



## The Scenes We Made: An Oral History of Experimental Theatre in Mumbai

By Shanta Gokhale

Speaking Tiger, New Delhi, 2015. Hardcover. Condition: New. 248pp. Mumbai's theatre scene is a dynamic and creative space that has continuously inspired young theatre practitioners from the 1960s to the present day. It is filled with lessons learned and unlearned, techniques invented and reinvented. It is a space in which experimentation constantly takes place where, as Shanta Gokhale says in her preface, 'the new' consciously opposes 'the old' and results in the kind of theatre that forces people to reconsider their definitions of 'good' theatre. The Scenes We Made gives us a compelling account of the ideas and people that drove theatre in Mumbai for over five decades. Three spaces—Bhulabhai Desai Memorial Institute, Walchand Terrace and Chhabildas School Hall—provided the necessary impetus for theatre in Mumbai to flourish. These places saw influential visionary personalities like Ebrahim Alkazi, Vijaya Mehta, Satyadev Dubey and Sulabha Deshpande mould young theatre people, from playwrights, directors and actors to lighting and set designers. Plays like Band Darwaze, Aadhe Adhure, Hayavadana and Uddhwasta Dharmashala, amongst countless others performed in these spaces, broke new ground and continue to inspire the present generation. This book, the first to document the significant work carried out in these places, transports us...



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Mumbai's theatre scene is a dynamic and creative space that has continuously inspired young theatre practitioners from the 1960s to the present day. It is filled with lessons learned and unlearned, techniques invented and reinvented. The *Scenes We Made* gives us a compelling account of the ideas and people that drove theatre in Mumbai for over five decades. Three spaces—Bhulabhai Desai Memorial Institute, Walchand Terrace and Chhabildas School Hall—provided the necessary impetus for theatre in Mumbai to flourish. These places saw influential visionary personalities like Ebrahim Alkazi, Vijaya Mehta, Satyadev Dubey and Sulabha Deshpande mould young theatre people, from playwrights, directors and actors to lighting and set designers. The atmosphere in theatre is solemn. It's the magical place where man meets his image, where people are taught to appreciate the beauty, to hate the evil, ugliness, where feelings are stirred, where our souls and mind are elevated. Theatre unites actors and spectators, moves our feelings, establishes close contacts between people, creates the atmosphere for thinking. Theatre makes it possible to establish close contacts between actors and spectators, to create intellectual atmosphere, to distinguish between the good and the bad, to understand and enjoy the beauty.

6. There is an actor in the history of theatre and cinema whose name is well known for everybody. It is Andrey Mironov. He got to be known thanks to his numerous film roles. The Experimental Theatre Foundation's productions of *Garva* and *Anhad Naad*, directed by Manjul Bhardwaj, explore exploitation and market forces. It makes an attempt to liberate artist and his creation from the decaying market forces. Writer-director Bhardwaj uses sketchy and unconnected images from society and nature to inspire artists and create a high form of art. The production exhorts creative people to free themselves from the psyche of formless, aimless, and chaotic crowd and listen to the fine, tender, and life-affirming voice within and to the music of nature. With his willpower and sensitivity, creative mind should resolve Shakespearean dilemma "To be, or not to be, that is the question."

The *Scenes We Made: An Oral History of Experimental Theater in Mumbai*. New Delhi: Speaking Tiger Books. Shanta Gokhale. Stories, novels, theatre and cinema—Despite they have separate and specific narrative structure, they all serve the same common objective; such as "telling a story". The narrations chose the important ones among the long chain of events and make a story through combining them in an intriguing and specific manner. As the modern stylistics stated, each narration consisting of a serial of [Show full abstract] interrelated events either written expression or visual arts represent the events occurring in a definite time and place regardless their type.