

CHHENRA COLLAGE

Characters

(In Order of Appearance)

Jhumur	Niloy's wife
Niloy	Younger Brother
Jyathamoshai	Neighbor of Niloy and Jhumur
Nandini	Nikhil's wife
Nikhil	Elder Brother
Sajidbhai	Nikhil/Nandini's real estate agent
Palash	Nikhil's college friend/ neighbor
Rita	Palash's wife
Arup	Common friend
Jhimli	Arup's wife
Partha	Nikhil/Palash's college friend
Jack	Nikhil's soccer partner

Making of Chhenra Collage

Our last two productions, "Pagla Ghora" and "Ballabhpurer Rupkathaa", were well acclaimed by the audience. However, based on the feedback we received, we realized that our next production should represent the time and society we live in. In our reading sessions we came across quite a few contemporary bengali plays. However, what we were looking for was a true contemporary play in our context and that was not available. So we decided to build our own play in our own workshop.

The initial thought process was roaming around representing the stress, crisis and psychological dilemma of first generation immigrants. In our weekly sessions we conceived the story line and started working on the details. It was amazing to watch the play building step by step in the weekly workshops.

On the other note, we started building this play just after the happenings of September 11, 2001. Those were difficult times. It was a difficult time for the whole world, but especially for those living in the US. Difficulties for the diaspora were even more intense.

To make matters worse, the economy was steadily becoming weaker everyday. People were losing jobs. Families were compelled to leave US with their dreams unfulfilled. The fortunate few still suffered from insecurity.

We were all doing things, which we would not have done in normal times. We were faced to look at our priorities afresh - some were forced by the circumstances, others by choice. And as a result the priorities changed. Priorities which seemed so obvious just a year back suddenly became suspect. The color of relationships changed tones, the support sought and provided changed character.

But does it need a September 11th to have such havoc on our personal lives? Or is it something that we may encounter in not-so-different happenings of our 101-280-237-880-bound life?

Given this climate, we, as artisans of theatre, decided to step in and try to portray our time. We don't claim to have any novel plot, any earth-shattering insight into the human life-and-behavior or any smart solution about life's problems.

But we sincerely tried to identify these issues so that 'we', as a community, will be better equipped to handle them.

Let's admit another aspect of the makings of "Chhenra Collage": the sentiments portrayed in this play are not unanimous among our group members. Till the last day we had discussions (some times too animated) about the validity or propriety of our portrayal. So whatever is your reaction to this play, you will always find some sympathizers among us ❖

ABOUT ENAD

We are an informal group of bengali drama enthusiasts in Bay Area who are committed to learn, practice, nurture skills in different aspects of drama production on a regular basis. Primary objective of ours is to build an "interest group" and a professional drama group rather than just performing once in a while. We also plan to perform regularly. To achieve this we increase our capability on different aspects of the drama production like acting, direction, choreography, set, light, sound, music, stage, makeup, backstage, floor-management, program/show/event management.

Our primary objectives are:

- Keeping a sharp focus on and serious commitment to drama
- Projecting and working towards making it a group activity rather than just a few persons strung together
- Stage good productions on a regular basis
- Keep ourselves updated about Bengali drama (news, stories, history, reading, discussion)
- Help promoting Bengali drama in the area by helping other people

Our learning method is self and group practice, internal and external feedback and self-study/analysis. We learn individually, we learn in a group.

Till date we have staged the following:

Pagla GhoDa by Badal Sircar (4th November 2000)

Ballabhpurer Rupkotha by Badal Sircar (23rd June 2001)

JOIN US

We sincerely hope you enjoyed tonight's production. We would like to know your comments and feedback about this drama. We will really appreciate if you can submit your feedback/comments about "Chhenra Collage" in the attached feedback form. This will really help us do better in the future. As you can see ENAD is a really serious drama group in the area. And we value our audience and we work really hard to achieve the level of competence we all want to be at. Obviously this needs huge effort and needs tremendous resources. Apart from casts and directors talented people at the backstage, set, makeup, lights, music/audio and production management makes a production successful. ENAD is maturing as a professional bengali drama group and we need more resources, new faces and bigger audience to reach our next milestones.

Basically anyone who subscribe to the basic philosophy of ENAD, is interested to work in a group like this and want to have fun can join ENAD. People with no experience in drama production but interested and enthusiastic are welcome to ENAD. We expect certain level of seriousness, responsibility and sincere commitment from our members. Does that interest you? If so, why wait? Let's start the exciting journey today!!

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