

- Nikola Palej (Poland)
- Aleksey Burago (USA/Serbia)
- Mrinal Jyoti Goswami (India)
- Sri Lankan Directors

Forum Dialogue

- Parallel Festivals & Their Role
- Challenges & Solutions
- New Trends & Alternatives
- Extending Collaboration & Networking
- Director Meets Audience

Working Languages

Sinhala සිංහල | Tamil தமிழ் | English

Forum Themes

Artistic Exchange | Cultural Diplomacy | International Collaboration | Innovation in Theatre | Festival Networking

Moderators:

Dr. Ajay Joshi
Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami
Deepal Wamukulasingh
Prasad Wickramaratne

Directors' Forum programme, page 1.

Directors' Forum programme, page 2.

Festival partners

CITF 2026 SOUVENIR



Organisers, collaborators, sponsors and partners of CITF 2026, as listed in the festival souvenir.

Acknowledgements

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AANK_A Creative Line



Inter Act Art



CITF 2026



Bodousa Foundation

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