



Kolkata Centre for Creativity

Presents

Breaking the Fourth Wall

Rediscovering Brecht: Exploring His Timeless Relevance

Curated by Abhilash Pillai

Kolkata, 24th August 2023: Kolkata Centre for Creativity pays homage to the influential playwright, poet, and theatre director, Bertolt Brecht on his 125th birth anniversary through a 6-day festival "BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL - Rediscovering Brecht: through his Timeless Relevance" from 26th – 31st August 2023. This festival is designed to present an informative and inspiring experience with different art forms and platforms for engaging discussions. Various events will unfurl Brecht's philosophy and its marked effect on theatre. Workshops and masterclasses led by experts, aspiring playwrights and theatre enthusiasts with inventive minds will take a serious look at contemporary theatre practices. Some distinguished scholars will delve more into Brecht's theatrical propositions.

After the inauguration on 26th August, at 4:00 PM, the festival flows with a series of events. They are:

The inauguration on 26th August was followed by an exhibition Walk Through and a performance called **ইস্বেহার-ইহিতহার-اشتہار**: Songs from Brecht by Subhadeep Guha

The next five days of the festival explores Brechtian brilliance through panel discussions, conversations, workshops, masterclasses by the film and theatre scholars from different parts of India.

- Workshop - Beyond Brecht: Exploring Contemporary Theatre Practices

The facilitators of the workshops are:

- Amal Allana
- Anuradha Kapur
- Maya Krishna Rao
- M. K. Raina
- Padmashree Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry
- Abanti Chakraborty
- Abhilash Pillai
- S. Raghunandana
- Nissar Allana

Panel Discussions

Topic - Performing Brecht

- Maya Krishna Rao
- M. K. Raina
- Rustom Bharucha (Moderator)

Topic- Directing and Designing Brecht

- Amal Allana
- Nissar Allana
- Koushik Sen
- Suman Mukhopadhyay
- Sohag Sen
- Gagan Deep (Moderator)

Topic- Remembering Brecht

- M.K.Raina
- Bibhas Chakraborty
- Arun Mukhopadhyay
- Rudraprasad Sengupta
- Suman Mukhopadhyay (Moderator)

Topic- A Future Brecht

- Dr. Anuradha Kapur
- Amal Allana
- Maya Krishna Rao
- Anshuman Bhowmik (Moderator)

Topic- Philosophizing Brecht

- Padmashree Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry
- Abanti Chakraborty
- S. Raghunandana
- Debaroti Chakraborty (Moderator)

Conversations

In Conversation I

- Padmashree Neelam Man Singh Chowdhry
- S. Raghunandana
- Abanti Chakraborty (Moderator)

In Conversation II

- Anuradha Kapur

- Maya Krishna Rao
- Anjum Katyal (Moderator)

In Conversation III

- M. K. Raina
- Suman Mukhopadhyay

Masterclasses

- Brecht in India by Amal Allana
- On designing for Brecht by Nissar Allana
- Acting and Music of Brecht by Anjan Dutta
- Brecht at Heart: Realising the Epic Theatre in a Kannada Stage Production by S. Raghunandana

Besides these, a new play, which is directed by Suman Mukhopadhyay is a free-flowing performative exploration of Brecht's life, ideas, politics, and dialectics.

"Death Mask," an installation by Hiran Mitra explores Eastern India's mourning tradition of imprinting feet with Altha dye. This art form bridges the gap between life and death by symbolising an intimate connection to the Earth. It defies isolation, embraces multilateral perspectives, and represents emotions like anger, love, and ambition. By unveiling the natural person behind the mask, it celebrates diverse selves and unveils the profound grammar of consciousness, echoing Brecht's call for human connection.

Unveiling Disquiet: An installation responding Bertolt Brecht's alienation theory by Dr. Pallavi Majumder and Sanjiv Barui is another interest of this festival.

Richa Agarwal, the chairperson of KCC said, "It gives me immense pleasure to say that we are celebrating the legendary playwright and poet, Bertolt Brecht on his 125th birth anniversary through a week-long program, aptly named 'Breaking the Fourth Wall'. It is a tribute to the remarkable contributions of Brecht to the world of theatre, literature, and critical thinking. During this week, we have the privilege of hosting some of the most eminent academicians and theatre practitioners in our country. Their insights and perspectives will undoubtedly shed new light on Brecht's works and legacy. Through a series of workshops, panel discussions, performances, and exhibitions, we aim not only to honor Brecht's genius but also to ignite a renewed passion for critical thinking and artistic exploration. I believe this 6-day festival will have a lasting impact on all of you."

Abhilash Pillai, the curator of the festival said, "Join us at the "Breaking the Fourth Wall" festival, a celebration of ideas commemorating Bertolt Brecht's 125th birth anniversary, organised by the Kolkata Centre for Creativity. We are trying to Uncover the mysteries behind his works' limited staging, delve into



his pioneering acting techniques and socio-political narratives, and engage in workshops and discussions with nationally renowned theatre practitioners to gain fresh insights into his relevance in today's world. Honour his legacy and envision a compassionate world with us. Looking forward to meeting you at the event in Kolkata where we can break the fourth wall together.”

About Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC)

A unit of Anamika Kala Sangam Trust (AKST), Kolkata Centre for Creativity (KCC) is a multi-disciplinary interactive art and creativity Centre located in Kolkata, West Bengal. It is the first in Eastern India to make Art accessible to the visually impaired and differently abled under their 'Art for All' initiative. Spearheaded by Richa Agarwal as its Chairperson, the 70,000 sq. ft. center has been the leading art and cultural landscape of contemporary India since November 2018. It comprises an Amphitheatre, Exhibition & Learning Spaces, Dance studio, Conservation Lab, Books & Materials Library, Creative Culinary space, Craft & Design outlet, and a Skill Development Maker's section. Integrating several expressions of art and design to highlight their common creative core – KCC encourages visitors to explore, interact and design ideas on various art forms. KCC works in the areas of Capacity Building, Well-Being, Conservation & Restoration, Craft & Design, Culinary, and Visual and Performing Art. It acts as a catalyst for Artistic enhancement through Displays, Presentations, Fellowships, Laboratories, Residences, Conservation, Research, and Discourses. The programs at KCC are designed on the principles of Cultural Diversity, Gender Equality, Conservation of the Environment, and Inclusion of people with different abilities. The Centre offers free entry to the public and is open between 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about exhibitions and conferences, please visit www.kolkatacentreforcreativity.org