

## cast & credits

Actors: Chongtham Jayanta Meetei  
WEI Chun-Chan

Stage Design: Chan Zih-lan  
Lighting Design: Mohamed Fita Helmi  
Music Design: ARCN TEMPL

Costume Design: Lee Yu-sheng

Marketing/  
Script Translation: Pai Fei-lan

Technical  
Assistant: WANG Ping-wen,  
LIN Yu-quan

Photography: Chen Shao-wei/  
Hsu Shih-hui

Executive Director/  
Producer: LIN Pei-Ann  
Original Story: Vijayadan Detha

Adaptation &  
Direction: Chongtham Jayanta Meetei  
Supported by: Ministry of Culture



National Culture and  
Arts Foundation



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## A True Calling

(Based on the original story by  
Vijayadan Detha)

Adaptation & Direction: Chongtham  
Jayanta Meetei

Group: EX-Theatre Asia, Miaoli, Taiwan  
Languages: Manipuri & Chinese

Duration: 1 hr 10 mins

11 January 2013, 6 pm Venue: Sammukh

13 January 2013, 7.00 pm

Venue : Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur

BHARAT RANG MAHOTSAV

2013



राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय  
NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA



## the director & script creator

An NSD alumnus born in Manipur, Chongtham Jayanta Meetei participated

in the Theater Training & Research Programme in Singapore and went to Taiwan five years later. Once there he co-founded EX-Theatre Asia with Lin Pei-Ann, to develop a language-barrier-free theatrical style. Trained in traditional and modern acting, he continues to explore intercultural communication and contemporary physical expression, integrating classical Asian, Western realism, post-modern physical theatre and other forms into his own contemporary theatrical aesthetics. His works include plays like *Hayavadana*, *the Island*, *When We Dead Awaken*, *The Story of the Tiger*, *Numit Kappa* and so on. His productions, including *A True Calling* - which has been listed among the top ten performances of 2010 - have been nominated for the Taishin Art Award several times. He has also been invited to numerous international art festivals, and is visiting faculty at Taipei National Art University and other places where he teaches acting.

## the play

A talented actor wanders the country and earns a living by performing multiple roles. One moment he can be a tiger, scaring away villagers, and the next moment he becomes a guru, advising the wealthy on how to find peace. A king hears of his talent and summons the actor to put on the biggest performance of his life. Seeking to perfect his craft, the actor agrees, but at what cost? *A True Calling* is a play about acting – not only the acting on stage, but also the acting in our lives. In fact, there is an actor living in all of us, as we play various roles in the society. Adapted from an Indian folklore, it not only challenges the audience's perception with its focus on the actor's body language and skill, but also encourages one to take a closer look at oneself and ask: "What is truth? What is pretense?"

## the group

EX-Theatre Asia is based in Miaoli, Taiwan. The prefix "EX" signifies various meanings: experimenting, exchanging, extending, expertise, excellence, existence, etc.; and "Asia" is where its performance style and texts are taken from. The group aims to

further combine the two elements by borrowing from traditional symbols and transforming them in a contemporary way in a manner that helps create a new symbol-system in actors' physical movements and the symbolic style of performance. EX-Theatre Asia believes that theatre should be a place where we tell stories and provide philosophical thoughts. Several of its productions have been nominated by major art awards or invited to international art festivals in recent times. How to extend the philosophical speculation in theatre and transform it into a traditional stylized performance from a contemporary perspective is, therefore, an important issue for the group. EX-Theatre Asia hopes to continue experiencing and experimenting in the future as well.

## director's note

I first heard of this folk story from a friend in Delhi and when I did, I felt a strange kind of sympathy accompanied by curiosity towards the main character—the Actor—especially of what becomes of him in the end. Since then I endeavored to create a stage performance of this folk-tale, using the concept of story-telling that casts the narrator and character side-by-side. This took a couple of months of writing and rehearsals with Derrick Wei and the rest of the company. As a director and actor in the production, I intend to revitalize the tradition of Asian theatre which usually combines story-telling, dance, music and mask with highly stylized acting techniques. Through a more visual, sensual and a relatively loose plot line the audience is encouraged to open up its imagination. With the intention of maintaining the shared characteristics of all Asian theatre traditions, I simply want to share my story, and if I am able to make it more relevant and effective to the contemporary audience, it will be the most fruitful gift to my artistic work.



2013

# 15<sup>th</sup> theatre utsav

BHARAT RANG MAHOTSAV


Jawahar Kala Kendra, 7:00 pm

Rabindra Manch, 5:30 pm

MON 7, INAUGURAL CEREMONY - RABINDRA MANCH, 5:30 pm, Play ATMAKATHA By: Mahesh Elkunchwar  
Dir: Vinay Sharma, Group: Padatik, Kolkata, Hindi, 2 hrs 10 mins

TUE 8	<b>RANG BAJRANG</b> (Inspired by Richard Nash's <i>Rainmaker</i> ) Script & Dir: Dinesh Thakur, Group: Ank, Mumbai Hindi, 2 hrs	<b>FELLINI'S DREAM</b> Playwright: Stefano Geraci, Dir: Pino Di Buduo Group: Teatro Potlach, Italy, English, 1 hour
WED 9	<b>PREM KI BHOOT KATHA</b> Playwright: Vibhuti Narain Rai, Script & Dir: Dinesh Khanna Group: Pehchan, New Delhi, Hindi, 1 hr 20 mins	<b>INDIAN TEMPEST</b> Artistic Dir: Paddy Hayter Group: Footsbarn Theatre, France, English, French & Malayalam, 2 hours
THU 10	<b>DRUMS ON THE DAM</b> Playwright: Helen Cixous, Dir: Ashim Das Group: Fame School of Dance, Drama and Music, Bangladesh Bengali, 1 hr 45 mins	<b>PIYA BAHROOPIYA</b> (An adaptation of Shakespeare's <i>Twelfth Night</i> ) Dir: Atul Kumar Group: The Company Theatre, Mumbai Hindi, 2 hrs 10 mins
FRI 11	<b>THE NON-STOP FEEL-GOOD SHOW</b> Script & Dir: Maya Krishna Rao Group: Vismayah, New Delhi, English, 1 hr 15 mins	<b>YAAR BANAA BUDDY - BANG ON... DHAMAAL TIGDI!</b> Script & Dir: Nadira Zaheer Babbar Group: Ekjute Theatre Group, Mumbai, Hindi, 2 hrs 10 mins
SAT 12	<b>MASSAGE</b> (Solo Performance based on the original by Vijay Tendulkar) Adaptation: Rakesh Bedi, Dir: Harbansh Singh Group: Pratik Arts Theatre, Mumbai Hindi, 2 hrs	<b>MONSIEUR JOR DAN AND DERVISH MASTALI SHEIKH</b> Playwright: M. F. Akhundzadeh, Dir: Firudin Maharramov Group: Sumgait State Musical Drama Theatre, Azerbaijan Azeri, 1 hr 45 mins
SUN 13	<b>A TRUE CALLING</b> (Based on the original story by Vijayadan Detha) Adaptation & Dir: Chongtham Jayanta Meetei Group: EX-Theatre Asia, Taiwan Manipuri & Chinese, 1 hr 10 mins	<b>DHAWALA BHEESHANA</b> (Translation of Jean-Paul Sartre's <i>Men without Shadows</i> ) Dir: Dharmasiri Bandaranayake Group: TrikonE Cultural Foundation, Sri Lanka Sinhalese, 2 hr 15 mins
TUE 15	<b>THE KNOCKING WITHIN</b> (Script based on excerpts from William Shakespeare's <i>Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello</i> and <i>Titus Andronicus</i> ) Dirs: Wendy Jehlen & Pradhuman Nayak Group: ANIKAI Dance, USA English, Hindi & American Sign Language, 1 hr	<b>LAILA MAJNU</b> (Nautanki) Playwright: Natha Ram Gaur, Dir: Anil Chaudhary Group: NSD Repertory Co., New Delhi, Hindi, 1 hr 30 mins
WED 16	<b>ANECDOTES &amp; ALLEGORIES BY GULBADAN BEGUM</b> Script: Choiti Ghosh, Concept & Dir: Anurupa Roy Group: Katkatha Puppet Arts Trust, New Delhi English, 1 hr 30 mins	<b>KAUN HAI YEH GUSTAKH ?</b> Playwright: Shahid Nadeem, Dir: Madeeha Gauhar Group: Ajoka Theatre, Pakistan, Urdu, 1 hr 20 mins
THU 17	<b>Mantoiyat</b> (Dastangoi) Compilation & Dir: Mahmood Farooqui Team: Danish Husain & Mahmood Farooqui, New Delhi Hindustani, 2 hrs 10 mins	<b>VIRGIN AND THE BEAST</b> Playwright and Artistic Dir: Zsolt Pozsgai, Dir: Armand Kautzky Group: Új Színház, New Theatre, Budapest-Hungary Hungarian, 2 hrs

Parallel Cities (12th Jan 2013) **The First International of Shopping Malls** By: Linga Venue: Pink Square Mall, Jaipur English, 1 hr (6-7 pm)  
Curated by Stefan Kaegi and Lola Arias Supported by Max Mueller Bhavan, Germany, and Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Switzerland

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NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA

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**TICKETS:** Rs 50/-, Advance booking will start on 5th Jan 2013 at Rabindra Manch & Jawahar Kala Kendra from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Maximum four tickets per person per play at a time will be permitted. Current booking will start at the respective theatres one hour before the show.

**OTHER RULES:** Right of admission Reserved, Children under 8 years not allowed, No admission while scene in progress, any kind of photography / recording is strictly prohibited. Food and drinks not allowed in the auditoriums, handbags will be subject to security check. Program subject to change.

**ENQUIRES:** Rabindra Manch- 0141 2619061, Jawahar Kala Kendra- 0141 2706560



In association with

Department of Art, Literature,  
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Government of Rajasthan



Jawahar Kala Kendra



Rabindra Manch