



THE 'LOO', PADAMPUR

PROFILE

& is a forgotten alphabet of the ancient Sanskrit language.

The Loo, Padampur is a cultural organization devoted to art & Theatre. Instituted in 1993, The Loo has pioneered a new era of theatre activities in Western Orissa.

The Loo productions are in Sambalpuri/Kosli, the language spoken in Western Odisha. The plays are glocal, drawing life and blood from the folkloristically rich Budasambar region and imbibing in them universal human values.

1 The Loo has inspired many to take theatre as profession. It arranges workshops and invites reputed theatre personalities and troupes from time to time.

2 We have produced two plays with assistance from SNA, New Delhi and two of our performing artistes have availed scholarship from the Dept. of Culture, Govt. of India. The Loo artistes have been selected for All India Institutes like NSD, New Delhi & Bharatendu Natya Akademi, Lucknow.

Kemant Sahu, Kalpesh Modi & Nisith Panigrahi : BNA Pass Out 1995

Prajapati Deep: Satya Sai Music College, Prasanthi Nilayam Continuing
Jagannath Seth: NSD Continuing

3 The Loo has evolved a special Sambalpuri style in Drama using indigenous folk dance and music and exploring the richness and variety of our sonorous language.

4 The Loo has introduced our people to Chekhov and Tolstoy. We have also taken Sambalpuri plays to National & International forums. The Bhojpuri version of **Amba** has been produced at Lucknow in a programme sponsored by BNA. **Mahapuru** and **Adbhut Parbat** have been presented in Int'l Children's Theatre Festival at New Delhi.

5 We have been preparing plays at low or even no cost, often dispensing with the audio visual extravaganza of the proscenium stage.

6 The Loo productions have won awards at National levels and become regular features in cultural programmes in several towns all over the state, but we are at home performing at villages of western Orissa.

7 The Loo is a busy troupe. We rehearse 300 days and perform 60 shows in a year.

Kesha Ranjan Pradhan

The Loo, Padampur

P.O. Rajborasambar

Dist. Bargarh 768036 Ph.

Ph: 06683-223550

Mob:9437393736

Email. theloo@rediffmail.com

Kesha Ranjan Pradhan, a devoted theatre worker, writes and directs plays in Sambalpuri, the sonorous language spoken in Western Orissa. His plays have been performed and awarded in Agra, Patna, New Delhi, Lucknow, Guwahati, Jamshedpur, Dalmia Nagar, Gurgaon, Kolkata, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Rourkela and at several cultural centres.

His plays **Amba** and **Gadhar Katha**, considered trend setters, have won national acclaim and been translated into Bhojpuri and Hindi respectively. The hilarious comedies **Nagnadi** and **Raematir Baer** have been performed at hundreds of villages and towns. **Asur**, **Kalmaspad**, **Bhagnas** and **Sunar Chere** have won critical appreciation. Among his translated works are **Gaon** and **Tajmahalar Tender**. He has adapted stories of Tolstoy, Gorky, Premchand, Manoj Das and Hrushikesh Panda. **Challenge**, a historical play is a tribute to Madanlal Dhingra, the first Indian Martyr in foreign soil and **Ghati** is a documentation of the sagacious fight of a family of martyrs in western orissa against the British Raj before 1857.

Lengda Raja, **Mahapuru** and **Adbhut Parbat** have featured in International Children Theatre Festivals in New Delhi and Kolkata. **Kuili Kuili Kie Raja** has already become a sensation with its global theme and indigenous folk style. **Bimbadharar Katha**, adaptation of a Hrushikesh Panda story, is a representative Sambalpuri/Koshli play. His recent play **Guru Dakshina** is an experiment on the Story Theatre form.

His plays amalgamate the rich Sambalpuri folk music with the main stream theatre. As an innovative director, he has experimented with the idea of theatre at no cost, often dispensing with heavy settings or audio visual extravaganza. This has proved highly rewarding for his troupe, The Loo can boast of 60 performances a year and 300 days of rehearsals. The Loo plays have become regular features in public functions in western Orissa and created a new interest in theatre among people.

Mr. Pradhan has been associated with a good number of campus productions and conducted quite a few production oriented workshops. He has written and directed Street Plays for Mass Awareness and Community Development. He has also produced plays with destitute women and special children.

Mr. Pradhan has written a number of radio plays in Oriya. He also writes stories, lyrics and essays; and is associated with the literary magazine 'Bharni'.

At present he is the Head of the Dept. of English in Anchal College, Padampur. He plays chess too. He has represented the state in National B in 1992 (Pune), 1994 (Nagpur), 1996 (Chennai) and 1998(Surat).



PROFILE

& is a forgotten alphabet of the ancient Devnagri language.

The Loo, Padampur is a cultural organization devoted to art & Theatre. Instituted in 1993, The Loo has pioneered a new era of theatre activities in Western Orissa.

The Loo productions are in Sambalpuri, drawing life and blood from the folkloristically rich Budasambar soil and imbibing in them universal human values.

PLAYS

1993 ***Asur***

Presented at Cuttack, Allahbad, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Bhawanipatna, Jharsuguda, Titlagarh, Deogarh. 20 shows so far)

1994 ***Gachhar Katha***

(Street play presented at twenty odd villages. Published by Dept. of social Forestry)

1995 ***Gadhar Katha***

based on Krishan Chander's novel

(Presented at Cuttack, Bolangir, Sonapur Sambalpur Rabiranjana directed the play for KSA, Khariar. The Hindi version, performed in Dehri, Dehradun, Allahbad, has won several national awards)

1998 ***Amba***

An interpretation of Sarala Das' conception of Amba

(Presented at Cuttack, Patna, Agra, Tata, Guwahati, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Bhawanipatna, Berhampur, Brajrajnagar, BBSR. More than 30 shows so far.)

1999 ***Nagnadi***

Adapted from Chekhov's A Marriage Proposal (Presented at Cuttack, Tata, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Bhawanipatna, Berhampur, BBSR, Sonapur, Jharsuguda. Bargarh, Nawapara and scores of villages. More than 50 shows so far.)

Kalmashpad

(Presented at Sambalpur)

2000 ***Maya****

(Written & directed by Rabiranjana. Presented at Padampur)

2001 ***Mahapuru***

Children's play performed by KGMN

(Presented at Cuttack, New Delhi, Sultanpur, Kolkata, Tata, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Bhawanipatna, Berhampur, Bargarh, Sonapur, Titlagarh and many villages. More than 30 shows so far.)

- 2002** ***Ghati***
based on the martyrdom of a Zamindar family
(Presented at Bolangir)
- Khudan****
Sambalpuri version of Hewers of Coal by Rabiranjana
(Presented at Talsrigida, Cuttack, Nuagarh,)
- Raematir Baer***
Adapted from Nakul Badi's story
(Presented at Cuttack, Agra, Tata,, Bolangir, Sambalpur, Bhawanipatna, Berhampur, Brajrajnagar, Sonapur, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, More than 45 shows so far.)
- 2003** ***Save Gadha****
(Hares' play presented at Ghess and village programmes)
- 2004** ***Kuili Kuili Kie Raja***
(Presented at Sambalpur, Hirakud, Deogarh, Ib Therma, Bargarh, BBSR, Bh.Patna, Sonapur, Damanjodi, Jharsuguda and at several villages.)
- 2005** ***Adbhut Parbat***
Children's play performed by KGMN, Paikmal, Anchal college, Padampur, Sishu Mandir, Padampur, Aurovindo School, Sohela
(Presented at Int'l Festivals at New Delhi & Kolkata, at Bh Patna, Sambalpur, Rkl Hirakud, Keral, Balasore and many villages.
- 2006** ***Maa***
Based on Maxim Gorky's story ' Mother of a Traitor' performed by Vidya Mandir students.
- 2007** ***Panjha****
Based on WWJacob's The Monkey's Paw. Written by Haresh K Satpathy
- 2008** ***The Magic Brush***
Adaptation of a Chinese classic. Children's play
- Bimbadharar Katha***
Based on Dr. Hrushikesh Panda's story
- 2009** ***Chaer Sipahi***
Based on Santosh Ratha's story
- Guru Dakshina***
Based on Rabi Patnaik's story

The Loo has also prepared a couple of dance items and composed a number of popular Sambalpuri songs.

*All the plays except those with asterix marks are written by Keshu Ranjan Pradhan. Among his other works are Tajmahalar Tender (translation), Gaon (adaptation), Sunar Chere, Annar Katha, Lengda Raja (adapted for children), Istafa (dramatization of Premchand's story) & Challenge (historical play for children).