

BTS activity Report Jan 2012 to Nov. 2013

Respected Budhan Theatre Society governing board members, Greeting from the Budhan Theatre. Herewith I am giving brief overview of our activity report of 2012. I would be happy to respond if you have any query during our 2nd of Jan meeting at the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad.

Jan to Feb end 2012

Planning and management of the Ahmedabad Theatre Festival 2012.

3rd Feb 2012

Performed *Choli Ke Picche Kya hai* at Jadavpur University on the invitation of Department of Comparative Literature. Smt. Mahasveta Devi came to watch the play and had fruitful discussion. The performance strengthens BT's relationship with JU. After the play, audience got engage in the discussion and they questioned about the techniques and aesthetics of the play and also admired widely. The reports were published in The telegraph newspaper (http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120225/jsp/opinion/story_15174599.jsp) and Anand Bazaar Patrika. It was total 7 days tour.

24th to 26th Feb. 2012

Budhan Theatre organized three days the biggest theatre festival of the state called 'Ahmedabad Theatre Festival', invited 27 plays from 7 states in 7 languages. Around 300 artists from different part of the country came to the city and around 7000 people watched the plays.

(Widely covered by Media)

- ['ATF Make bids to Keep Traditional arts forms alive'](#) – Indian Express
- ['Artists Rally today to launch first Theatre Festival of Ahmedabad'](#) – Indian express
- ['Curtain Down on Theatre Festival'](#) – Daily Bhaskar
- ['Ahmedabad Theatre Festival Kicks Off with a bang'](#) – DNA
- ['This theatre brings about change in society'](#) – DNA
- ['Ahmedabad Theatre Festival begins'](#) – DNA
- ['Denotified Tribes to showcase its culture in the city'](#) – Indian Express
- ['City Biggest Theatre Festival draws 300 performers'](#) – Times of India
- ['When street become the stage'](#) – Times of India
- ['Theatre Festival from Feb 24th to 26th'](#) – Ahmedabad Mirror

10th April to 10th May

Rehearsals of four plays to perform in the Black Comedy Theatre Festival. Around 40 to 45 actors were rehearsing.

11th and 12th May 2012

Organized Black Comedy Theatre Festival and performed Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Bade Bhai-Saab, Bakri and Dayashankar ki Diary.

14th Aug. to 30th Aug. 2012

Rehearsals of 'The Lower Depths', the play was conceptualized by Mr. Zeeshan, a known film actor and directed by Dakxin.

[From Proscenium to Pol](#) – Times of India

[City of Savour Some Black Comedy](#) – DNA
[The political power of the play](#) – Times of India
[It pays to good show theatre](#) - DNA

31st Aug. 2012

Organized national conference on DNTs housing rights at Sahitya parishad, Ahmedabad and Performed new play 'The Lower Depths' at Maninagar Basti in the evening. In the conference, DNT people from four states participated and discussed about the DNT issues. Same evening we premiered the play 'The Lower Depths' at the Maninagar Basti in an environmental theatre form.

(Widely published in media such as Ahmedabad mirror and Divya Bhaskar).

(http://epaper.dnaindia.com/story.aspx?edorsup=Sup&wintype=popup&queryed=1310009&querypage=1&boxid=29302086&id=14159&eddate=2012-9-01&ed_date=2012-9-01&ed_code=1310009)

1st Sept 2012

Organized painting workshop of kids at the library. Two artists came from Kolkatta and conducted workshop with kids on Etching painting. BT kids had painted so many good paintings by using colors. Colors, papers, pencils were donated by Jadavpur University students during our performance in Feb.

10th Sept. 2012

Conducted workshop at Women studies Department at Univeristy of Pune by Dakxin and Kalpana. Around 30 students from across the globe have participated in it and basically we taught them the use of theatre to bring out social issues of communities. We screened the film 'Bulldozer' to understand the impact of film and theatre in social movement.

15th Oct. 2012

Dr. Caleb Johnston's visited to Budhan Theatre to write an article as co-author with Dakxin Bajrange. He stayed around 10 days and interviewed to many of Budhan Theatre actors and written an article on it. He also agreed to contribute an article for Budhan Theatre's upcoming publication. He donated a digital still camera to the Budhan Theatre and also a small camera. He shared some of his research docs from Salvation Army with the Chharanagar library to use it as reference material for scholars and other readers.

20th Oct. 2012

Performance and discussion in IIT, Gandhinagar (**Paid performance**). Around 50 students and professors came to watch the play and discussed with us DNT plight. on 21st of Oct. they supposed to come but due to some reasons student's field visit got postponed. It will happen at any point of time in next month.

(Published in Media, Ahmedabad Mirror)

<http://www.ahmedabadmirror.com/article/3/20121020201210200214243893e2de818/IITGn%E2%80%99s-tryst-with-theatre.html?pageno=1>

31st Oct and 1st Nov. 2012

Participatory workshop with Mahindra United World College's students, Pune (**Paid workshop**). 18 students from across the globe participated in the workshop and we did two days participatory workshop with them. We developed performance device together and performed in Maninagar Basti on 1st Nov. It was an effort to make them understand role of theatre in social and political fight for our housing rights.

(Published in Wall Street's newspaper 'Mint')

<http://www.livemint.com/Leisure/hvwW2L0TrUXrROgAtSRX5K/Streetside-story.html?facet=print>

2nd Nov 2012

Performed same performance device at the Mahatma Gandhi International School.

10th Nov. 2012

Meeting with Mehul Makwana and filmmaker Mr. Ashish Kakkad for the script for people with disabilities theatre project

23rd Nov. to 2nd of Dec. 2012

Workshop with People with disability at BPA. 25 disable women from 12 districts participated and we trained them as master trainer for theatre. In 10 days long workshop we come out as a short street play on the issues of social exclusion of people with disabilities. The name of play was 'Thokarpur'. In the workshop, Ankur and Kalpana of Budhan Theatre joined. The project outline is as below

'Blind Peoples Association is planning to perform 450 street plays in 15 districts of Gujarat, with the collaboration of Budhan Theater, Ahmedabad. Women with disabilities will take lead to create awareness in the society through these street plays. 30 women with disabilities are selected from 15 districts (2 from each district) as master trainers and their theater training is conducted from 21st Nov, 2012 to 1st Dec, 2012 at BPA. Dakxinbhai Chhara (Ford Fellow, Director of Budhan Theater) and Ashish Kakkad (Director of films and famous voiceover artist) are the main mentors of these master trainers; those would be preparing another 165 people with disabilities of 15 districts. This is going to be the world's largest theatre event where theatre will be used for the promotion of social justice and inclusion of people with disabilities in Gujarat. This training is based on the Grotowskian theatre theory of "TOWARDS POOR THEATER" where actors will use their body and voice for their self expression'.

(Published in media such as Ahmedabad mirror, Divya Bhaskar and Sandesh)

2nd of Dec. 2012

We organized performance of Thokarpur by women with disabilities in Parimal Garden. Around 100 people watched the play.

3rd Dec. 2012

We organized the show in Maninagar Basti where multiple disabilities are the biggest problem. In the morning group performed there and on in the evening another group performed at St. Xavier's college, an event organized by BPA.

9th to 11th Dec. 2012

Theatre workshop with Canadian Artists. Budhan Theatre has invited 5 Canadian Indigenous artists and filmmaker to have theatre workshop. From 8th to 11th Dec, Budhan Theatre actors and our guest artists had a full day workshop at Sahitya Parishad. We developed a performance piece on the thought of that 'wherever indigenous people are on the planet, they are facing same problem and there has to be collective voice of all world indigenous community for their traditional rights'. Mr. Dheeman Bhattacharya of Jadavpur University also joined with us in this workshop. As of our discussion with them, they want to invite Budhan Theatre in the month of August or Sept. to the Canada and do participatory theatre. They need to apply for funds for this trip.

11th Dec. 2012

In the evening, we performed device at Sahitya Parishad and call some of people to watch.

12th Dec. 2012

Performance with Canadian Artists at IIMA. Prof. Navdeep Mathur invited us to perform our performance piece during participatory theatre workshop at IIMA. After performance we had in length discussion with students about indigenous rights. Colmpa Bob and Ms. Lee Maracle discussed about the current condition of Indigenous people in Canada.

14th Dec. 2012

Budhan Bolta Hai Performance at IIMA. Prof. Mathur invited us to perform our street play during participatory theatre workshop. our children actor wing performed there and after that it was long discussion about the displacement and government policies.

21st Dec. 2012

Dakxin was invited by Mr. Nimesh Desai to speak in month long theatre event 'Rangparva'. He spoke about the history of street theatre and its importance for social upliftment. He also questioned about colonial censorship laws which still prevailing in many states. The talk was well received. (*Published in Media - Divya Bhaskar*).

21st Dec. 2012

Ankur traveled to Sayla to train People with disabilities. He worked with two theatre groups there and gave training to the participants.

22nd Dec. 2012

Kalpna traveled to Bareja to help to master trainers to train People with disabilities of his/her area. She worked with three theatre groups there and gave instructions for the performance.

23rd Dec. 2012

Dakxin traveled to Dahod to train People with disabilities with Kinneryben. He worked with two groups and also performed a show in front of Media people. The local Media has covered entire event.

23rd Dec. 2012

Budhan Theatre children (15 children from 5 to 12 years old) appear for an audition for ZEE TV program *India Ke Sabse Bade Daramebaaz*. Programmed assistant told us to do more work on the children and she offered that they would call all the children to Mumbai (direct 3rd round) for an audition.

1st Jan 2013

Rehearsals begin of the play 'Muze Mat Maro Saab' to be performing in Nandurbaar on 13th Jan 2013.